Date Distributed:

THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

NATIONAL BOARD INSPECTION CODE TASK GROUP INTERPRETATIONS

Minutes

Meeting of July 7, 2025
Cincinnati, OH

These minutes are subject to approval and are for committee use only. They are not to be duplicated or quoted for other than committee use.

The National Board of Boiler & Pressure
Vessel Inspectors 1055 Crupper Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43229-
1183
Phone: (614)888-8320
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1. **Call to Order**
   The Chair will call the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time in Mt. Adams on the 4th floor of the hotel.

2. **Roll call of Members and introduction of Visitors**
   Secretary Hellman took roll of members and visitors. (Attachment 1)

3. **Check for a Quorum**
   A quorum was established with 14 of the 15 members present.

4. **Awards/Special Recognition - None**

5. **Announcements**
   - This meeting marks the end of Cycle B for the 2027 NBIC edition.
   - The National Board will be hosting a reception on Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ault Park, on the 4th floor of the hotel.
   - The National Board will be hosting breakfast and lunch on Thursday for those attending the Main Committee meeting. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in Madisonville A/B, and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Madisonville A/B.
   - Meeting schedules, meeting room layouts, and other helpful information can be found on the National Board website under the **NBIC** tab → NBIC Meeting Information.
   - The NBIC Committee has transitioned from NB File Share to SharePoint. Remember to add any attachments that you'd like to show during the meeting (proposals, reference documents, powerpoints, etc.) to the NBIC SharePoint site (nationalboard.sharepoint.com/sites/NBIC) **prior to the meeting**.
     - Note that access to the NBIC SharePoint site is limited to committee members only.
     - ALL powerpoint attachments/presentations must be sent to the NBIC Secretary for approval prior to the meeting.
     - Contact Jonathan Ellis (*nbicsecretary@nbbi.org*) for any questions regarding NBIC SharePoint access.
   - When possible, please submit proposals in Word format showing "strike through/underline." Project Managers: please ensure any proposals containing text from previous NBIC editions are updated with text from the most current edition.
   - If you'd like to request a new Interpretation or Action item, do so on the National Board Business Center.
     - Anyone, member or not, can request a new item.
   - As a reminder, anyone who would like to be considered for membership of a group or committee:
     - Should attend at least two meetings prior to being put on the agenda for membership consideration. The nominee may be placed on the agenda for voting during their third meeting, pending the Chair's approval.
     - The nominee must submit the formal request along with their resume to the NBIC Secretary **PRIOR TO** the meeting. *nbicsecretary@nbbi.org*
     - If elected by the membership, the member will serve a term of three years.
   - Thank you to everyone who registered online for this meeting. The online registration is very helpful for planning our reception, meals, room setup, etc. It is also a good way to make sure we have the most up-to-date contact information. Please continue to use the online registration for each meeting.

6. **Adoption of the Agenda**
   - **Added I25-40 and I25-41**

   The Agenda was unanimously adopted as revised.

7. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 2025 Meeting**
   The minutes from the January 2025 meeting were UA by the membership.

8. **Review of Rosters**
   a. **Membership Nominations – None at this time.**

b. Membership Reappointments

The following memberships are up for reappointment: Mr. Robert Derby.
Mr. Derby's membership reappointment was UA by the membership.

9. Interpretations

Item Number: I24-36	**NBIC Location: Part 3, 3.4**	**No Attachment**

General Description: Alteration of Plate Heat Exchanger

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: T. Seime (PM), M. Quisenberry, T. McBee, M. Wadkinson

Explanation of Need: This question is asked frequently by Repair firms that want to increase the number of heat transfer plates.

INTERP TG Jan. 2025 Meeting Action: T. Seime presented. After much discussion and revisions regarding the limitations of the original code of construction, the pending vote on the proposal failed with only 5 approvals. M. Quisenberry, T. McBee, and M. Wadkinson were added to the TG. **This was a PR**.

Update: Passed INTERP TG LB 3/14/25 (11-3-0) - Ready for SC

Item Number: I24-44	**NBIC Location: Part 3, 2.5.3**	**Attachment 2**

General Description: Alternative weld methods and special services

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: R. Derby (PM), P. Gilston

Explanation of Need: In section VIII Div.1 construction some special service conditions as described in UW-2 make mandatory PWHT when it is not otherwise required for the actual thickness of material and P-number. This subtlety leads some to believe that the use of the Alternative weld methods is either not allowed or that they can only be conducted as an alteration.

