

OIL POT UNCERTAINTY

This oil pot was built back in the 1960's, according to those who were familiar with this piece of equipment. It is a pipe elbow with caps welded to each end, and while it is an ingenious conserver of floor space, it is an example of an Epic Fail.



Section U-1 of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code exempts vessels that have an internal diameter of six inches or less. This oil pot is an eight inch elbow. Hence, it is subject to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Were calculations performed to determine proper dimensional requirements, including metal thickness and head curvature to withstand the pressures it would operate at? For that matter, was a maximum allowable working pressure and a minimum design metal temperature calculated for the vessel? Was it tested according to the code's requirements? Were the welders certified to weld pressure vessels? Was it inspected by an authorized inspector? Without a nameplate with an ASME stamp, it is a safe bet that the answer to these questions were no.

So what do you do in a situation such as this? The easy answer is to replace it with a proper one that is either UM or

U stamped, meaning that it is built to meet the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code requirements. When you replace the vessel, be sure to follow your Management of Change procedures, which will include filing the manufacturer's data report (U1, U1A, or U3) and the certified drawing of the vessel in your Process Safety Information. It should also be noted that this is an Epic Fail regardless of how many pounds of ammonia are in your system and which regulations that you must follow.

If you have photos of an Epic Fail please pass them on to nh3isB2L@gmail.com.

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