



The Inspector

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By: David Homan:

Recommendations or Orders Electronic Data Interface aka "CORGI"

As inspectors it is our job to minimize or eliminate boiler and pressure vessel hazards on behalf of the people of Wisconsin. Whether you work for an insurance company, a third party inspection company or a jurisdiction, the goals are the same. Eliminate boiler and pressure vessel hazards. To do this we all have become intimate with the ASME boiler and pressure vessel codes. Even the specific sections not adopted in the state regulations can provide much needed guidance for boiler owners and operators who want to be certain they do things right. The end result is public safety.

So, you head out to a location to accomplish an inspection. Your customer or boiler owner has a small 350,000 mbh hydronic boiler in his facility. As you look over the boiler exterior, before you remove the front cover, you notice that the boiler safety valve is installed with the spindle horizontal and it shares the nipple to the vessel with the feed piping and the expansion tank. You also notice that the boiler has no secondary temperature aqua stat visible. As you remove the front cover, you can see there is no secondary temperature cutout device mounted in the casing of the boiler. So, you realize that this boiler has issues.

What is the best way to inform your customer that these items must be corrected? Written reports. That's what we all generate to let the owner know he needs to fix some stuff on the boiler. Many owners have no clue as to what the boiler codes are or why we even have them. All he knows is he wants heat and as cheap as he can get it.

This particular owner will have to call a service company to make the repairs properly. Many will ask you who to call. They will also ask for a written list of what needs to be corrected to make the boiler compliant. That's where the orders or recommendations come into play.

If the boiler has a clear cut, well defined code violation as our example does, you will issue "orders" to have the boiler corrected. If you see other things in addition to the code that may reduce the potential for damages you may wish to offer a recommendation..

Some feel that the term "orders" is a bit heavy handed. We must ask ourselves, is the correction a clear cut violation of the code? Would the boiler be better off if the owner accomplished the recommendations you make? Will the owner accept my recommendations as I write them? Which is the best way to provide a written report detailing just exactly what needs correction? Depending on your particular employer, you may not want to seem heavy handed with your customer. The language you use when making that written report can help that owner understand the violation. If you use the word "orders", your customer may feel that the inspector is too harsh. If you use the term recommendation, he may feel that you think it would be nice to do these things, but as the owner, the decision is ultimately his. He may think that he does not have to accept recommendations. He may think he has veto power over those recommendations. That's where the State of Wisconsin's Electronic Data Interchange (EDI/CORGI) enters the picture.

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The Chief's Words:

By: Mike Verhagen, Chief Boiler Inspector



We all have administrative procedures we follow in-house as we document our inspections. The various methods we use can sometimes make our job harder to accomplish, depending on how each of us functions as a wordsmith. Face it, if we liked to write, we'd have gone the Tom Clancy route and made millions writing fiction instead of inspection reports. Inspection reports can be very dry; some, real snoozers. This is how EDI/CORGI helps us out.

EDI/CORGI is a state created inspection database that contains most all the code details spelled out in chapter 41 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Boilers and Pressure Vessels. Each code requirement is entered into CORGI as a standard paragraph. It is then made selectable to the report author by using a drop down menu. Each specific standard paragraph in CORGI has a tag line number. That tag line number refers to a specific code requirement. One selects that specific tag line number from the drop down menu, and that specific code requirement gets entered from the code to the report verbatim. That seems simple enough. It doesn't end just yet.

You need to tell your boiler owner just what the problem is. Then what the code requires. Finally what he must accomplish to make that boiler code compliant. Always defining these 3 items in our written reports will make sure that the customer knows what to do, whether he does the work himself, or hires a service company to do it. Exactly what's wrong; exactly what the code requirement is; exactly what he must do to gain compliance.

EDI/CORGI makes defining the code requirements for our reports quite simple. It's a standard paragraph you select from a drop down menu. You still must do some unscripted writing, in telling them what is wrong, and what they must do to fix it.

It goes like this:

What's wrong:

The boiler safety valve is mounted incorrectly on the boiler.

What does the code require:

Comm. 41, ASME IV, HG-701.1 Permissible Mounting Safety Valves. CORGI Tag Line # 9149.

Safety valves and safety relief valves shall be located in the top or side of the boiler and so on.

What must be done to correct the problem:

You must install the boiler safety valve in accordance with ASME Section IV, HG-701.1, with the spindle in the vertical position.

CORGI Tag Line 8501: Boiler has failed inspection and is found not to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Administrative Code as detailed in this report. Do not issue Permit To Operate (PTO).

(e) CORGI Tag Line 9018: You must call the inspector for a reinspection by the compliance date assigned, or legal actions may be initiated.

You have answered the 3 questions all violations have. What is wrong? What does the code require? What must be done to gain compliance?

In my example written here there are code violations I mentioned but have not addressed. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, so I won't go into a most correct example here.

Another benefit of the CORGI system is that all orders you write for a specific object will be available on the web for all to see. This is especially helpful if the state inspector writes orders on a boiler and then the owner contracts through his insurance policy, to provide for future inspections. When the insurance inspector wants to know what the state inspector wrote for that object, all he needs to do is check the web by that Wisconsin tag number. All of the orders from the prior inspection will be there for all to see.

Thought of the Day

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