



ACCREDITATION OF “R” REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS

The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors

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1.0 Scope

This document establishes the requirements for organizations seeking a National Board *Certificate of Authorization* to use the "R" Symbol Stamp (*Certificate of Authorization*) for the repair and/or alteration of pressure-retaining items.

- 1.1 Organizations seeking a *Certificate of Authorization* must have and maintain an Inspection Agreement with an Authorized Inspection Agency. Additionally, such organizations are required to have a written Quality System, in the English language, that complies with the National Board Inspection Code (NBIC). The written Quality System must include the expected scope of activities. Organizations may be authorized to perform repairs only, or repairs and alterations. Organizations may also be authorized to perform design only, metallic or non-metallic repairs and/or alterations, either in the shop only, field only or in both shop and field.
- * 1.2 *Certificates of Authorization* may be issued to organizations whose business is to repair and alter pressure-retaining items, to manufacturers of pressure-retaining items, to Owner Users of pressure-retaining items, to Federal Agencies and to other organizations that qualify in accordance with these requirements.
- * 1.3 Owner-Users may be accredited for both the "R" program in accordance with this document and as an Owner-User Inspection Organization in accordance with NB-371. The requirement to maintain an Inspection Agreement with an Authorized Inspection Agency does not apply if the owner or user chooses to use its own Owner-User Inspection Organization to accept the repair/alteration. The following conditions apply:
 - 1.3.1 There is no conflict with jurisdictional requirements.
 - 1.3.2 The line of authority for the Owner-User Inspection Organization is independent from the organization responsible for execution of "R" program work.
 - 1.3.3 The inspection process and Inspector limitations are described in the Owner-User Inspection Organization's written Quality System manual.

- * 1.4 Federal Agencies may be accredited for both the “R” program in accordance with this document and as a Federal Inspection Agency in accordance with NB-390. The requirements to maintain an Inspection Agreement with an Authorized Inspection Agency does not apply if the Federal Agency chooses to use its own Federal Inspection Agency to accept the repair/alteration. The following conditions apply:

- 1.4.1 The line of authority for the Federal Inspection Agency is independent from the organization responsible for execution of the “R” program work.

- 1.4.2 The inspection process and Inspector limitations are described in the Federal Inspection Agency’s written Quality System manual.

2.0 Application

- * 2.1 Organizations seeking to obtain or renew a *Certificate of Authorization* must apply to the National Board using forms obtained from the National Board. Application for renewal must be made at least six (6) months prior to the expiration date of the *Certificate of Authorization*.

- 2.2 When an organization has plants or shops in more than one location, the organization must submit a separate application for each plant or shop.

- 2.3 For field-only scopes, the address of record shown on the *Certificate of Authorization* is the location from which the administrative, technical and quality aspects of the business are controlled.

3.0 Review of Applicant’s Facility

- 3.1 Prior to issuance or renewal of a *Certificate of Authorization*, the repair organization, its written Quality System, and its facilities are subject to a review and verification of implementation of its written Quality System by a Review Team. The organization shall demonstrate sufficient implementation of the written Quality System to provide evidence of the organization’s knowledge of repair or alteration activities appropriate for the requested scope

of work. The demonstration may be performed using current work, a demonstration mock-up, or a combination of both.

- 3.2 The Review Team, as a minimum, shall consist of one representative each from the Authorized Inspection Agency and the National Board member jurisdiction where the organization is located. Alternatively, if the Jurisdiction elects not to perform the review or where there is no Jurisdiction or where the Jurisdiction is the organization's Authorized Inspection Agency, the National Board will represent the Jurisdiction. At the Jurisdiction's discretion, the Jurisdiction may choose to be a member of the review team if the Jurisdiction chooses not to be the team leader.
- * 3.3 The Review Team for Owner-Users seeking to obtain or renew a *Certificate of Authorization* shall consist of one representative from the Owner-User Inspector Organization (if the Owner-User uses its own Owner-User Inspector Organization to accept repairs/alterations) and the National Board member jurisdiction where the organization is located. Alternatively, if the Jurisdiction elects not to perform the review or where there is no Jurisdiction or where the Jurisdiction is the organization's Authorized Inspection Agency, the National Board will represent the Jurisdiction. At the Jurisdiction's discretion, the Jurisdiction may choose to be a member of the review team if the Jurisdiction chooses not to be the team leader.
- * 3.4 The Review Team for Federal Agencies seeking to obtain or renew a *Certificate of Authorization* shall consist of one representative from the Federal Inspection Agency (if the Federal Agency uses its own Federal Inspection Agency to accept repairs/alterations) and a representative from the National Board.

