REQUIREMENTS FOR A PRESSURE RELIEF DEVICE ISOLATION VALVE CONTROL PROGRAM

Isolation valves are not permitted in pressure relief device piping unless a program describing the method of controlling the operation of these isolation valves has been accepted and registered by the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan. A pressure relief device isolation valve control program must include such measures as are necessary to ensure that the safety of pressure retaining components is not compromised by the installation and operation of these isolation valves. Pressure relief device isolation valves are permitted only where provisions exist in the ASME Code for their installation (see reference in ASME Section VIII, Division I, Appendix M). Isolation valves are not permitted in boiler safety valve piping.

Prior to the installation of new pressure relief device isolation valves, a written request to the Codes and Standards Compliance Office must be submitted. The submission shall include an application form (TSK-1012), the applicable fee and a written description of the pressure relief device isolation valve control program to be implemented.

The pressure relief device isolation valve control program must include, but is not limited to the following items:

Statement of Authority
This is a written statement made by a senior company official verifying the company's commitment to safety. This statement must indicate the scope and purpose of the program and identify the person on site who is responsible for ensuring procedures are followed. Acknowledgment that the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan has the right to audit or revoke the program at any time must also be included.

The senior company official and responsible person indicate acceptance of this program by signing and dating this statement.

Implementation Procedures
Procedures must be developed to identify the location, installation, maintenance and operation of pressure relief device isolation valves. These procedures must include the following:

- an explanation of why the isolation valves are required,
- a description of means of identifying the valves (equipment number, serial number, tags, etc.),
- a description of means of sealing valves (padlock, lead seals, etc.),
- an explanation how alternate overpressure protection will be provided,
- a statement that under no circumstances shall these isolating valves be closed longer than the duration required to safely perform the functions as stated in the Statement of Authority,
- a description of monthly internal audit procedures, and
- signature of the responsible person as identified in the Statement of Authority.

A record system identifying the operations of all isolation valves must also be developed and maintained. This record system must include:

- the valve identification number,
- the normal operating position of the valve,
• the date sealed, date unsealed, and reason for unsealing, and
• the head operator’s initials.

Operating Procedures
In order to maintain safety, the operation of pressure relief device isolation valves must be performed in strict accordance to a written procedure. This detailed procedure must include:
  • identification of the isolation valve being operated,
  • a description of how the internal pressure of the system will be monitored during isolation,
  • a description of how overpressure protection will be provided during isolation, and
  • a checklist to record isolation valve status and operation

This checklist shall include as a minimum:

  • the approval (by signature) of the person named as responsible on the Statement of Authority,
  • the name and signature of the person who initiates the order to change the position of the valve,
  • the normal operating position of valve,
  • the length of time the valve will be operated in the changed position,
  • the name and signature of the person who changes the valve position,
  • the time the valve is changed from the normal position,
  • the name and signature of the person who returned the valve to the normal position, and
  • the time the valve is returned to the normal position.

If there are any further questions or concerns, feel free to contact the office at (306) 787-4567.