



SAFETY ASSESSMENT
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Guidelines

Pressure Systems

Guidelines for the examination of pressure systems in accordance with Written Schemes of Examination (WSE)

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Examination of pressure systems in accordance with Written Schemes of Examination (WSE).

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to provide clarification on terminology, responsibilities and the dates by which the examination of pressure systems in accordance with the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR) have to be performed. The aim is to ensure that all parts of the examination and subsequent reporting are linked such that the date beyond which pressure systems can no longer be operated without further examination is clear.

2. Definitions

The following terms will be used by SAFed member companies in relation to the examination of pressure systems. Examples of alternative terms that may be found in existing WSE are given in the Appendix.

2.1. Out of service examination

An examination with the relevant parts of the system stripped down to a level necessary to determine the condition and fitness for continued use.

2.2. In-service examination

An examination of the relevant parts of the system under pressure (usually under normal operating conditions) to determine the condition and fitness for continued use and to confirm that the protective devices, especially any safety valves, have been tested and set correctly.

2.3. Date of next examination

The date specified for the next examination, In-Service or Out of Service or both, is the date after which the pressure system may not be operated without a further examination.

3. Examination and Reporting Protocol

Some systems, (for example fired equipment) may need to undergo both out of service and in- service examination in accordance with the WSE. The requirements of the WSE have not been fulfilled until the out of service and the in-service examinations have both been carried out. It may not be practicable to carry out the in-service examination immediately following the out of service examination. In these circumstances the in-service examination should be carried out when the system is first returned to service or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter as advised by the CP.

If the in-service examination is not carried out within 28 days of the out of service examination, then the Competent Person may require a further out of service examination. For equipment not requiring to enter service immediately after the out-of-service examination, a limit of 28 days may not be practicable, therefore the suitable dates for the in-service examination and subsequent out of service examination should be agreed between the Owner/User and the CP. For that due consideration be given to the preservation of equipment during idle time.

In any event to keep the system compliant to PSSR the user/owner needed to ensure that the in-service examination was performed before the date specified in the last report of examination.

3.1. Report of out of service examination (where issued)

The report will state that the examination is not complete and that an in-service examination under working conditions is required as soon as reasonably practicable. The date of next examination will need to be included when the report is in accordance with the WSE.

4. Review of the Written Scheme of Examination

The Written Scheme of Examination should be reviewed at each examination to determine if changes are needed. This may include a change to scope and extent of examination, the periodicity or the safe operating limits to ensure that it is appropriate for the intended conditions and does not give rise to Danger.

The examination requirements of the WSE are based upon the operating conditions and maintenance programme supplied by the user/owner. If the user/owner intends to change the operation, maintenance programme or modify the equipment in any way then the next due date for examination and/or the WSE may not be valid. It is important that the user/owner informs the Competent Person, ideally before it is returned to service if they intend to change the equipment. This will allow the WSE to be reviewed in good time and ensure it is suitable for the equipment's future use.

5. Background

Historically the time period between out of service and in-service parts of the examination had been up to two calendar months although no such period is specified in PSSR and may not be considered to be as soon as reasonably practicable.

6. Return to service

The user/owner has specific responsibilities under Regulation 11 & 12 of the PSSR to ensure pressure systems are operated in a safe manner and adequately maintained so as to prevent danger.

A pressure system is considered to be returned to service when it is under pressure and in normal operating duty. For practical reasons, the user/owner should re-commission the pressure system and carry out pre-checks of the functionality of controls and protective devices (as referenced in the WSE) before the Competent Person attends for the in-service examination. During this period of functional testing, the equipment should not be left running unattended.

These functions will also be subject to confirmation/verification by the Competent Person during the in-service examination.

7. PSG06 — Relationship to WSE

It is recommended this guidance is kept with, referenced or appended to the written scheme of examination.

8. Appendix

The following alternative terms may be found in existing WSE

Out of service examination	In service examination
Thorough	Working
Thorough part 1	Thorough part 2
Full	Intermediate
	Supplementary
Cold	Hot
Cold shut down	On stream
	Under normal working conditions (UNWC)