INTERP TG Jan. 2025 Meeting Action: R. Derby presented a **PR** with the intention to submit a proposal for a LB in the near future.

INTERP TG July 2025 Meeting Action: R. Derby presented a proposal that was **revised and UA**.

New Interpretation Requests:

Item Number: I25-09	**NBIC Location: Part 3, 4.4.1 e) and 4.4.2 c)**	**Attachment 3**

General Description: NDE in lieu of hydrotest

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: B. Hrubala (PM)

Explanation of Need: Performing a hydrotest of these "Parts" presents a contamination risk as mentioned in Part 3, paragraph 4.4.2.c. During the installation phase, the authorized inspection agency (AIA) performing the installation inspection determined that the Part was required to have been hydrotested. Despite the clear allowance of NDE per Part 3, paragraphs 4.4.1.e and 4.4.2.c, the AIA stated that the only means to allow NDE is if hydrotest is not practicable. The installation AIA refused to allow the equipment to be installed without a hydrotest prior to installation so the fabricator incurred significant costs performing a hydrotest to meet the demands by the installation AIA. This is a typical repair scenario and clarity as to the requirements is necessary to avoid future instances of this issue.

July 2025 Meeting Action: B. Hrubala presented a summary of the proposed question, and the group determined this question was Consulting. The NBIC has provisions to allow for non-pressure tested parts to be installed already per 3.2.2 e). **A proposal to send a Letter to the Inquirer this is Consulting was Approved with 1 abstention**: (Stacey Marks) (Attachment 3a)

Item Number: I25-35	**NBIC Location: Part 3, 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m.**	**Attachment 4**

General Description: External Weld Metal Buildup - Proximity to Major Structural Discontinuities

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: J. Ferreira (PM), K. Derrick

Explanation of Need: NBIC Part 3 Section 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m provides clarity on the spacing between adjacent buildups but does not provide clarity on the required spacing between a buildup and other major structural discontinuities which could also interact with the stress concentration created by the buildup.

July 2025 Meeting Action: J. Ferreira presented a **proposal that was revised and UA**.

Item Number: I25-40	NBIC Location: Part 3, 2.5.3.2	No Attachment

General Description: Fillet welds using alternative welding method #2

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: P. Becker (PM), J. Siefert

Explanation of Need: Welding on non-pressure parts (P11B Pads) to the outside of a VIII Div 1 P11B Pressure Vessel. Welding method #4 speaks specifically about fillet welds, when welding method #2 does not specifically reference fillet welds. Is this a potential oversight and it can be done, or is it written this way to exclude fillet welds using welding method #2?

July 2025 Meeting Action: P Becker (PM) and J. Siefert added to Taskgroup. – **PR.**

Item Number: I25-41	NBIC Location: Part 3, 3.4.1	Attachment 5

General Description: Pressure testing for re-rating: waiving requirements

Subgroup: Repairs and Alterations

Task Group: None assigned.

Explanation of Need: Composing an Alteration Plan for future service work. Owner/user would like to increase a drying cylinder MAWP from 150 psi steam pressure to 160 psi.

July 2025 Meeting Action: G. Scribner/T. Seime presented the issue and the TG determined that a **Letter to go to Inquirer that this is Consulting was UA**. A separate letter from NBIC (G. Scribner) will go to the Inquirer to address pneumatic safety hazards.

