

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE
EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN INSURANCE
& RISK CONTROL SERVICES


MAST
RISK MANAGEMENT

FOLLOW-UP TO OUR FALL 2008 BULLETIN...

“PRESSURE RELIEF VALVES ON PRESSURE-RETAINING ITEMS”

Do maintenance supervisors have a clear program in place, supported by regular audits?

A complete program of testing pressure relief/safety valves on pressure-retaining devices must be developed to suit each school division, and it must be carried out consistently. We would like to suggest that a “guarded status” mentality should be developed in regard to a testing program. It must be demonstrated that the individual(s) responsible for the testing have total control of the equipment.

There is a need to perform annual audits of all safety valve testing programs in schools. During our regular inspection visits we have seen a number of inconsistencies with regard to test frequencies used in schools within the same division. An internal audit and annual review of the test procedures would verify conformity and help reduce complacency. The annual audit should be performed by the maintenance supervisor in each division. This would also provide an opportunity to review updates or changes made over the previous year. Such an approach is considered good engineering practice.

Observations/Thoughts...

Our regular inspections of schools in each division has made us aware that there can be a very good supply of parts, such as cast iron sections from boilers that have been removed from service for one reason or another. Many of these sections could very well be of some use to other school divisions having the same make of boiler. These valuable (spare or no-longer required) parts can be both new and used. In some cases “recycled” parts can go back into service for a good number of years, providing a substantial saving for the division.

The exchanging of parts, and sometimes the sharing of services of qualified trades people (this has recently been put into practice by several school divisions), should be considered as a way of reducing costs and having a ready supply of parts and professional services available. Perhaps, consideration could be given to creating a list of available parts and posting them on your websites, or possibly the MSBA website.

We have also observed the terrific efforts and accomplishments you’ve made over the years. We encourage you to share your thoughts, comments, and experiences with us and we will endeavour to include some of these in future Bulletins. Your support and the support from your staff are very much appreciated.