

Hydraulic Accumulators – Rules and Regulations

Introduction

This document is a summary of OH&S requirements relating to hydraulic accumulators. Hydraulic accumulators are pressure vessels and as such require statutory regulation.

1. Notification of Plant Design

Hydraulic accumulators with Hazard Levels A, B, C and D (as specified in AS4343) require design notification with WorkSafe Victoria.

Both imported and locally designed pressure equipment requires Notification of Plant Design.

In Victoria, pressure equipment needs to be designed to a published technical standard.

Only plant designs that were started on or after 1st July 1995 require Confirmation of Design.

2. Plant Registration

All pressure plant regardless of when that plant was designed or manufactured shall be Registered if the Hazard Level is A, B or C.

Person responsible for plant registration is the owner of the equipment.

Plant registration is a process of filling out the relevant form and paying registration fee (\$65 per item).

3. In-Service Inspection

As a risk control measure employer must ensure that pressure equipment is inspected in accordance with AS3788-2001.

Each owner is responsible for ensuring that the extent and frequency of inspection is appropriate and adequate for the continued safe and economic operation of the pressure equipment. This may require seeking of expert outside advice.

All Pressure vessel inspections shall be carried out by a competent person, such as a Boiler Inspector or Company that specializes in Pressure vessel inspections.

Nominal Inspection Periods (AS3788)

	Commissioning	1st Year	External	Nominal	Extended
P = design pressure V = vessel volume					
Oil Service					
PV < 100 MPa·L	N	N	-	-	-
PV = 100-200 MPa·L	Y	N	-	-	-
PV > 200 MPa·L	Y	Y	2	12	12
Chemical Service	Y	Y	2	4	12

Relating above table to Olaer standard oil service units rated to 345Bar.

- 1 & 2.5ltr units are not subject to inspections
- 4ltr units are subject to commissioning inspection.
- 10ltr and above are subject to internal and external inspection.

All accumulators used with chemicals that are corrosive or flammable are to be inspected on regular basis. The inspector can grant an extended period for internal inspections if he feels that there is no ground for expecting any corrosion problem after he has done the first internal inspection.

References

AS4343, AS3788, OH&S (Plant) Regulations1995.

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