10. Future Meetings

- January 12-15, 2026 – New Orleans, LA

11. Adjournment @ 2:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence Hellman

Terrence Hellman, TG Interpretations Secretary

INTERP TG - Cincinnati, OH - July 7, 2025

Full Name	Email Address	Company Name	Registration Type	Present	Role
Seime, Trevor	tsseime@nd.gov	State of North Dakota	In-person	x	Chair
Schaser, Matt	mschaser@e2g.com	The Equity Engineering Group, Inc.	In-person	x	Chair, Vice
Boseo, Brian	bmboseo@burnsmcd.com	Burns & McDonnell Construction	In-person	x	Member
Carlson, Michael	camx235@lni.wa.gov	State of Washington	In-person	x	Member
Derby, Bob	rderby@uanet.org	UA Education and Training Department	In-person	x	Member
Derrick, Kiwi	kiwi.derrick@chevron.com	Chevron	In-person	x	Member
Ferreira, Jon	jonathan_ferreira@hsb.com	Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company	In-person	x	Member
Galanes, George	ggalanes@diamondtechnicalservices.com	DTS, Inc.	In-person	x	Member
Hrubala, Bernard	bhrubala@comcast.net	TUV Rheinland AIA	In-person	x	Member
Marks, Stacey	stacey.marks@bureauveritas.com	Bureau Veritas	In-person	x	Member
McBee, Timothy	Timothy.McBee@tuvsud.com	ARISE Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company RRG	In-person	x	Member
Moore, Kathy	kathymoore@joemoorecompany.com	Joe Moore & Company	In-person	x	Member
Quisenberry, Michael	michael@spartan-mech.com				Member
Toth, Marty	mtoth@boiscotraininggroup.com	ECS Consulting & The Boisco Training Group	In-person	x	Member
Triplett, Andrew	triplettal@ornl.gov	UT-Battelle, LLC	In-person	x	Member
Bates, Johnathon	jbates@boilermakers.org	IBB	In-person		
Becker, Patricia	pbecker3135@gmail.com	EPRI	In-person	x	
Bierl, Craig	cabierl@comcast.net	Chubb Insurance	In-person		
Chatham, Everett	echatham@becht.com	Becht	In-person	x	
Cochran, Lee	lcochran@nationalboard.org	National Board	Staff		
Collins, Clayton	clayton.collins@cna.com	CNA Insurance Co	In-person	x	
Collins, Riley	rileycollins@eastman.com	Eastman Chemical Company	In-person	x	
Creaser, Eben	eben.creaser@gmail.com	NB Justice and Public Safety	In-person	x	
Dacanay, Julius	julius.j.dacanay@hawaii.gov	State of Hawaii	Remote		
Drinnen, Jon	Jdrinnen@emcor.net	EMCOR Mesa Energy	In-person	x	
Dutra, Louis	Ldutra@Emcor.net	EMCOR Mesa Energy	In-person	x	
Eskridge, Chip	ceskridge@becht.com	Becht	In-person		
Gilston, Philip	philip_gilston@hsb.com	Hartford Steam Boiler	Remote		
Goossens, Greg	ggoossens@nationalboard.org	NBBI	Staff	x	
Hayes, John	jhayes@ccsboiler.com	Combustion & Control Solutions Inc.	In-person	x	
Hellman, Terrence	thellman@nationalboard.org	National Board	Staff		
Jessick, Jerry	jjessick@fusion-etc.com	Fusion Integrated Solutions	In-person	x	
Kamboj, Rajesh	Rajesh.Kamboj@technicalsafetybc.ca	Technical Safety BC	Remote	x	
Khssassi, Aziz	aziz.khssassi@rbq.gouv.qc.ca	Régie du bâtiment du Québec	In-person	x	
Lowrie, Scott	scott.lowrie@andritz.com	Andritz, Inc.	In-person		
Lynch, Daniel	danl@isbservices.com	Industrial Steel & Boiler Services, Inc.	Remote	x	
lynch, William 'Butch'	blynch@oci.ga.gov	Office of Commissioner of Insurance & Safety Fire	Remote		
Mirjalali, John	jmirjalali@intellihot.com	Intellihot inc.	In-person		
Ponce, Luis	lponce@nationalboard.org	National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors	Staff		
Schirmer, Del	Del.Schirmer@boilerproperty.com	XL Insurance America	In-person	x	
Scribner, Gary	gscribner@nationalboard.org	NBBI	Staff		
Shanks, Paul	paul.shanks@tuvsud.com	Arise Boiler Inspection and Insurance company Risk Reduction Group	In-person		

Smith, Jeremy	jeremy.smith@labor.nc.gov	NC Department of Labor- Boiler Safety Bureau	In-person	x	
Sowinski, James	jsowinski@e2g.com	Equity Engineering Group	In-person		
Spiker, Ronald	ronndj@gmail.com	State of South Carolina	In-person		
Sweeney, Timothy	tsweeney@pleuneservice.com	Pleuneservice co	In-person	x	
Troutt, Robby	rob.troutt@tdlr.texas.gov	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation	In-person	x	
Underwood, Bob	robert_underwood@hsb.com	HSB	In-person	x	
Viers, Robert	rviers@nationalboard.org	National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors	Staff	x	
Wadkinson, Melissa	mwadkinson@icloud.com	Fulton	In-person	x	
Goossens, Greg				x	
Cook, Don				x	
Wagner, Tom				x	
Baker, Lane				x	
Cheng, Alex				x	
Becker, Chuck				x	
McGuire, Bob			remote	x	
Hamaker, Landon			remote	x	

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

PROPOSED INTERPRETATION

Item No.

