

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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April 9, 2008

"The Employer"

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing in response to the employer's email dated February 12, 2008 requesting a deviation from Section 278(1) and (2) of the General Regulation 91-191 under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. More specifically, what the employer is requesting is a deviation from Section 278(1) and (2) to enable hot tapping and hot bolting at various locations with no specific dates provided.

Section 278(1) of Regulation 91-191 requires that flammable and explosive substances be drained from the containers before heat is applied to the container. In addition,

Section 279(1)(b) states "*An employer shall ensure that welding, cutting, burning or soldering operation is not undertaken on a container or pipe ... containing ... explosive and flammable substances*".

The employer indicates in the employer's request that the employer has performed several hot taps in the past year and as indicated in the previous deviation which was granted on May 30, 2007 that the effectiveness would be evaluated after a period of one year.

The employer also is requesting to not only perform hot tapping but also to perform hot bolting.

First, regarding the employer's request for an extension to the employer's deviation that was granted on May 30, 2007, the Chief Compliance Officer's records indicate that the employer has met all of the conditions set out in the previous decision and as a result a two year extension is granted provided that all of the conditions set out in the May 30, 2007 letter continue to be met for the list of qualified welders the employer provided.

Regarding the employer's request for a deviation to allow hot bolting on energized pipes, the employer has provided the Chief Compliance Officer with the following information for consideration.

1. Safe Job Procedure developed by the employer;
2. Hot Bolting (Draft);
3. Description of the hot bolting process extracted from a publication prepared by Contractors Unlimited, an organization out of the United Kingdom;

In reviewing the Contractors Unlimited document there was a reference from the Engineering Equipment Materials and Users Association (EEMUA) published where we obtained an information sheet called *Guidance Procedures For the Removal and Replacement of Flanged Joint Bolting On Live Piping and Equipment*. Please note that there are discrepancies noted between the procedures the employer has provided and the information the Chief Compliance Officer has obtained (document enclosed).

One noteworthy discrepancy is the difference between the allowable pressure for carrying hot bolting in the employer's procedure, which is cited as 75% of maximum allowable working pressure, and the value cited in the guidance procedure documents, which recommends 60%. There are other discrepancies, which can be found in the document, that may need to be addressed.

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As a result of these discrepancies, the Chief Compliance Officer requests that the employer review the information provided and consider whether any changes to the employer's procedure are required before a deviation is granted.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff of the decision.

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer