

RSA
ENGINEERING & RISK CONTROL
SERVICES

MSBA
RISK MANAGEMENT

TO ALL MANITOBA SCHOOLS**DO YOU HAVE AN AIR RECEIVER WITH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING CRNs (CANADIAN REGISTRATION NUMBERS)?**

E2573.1234567890
E1646.503674819

These air receivers were manufactured in the late '60's to mid '70's by SFW (Steel Fabricated Welding) Company and Industrial. They have a maximum allowable working pressure of 200 PSI and are approximately 20" diameter and 48" long.

As reported in our Summer Special Bulletin of 2008, such an air receiver was used in the Hanover School Division, and now others have been identified in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In addition to the above, several similar air receivers were found in the Pembina Trails School Division (thank you to Brent Vandebosch, maintenance supervisor, who coordinated the efforts to replace the two aging receivers and provided the additional information). One receiver was the same as that found in the Hanover S.D. (the first CRN above), however, the second unit had a different CRN (the second CRN shown above) and was manufactured in 1968.

As previously indicated, the receivers were built with an internal drain pipe extending downward from the centre ½ inch opening on one of its heads. Although the drain lines were angled downward, they were not held in place and did not extend all the way to the bottom of the receivers, therefore, moisture and debris could not be drained properly. Consequently, moisture and sediment accumulated to a depth of about 1½". Eventually, the receivers corroded, leading to pitting and leaking from the inside bottom of the receiver. There is no doubt that the shell thickness (bottom section) becomes compromised which can lead to an explosion. The tanks were equipped with a 3/8" opening at the bottom but these were not used. The bottom openings would have been a better choice for draining the receivers.

After almost 40 or so years of service, it is recommended that all such air receivers be taken out of service. In the interest of safety to students and staff, and for continued uninterrupted operation, this should be done as soon as possible. The exception would be if the drain in the receiver's bottom was used to drain the moisture away. It is then less likely the integrity of the shell material has been compromised.

We strongly encourage you to check to see if you have an air receiver with the above-mentioned CRNs. We would appreciate knowing how many are found in your division.

The following photos are of the Pembina Trails S.D. receiver

We acknowledge the proactive approach used by the Hanover and Pembina Trails School Division maintenance staff and thank them for sharing their experience.

Should you have any questions please contact us at the following number: 204-294-7091.