I24-44 Rev 042

Subject/Title

Part 3, Section 2, 2.5.3

Project Manager and Task Group

Robert Derby (PM), Phil Gilston

Source (Name/email)

Paul Shanks / paul.shanks@bureauveritas.com (now with Arise Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company)

Statement of Need

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Background Information

In section VIII Div.1 construction some special service conditions as described in UW-2 make mandatory PWHT when it is not otherwise required for the actual thickness of material and P-number. This subtlety leads some to believe that the use of the Alternative weld methods is either not allowed or that they can only be conducted as an alteration.

Proposed Question

Does NBIC Part 3 prohibit the use of the alternative welding methods in lieu of conventional PWHT for a repair activity conducted on an ASME pressure vessel that per UG-118 is marked with a Special Service letter?

Proposed Reply

No

Committee's Question 1

May ~~alternate~~ alternative welding methods be used for the repair of lethal service vessels, provided competent technical advice has been obtained in accordance with 2.5.3 (b)?

Committee's Reply 1

Yes.

Rationale

There are no words in the NBIC Code that prohibit the use of ~~alternate~~ alternative welding methods for the repair of special service vessels.

	VOTE						
COMMITTEE	**Approved**	**Disapproved**	**Abstained**	**Not Voting**	**Passed**	**Failed**	**Date**

NBIC Interpretation Item I25-09
Submitted by Chuck Becker (hggbecker@yahoo.com)
3/25/2025

THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

Subject:	NDE in lieu of hydrotest
NBIC Location:	2023 NBIC Part 3, 4.4.1 e) and 4.4.2 c)
Statement of Need:	Performing a hydrotest of these "Parts" presents a contamination risk as mentioned in Part 3, paragraph 4.4.2.c. During the installation phase, the authorized inspection agency (AIA) performing the installation inspection determined that the Part was required to have been hydrotested. Despite the clear allowance of NDE per Part 3, paragraphs 4.4.1.e and 4.4.2.c, the AIA stated that the only means to allow NDE is if hydrotest is not practicable. The installation AIA refused to allow the equipment to be installed without a hydrotest prior to installation so the fabricator incurred significant costs performing a hydrotest to meet the demands by the installation AIA. This is a typical repair scenario and clarity as to the requirements is necessary to avoid future instances of this issue.
Background Information:	Economizers (and Boiler Banks) are fabricated in a manner that allows for shipping by truck, train, boat, etc. These economizers are modularized into portions that are sized properly and are composed of a stack of platens and a portion of the main header that will be welded together at the mill during installation. Historically, fabricators have performed hydro testing on the individual platens before they are assembled into the finished module and before the main header segment is welded in place. This means that feeder tube connections to the main header are subject to RT (volumetric NDE) and are not hydro tested. This is done for several reasons: • Draining the water completely and drying the interior is not possible when the complete module is assembled. Drying is necessary as a precursor to blowing in the desiccant for corrosion prevention during shipping and storage prior to installation. 1. Shops do not have the crane capacity to lift the module that is half-full of water to an adequate height for complete draining. 2. The nature of these economizers does not allow for safely maneuvering, or manipulating the module to allow the hydro water to access a tube for gravity draining. • If a hydro is performed on a completed module and a leak is detected on an internal platen, repair is not possible without serious amounts of work to remove welds and disassemble the module (lifting lugs, air seal, stitch welds, main header).

NBIC Interpretation Item I25-09
Submitted by Chuck Becker (hggbecker@yahoo.com)
3/25/2025