If the Federal Agency has an Inspection Agreement with an Authorized Inspection Agency, a representative from the Authorized Inspection Agency will be included in the Review Team.

- 3.5 The applicant shall have the latest mandatory edition of the NBIC, all parts, and shall have available the code of construction edition/addenda including any applicable referenced standards for materials, welding and nondestructive examination required for performing the repair or alteration activity.
- 3.6 Upon notification of the review dates from the National Board, it is the responsibility of the repair organization to make arrangements for the review.
- 3.7 A recommendation to issue, renew, or withhold the *Certificate of Authorization* shall be included in a Qualification Review Report prepared by the Review Team. The completed Qualification Review Report shall be forwarded to the National Board.
- 3.8 When all requirements have been met, a *Certificate of Authorization* will be issued evidencing permission to use the "R" Symbol Stamp. The *Certificate of Authorization* shall expire on the triennial anniversary date.
- 4.0 American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPV Code) Certificates of Authorization and Certification Mark
- 4.1 The holder of an ASME BPV Code *Certificate of Authorization* and Certification Mark, whose facilities were reviewed (with the exception of "V," "UV," "HV," "NV," and "H" [cast iron]) may obtain a National Board *Certificate of Authorization* without a review of its facilities by a National Board Review Team, provided:
- 4.1.1 The organization's written Quality System includes provisions which cover the scope of the repairs or alterations to be made. This written Quality System is subject to review by the National Board member jurisdiction where the organization is located.
- 4.1.1.1 Alternatively, if the Jurisdiction elects not to perform the review of the written Quality System or where there is no Jurisdiction or where the Jurisdiction is the organization's Authorized Inspection Agency, the National Board will perform the review of the written Quality System.

4.1.2 The application for the National Board *Certificate of Authorization* is submitted within 12 months of the issuance of the ASME BPV Code *Certificate of Authorization*. Subsequent National Board *Certificates of Authorization* shall be renewed as described in Paragraphs 2.0 and 3.0 above.

* 5.0 Jurisdictional Audit

5.1 The Jurisdiction may audit the written Quality System and activities of an organization upon a valid request from an Owner-User, Authorized Inspection Agency, or the National Board.

5.2 The National Board may audit the written Quality System and activities of a Federal Agency upon a valid request from a Federal Agency.

6.0 Use of the "R" *Certificate of Authorization*

6.1 Stamp Use

Each "R" symbol stamp shall be obtained from the National Board and shall be used only by the repair organization within the scope and limitations, under which it was issued. The organization's written Quality System shall provide for constant control of the "R" Symbol Stamp. The organization shall not permit others to use the "R" symbol stamp assigned to them.

6.2 Return of Stamp

Each applicant shall agree that the stamp is the property of the National Board and will be promptly returned upon demand. The "R" Symbol Stamp shall be returned to the National Board if the organization discontinues the use of the "R" Symbol Stamp or if there exists no inspection agreement with an Authorized Inspection Agency or if the *Certificate of Authorization* has expired and a new certificate has not been issued.

6.3 *Certificate of Authorization* Contents

The name and address of the repair organization, the scope of the certificate (repairs, alterations, shop only, field only, shop and field, metallic or non-metallic, and design only), the certificate number, and the issuance date and expiration date shall be specified on the repair organization's *Certificate of Authorization*.

6.4 Changes in Scope, Ownership, Name, Location or Address

The National Board must be notified when an organization holding a *Certificate of Authorization* changes scope, ownership, name, location, or address. The National Board will provide appropriate forms to revise the *Certificate of Authorization*. At the option of the National Board, a re-review of the organization's written Quality System and/or its implementation may be required.

6.5 Issuance of Multiple "R" Symbol Stamps

The holder of a *Certificate of Authorization* may obtain more than one "R" symbol stamp provided its written Quality System manual controls the use of such stamps from the address of record shown on the *Certificate of Authorization*.

7.0 Written Quality System

A holder of a *Certificate of Authorization* shall have and maintain a written Quality System. It shall be treated confidentially by the National Board and by the Review Team. An outline of the requirements for a written Quality System can be found in NBIC, Part 3.

8.0 Due Process

The National Board provides procedural due process in connection with accreditation activities. There are several levels to which an aggrieved party may appeal. The process may be initiated by contacting the National Board's Executive Director.