



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

Compliance Division/Boiler Program

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November 15, 2016

BOILER TECHNICAL GRAM

Number: 2016-03

To: Deputy Boiler Inspectors
Authorized Inspectors
Authorized Inspection Agencies

From: Chief Boiler Inspector
TDLR, Compliance Division, Boiler Program

Subj: Tube Plugging Requirements; Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 65, Section 65.612(e)(2)(E) Plugging of boiler tubes (excluding tubes in headers of economizers, evaporators, superheaters, or reheaters).

This Boiler Technical Gram is issued to clarify the tube plugging requirements in Chapter 65, Section 65.612(e)(2)(E) which reads:

All plugged Fire-Tube boiler tubes shall be replaced prior to the next required certificate inspection." Two scenarios will be provided as examples encountered in the field.

To date, interpretations of Section 65.612(e)(2)(E) arise under the following scenarios:

Scenario 1:

A boiler is opened for the required certificate internal inspection on September 24, 2016, with a tube that was plugged prior to opening the boiler for inspection. In this first scenario the inspection *is* the 'next required certificate inspection'. Per the rule, the boiler tube is required to be replaced prior to placing the boiler back in operation. Owners should be cautioned; arrangements must be made to replace the boiler tube prior to opening the boiler for inspection and it is advised that the tube be replaced prior to the inspector's arrival for the inspection or a violation will be written. Furthermore, if warranted, the boiler may be red tagged.

Scenario 2:

A boiler is opened for the required certificate internal inspection on September 24, 2016, with a tube that shows evidence of leaking but is not plugged. The owner wants to plug the tube without replacement. In this second scenario, the inspector should advise the owner of the boiler administrative rule requirements in Section 65.612(e) and inform the owner the tube shall be replaced prior to the next required certificate internal inspection.

Mike Arismendez, Chair – Shallowater, Texas

Tom Butler, Vice-Chair – Deer Park, Texas
Helen Callier – Kingwood, Texas
Rick Figueroa – Brenham, Texas

Catherine Rodewald – Frisco, Texas
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In both scenarios, 'prior to the next certificate internal inspection' means the tube must be replaced prior to the inspector's arrival for the inspection. If a boiler inspector arrives on location and finds a Fire Tube Boiler with a tube plugged, a violation shall be written and the tube replaced regardless of when the tube was installed.

Any questions regarding this Boiler Technical Gram should be addressed to the Chief Boiler Inspector or an Inspection Specialist.

Sincerely,

Robby D. Troutt
Chief Boiler Inspector
TDLR – Boiler Program

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