	• The main header segment is not hydro tested either due to the large number of plugs that are required to be welded into place and removed. Properly beveling the feeder tubes for buttweld is difficult/impossible when installed to the main header segment.
Proposed Question:	In the scenario where a Part is fabricated under the “S” certificate of authorization and not hydro tested (indicated on the P-4 as “hydro test by others”) and that same company has the “R” certificate of authorization and is signing the Design portion of the R-2, could the Part then be NDE tested in the shop under the provisions of the NBIC by that company prior to the Part being sent to the client for “Field Construction” by another “R” certificate holder? Further, in the event of a disagreement between AIA's as to what testing is required and permitted, who determines what is and is not "practicable" per Part 3, paragraph 4.4.2.c?
Proposed Reply:	Yes, per the requirements of Section 4, regardless of if it is a Repair or an alteration, NDE is permissible in lieu of a hydrostatic test. The determination of what is "practicable" is not in the purview of the installation AIA to determine if a signed and certified data report has been supplied with the equipment.
Committee’s Question:	<Question(s) the committee will interpret. Can be the same wording as the proposed question>
Committee’s Reply:	Letter to Inquirer - This is Consulting – See NBIC Part 3, 3.2.2 e).
Rationale:	<Additional clarification for response>

Outlook

I25-09 abstention

From Stacey MARKS <stacey.marks@bureauveritas.com>
Date Tue 7/8/2025 8:30 AM
To Terrence Hellman <THellman@nationalboard.org>
Cc Trevor Seime <tsseime@nd.gov>

HI

Just a note to say my abstention is due to a conflict of interest. I work for the same company as the inquirer.

Best Regards,

Stacey Marks, P.E., C.W.I.
Director of Training & Development
Bureau Veritas Inspection and Insurance Company
Phone: 804.536.4150
stacey.marks@bureauveritas.com

For a summary of our services, go to **Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspections for New Construction (bvna.com)**.

For upcoming training courses, go to **https://www.bvna.com/training/pva**.

NBIC Interpretation Item 25-35
Submitted by Hugh-Jean Nel (hugh-jean.nel@sasol.com)
June 12, 2025

THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

Subject:	External Weld Metal Buildup - Proximity to Major Structural Discontinuities
NBIC Location:	2025 NBIC Part 3, 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m.
Statement of Need:	NBIC Part 3 Section 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m provides clarity on the spacing between adjacent buildups but does not provide clarity on the required spacing between a buildup and other major structural discontinuities which could also interact with the stress concentration created by the buildup.
Background Information:	NBIC Part 3 Section 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m limits the proximity between adjacent external buildup sites as a repair. This makes sense as the buildups introduces a change in the normal hoop stress profile and if they are too close to each other then these stress concentrations will interact. However, there is no restriction between the spacing of a buildup and other major discontinuities such as nozzles or integral tubesheets, which also have significant stress concentrations associated with them and which could interact with the buildup if spaced too close. If the spacing proximity is too close then it should be treated as an alteration and not a repair.
Proposed Question:	Does the minimum distance between the weld toes of external weld metal buildup in 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m also apply to the distance between the toe of the weld buildup and other major structural discontinuities?
Proposed Reply:	Yes.
Committee's Question:	Does the required minimum distance between the weld toes of external weld metal buildup, as specified in 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m, also apply to the distance between the weld buildup toe and adjacent components, such as nozzles or structural attachments?
Committee's Reply:	No
Rationale:	3.3.4.3 e) 3) m is only applicable to multiple areas of external weld metal build up. Structural components or nozzles are not identified in 3.3.4.3 e) 3) m

NBIC Interpretation Item 25-35
Submitted by Hugh-Jean Nel (hugh-jean.nel@sasol.com)
June 12, 2025

NBIC Interpretation Item I25-41
Submitted by Greg Francisco
6/30/2025

THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

Subject:	Pressure testing for re-rating: waiving requirements
NBIC Location:	2023 NBIC, Part 3, 3.4.1
Statement of Need:	Composing an Alteration Plan for future service work.
Background Information:	Owner/user would like to increase a drying cylinder MAWP from 150 psi steam pressure to 160 psi.
Proposed Question:	I have a scenario with a cast iron paper machine dryer certified to 150 psi and hydrotested by the manufacturer to 300 psi. The owner/user would like this dryer re-rated for 160 psi. Due to the in-service environment conditions, a pneumatic pressure test is to be performed to 1.1x desired MAWP, or 176 psi, per ASME VIII Div 1 UG-100. Since the required re-rate air pressure test is less than the original water pressure test, could this be grounds for waiving pressure testing so long as vessel physical condition, NDE results and engineering data are deemed favorable?
Proposed Reply:	Yes.
Committee's Question:	<Question(s) the committee will interpret. Can be the same wording as the proposed question>
Committee's Reply:	This is consulting letter to formally go to Inquirer. A separate letter to also go to Inquirer regarding the inherent safety hazards of pneumatic testing from NBIC.
Rationale:	<Additional clarification for response>