

For immediate release

Nov. 19, 2021

Even though a boiler is temporary, it might still need inspected

A question was posed to an inspector about temporary use of a boiler. The question was about the need for an inspection if that boiler was just for temporary use.

Each temporary boiler, that our office is notified about, is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and if the statutes and regulations are met, we will conduct an inspection and issue any operating certificates, provided that any code violations identified have been corrected and the inspection invoice is paid.

The statute is somewhat murky with seemingly conflicting parts of codes. OSFM classifies rental or temporary boilers as used or secondhand boilers, KAR 49-50-15. The regulations state the boilers shall be subject to inspection by the chief inspector or deputy inspector and shall meet current safety codes.

The regulations KAR 49-50-12 is the regulation that governs the reinstallation of boilers and as such state's boilers moved/reinstalled shall be brought up to current code and shall be subject to certificates upon reinstallation.

The statute KAR 44-923 (d) gives the inspector the decision if the boiler will or will not need a pressure test. If the inspector decides the boiler needs to have a pressure test to ensure tightness of tubes and assess possible leaks, the inspection and test shall be done by its owner or user.

This same Statute also gives a 60-day grace period for boilers to be inspected. The 60-day grace period conflicts with the regulations KAR 49-50-12 and KAR 49-50-15 that state used or secondhand or reinstalled boilers, shall be subject to immediate certification inspection upon reinstallation. So, with temporary boilers installed for periods not exceeding 60 days our office generally does not issue certificates of operation. However, if there is any question on its fitment of service, we can perform the inspection if requested or is deemed necessary.

It has been the best interest and practice for OSFM inspectors to request internal inspections with proof of hydrostatic test on any used, secondhand, rental or temporary boiler. A lot of catastrophic failures have been avoided by utilizing these measures.

KSA 44-923 Inspections.

(a) The state fire marshal, the chief inspector or any deputy inspector shall have free access, during reasonable hours, to any premises in the state where boilers and pressure vessels are being operated, repaired, installed or constructed for use in this state, for the purpose of ascertaining whether boilers or pressure vessels have been constructed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder.

(b) Each boiler used or proposed to be used within this state, except for boilers exempt under K.S.A. 44-915, and amendments thereto, shall be thoroughly inspected as to construction, installation and condition as follows:

(1) Power boilers and high pressure, high temperature water boilers shall receive an annual certificate inspection which shall be an internal inspection, where construction permits, or as complete an inspection as possible, where construction does not permit internal inspection. Such boilers shall also be externally inspected while under pressure.

(3) All other boilers subject to this section shall receive an annual certificate inspection, with an internal inspection at the discretion of the inspector.

(4) A grace period of two months beyond the periods specified in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection may elapse between certificate inspections.

(c) The inspections herein required shall be made by the chief inspector, by a deputy inspector or by a special inspector provided for in this act.

(d) If, at the discretion of the inspector, a pressure test shall be deemed necessary, it shall be made by the owner or user of the boiler.

KAR 49-50-6 Hydrostatic pressure tests and inspection.

(a) When there is doubt as to the extent of a defect or deterioration found in a pressure vessel, a pressure test may be required by the inspector. A pressure test shall not be required as part of a normal periodic inspection. A test shall be required when either of the following conditions is met:

(1) Forms of deterioration are found that could affect the safety of a vessel,

(2) Major repairs have been completed

KAR 49-50-9 Notification of inspection requirements.

(a) A certificate inspection shall be carried out before the expiration date of the certificate. Each owner or user shall ensure that the boiler or pressure vessel is inspected on or before the date on which the inspection is due. Internal certificate inspections shall be scheduled in advance by the inspector. External inspections may be performed by the inspector during normal business hours without prior notification to the owner or user.

(b) An internal inspection, appropriate pressure test, or both may be requested by the inspector when an external inspection or determination by other objective means indicates that continued operation of the boiler constitutes a menace to public safety. In these instances, the owner or user shall prepare the boiler for the inspections, tests, or both as the inspector designates.

(c) All boilers and pressure vessels that are not exempted by the act and that are subject to regular inspections shall be prepared for inspection as required in subsection (d).

(d) The owner or user shall prepare each boiler for inspection. The owner or user shall prepare for and apply a hydrostatic pressure test on the date arranged by the inspector. The date shall not be fewer than seven days after the date of notification. The owner or user shall prepare a boiler for internal inspection in the following manner:

(1) Water shall be drawn off, and the boiler shall be washed thoroughly.

(2) The manhole and hand-hole plates, washout plugs, and inspection plugs in water column connections shall be removed as required by the inspector. The furnace and combustion chambers shall be cooled and thoroughly cleaned.

(3) All grates of internally fired boilers shall be removed.

(4) The insulation or brickwork shall be removed as required by the inspector in order to determine the condition of the boiler, headers, furnace, supports, or other parts.

(5) The pressure gauge shall be removed for testing, as required by the inspector.

(6) The leakage of steam or hot water into the boiler shall be prevented by disconnecting the pipe or valve at the most convenient point or by any other appropriate means approved by the inspector.

(7) The non-return and steam stop valves shall be closed, tagged, and preferably padlocked, and the valves drained or the cocks between the two valves opened. Before opening the manhole or hand-hole covers and entering any part of the steam-generating unit connected to a common header with other boilers, the feed valves shall be closed, tagged, and preferably padlocked, and the valves drained or the cocks located between the two valves opened. After draining the boiler, the blow-off valves shall be closed, tagged and preferably padlocked. Blow-off lines, where practicable, shall be disconnected between pressure parts and valves. All drains and vent lines shall be opened.

(e) If a boiler has not been properly prepared for an internal inspection or if the owner or user has failed to comply with the requirements for a pressure test as specified in these regulations, the inspection or test may be postponed, and the inspection certificate shall be withheld or the right to operate revoked until the owner or user complies with the requirements.

(f) If the boiler is jacketed so that the longitudinal seams of shells, drums, or domes cannot be seen, sufficient jacketing, setting wall, or other form of casting or housing shall be removed to permit reasonable inspection of the seams and other areas necessary to determine the condition and safety of the boiler, if this information cannot be determined by other means.

(g) If a lap seam crack is discovered along a longitudinal riveted joint in the shell or drum of a boiler, the use of that shell or drum shall be immediately discontinued. Patching shall be prohibited. (h) All lock-out, tag-out, and confined space entry procedures shall be observed.

KAR 49-50-12 Reinstalled boiler or pressure vessel.

When a stationary boiler or pressure vessel is moved and reinstalled, it shall be brought up to code and shall be subject to immediate certification inspection upon reinstallation. The owner, user, or installer shall notify the chief inspector of the reinstallation. However, a pressure vessel shall not require inspection if moved to a different location or reinstalled by the same owner.

KAR 49-50-15 Installation of used or secondhand boilers or pressure vessels.

A used or secondhand boiler or pressure vessel may be shipped for installation in this state only following an inspection by an inspector qualified by an examination equal to that required by this state or by an inspector holding a national board commission, at the location where originally installed. Data submitted by the inspector shall be filed by the owner, user, or installer of the boiler with the chief inspector of this state for the chief inspector's approval. The boilers or pressure vessels, when installed in the state, shall be subject to inspection by the chief inspector or deputy inspector and shall meet current safety codes as set forth in these regulations.