

Revocation of the Ontario Agricultural Exemption

Since 2001, farms, greenhouses and other agricultural operations with boilers and pressure vessels have been exempt from the associated inspection regulations in Ontario. Due to growing safety concerns, this exemption is now coming to an end.

What's changing?

Effective July 1, 2021, boilers and pressure vessels (BPV) used exclusively for agricultural purposes must comply with:

- [Ontario Regulation 220/01: Boilers and Pressure Vessels](#), under the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000. This regulation applies to the design, construction, maintenance, use, operation, repair and service of boilers, pressure vessels and piping in Ontario.
- [BPV Code Adoption Document 2021](#), (which includes amendments to [CSA B51](#) and [CSA B52](#) to address Ontario requirements)

Who's impacted / what equipment is affected?

Previously, boilers and pressure vessels used by owners and operators for agricultural purposes were exempt from regulatory inspections. These owners and operators must now arrange periodic inspections of their BPV equipment which include, amongst others:

- Steam boilers
- Water boilers
- Refrigeration equipment using ammonia, carbon dioxide, Group A1 refrigerants

Some [exclusions](#) due to size of equipment, lower pressure, lower temperatures, and non-hazardous liquid apply.

Note that new installations of BPV, fittings and piping may also have to be inspected by the TSSA to comply with the BPV regulations.

What's the new inspection process?

The TSSA will first complete inspections on required objects and provide owners with a Certificate of Inspection (COI). After the initial inspection, required renewals (i.e. periodic inspections) will be completed by your insurer. Work with your broker / insurer two to three months prior to the expiry of the COI to schedule the next periodic inspection. Your insurer will issue you a Record of Inspection (ROI) so that you can pay for and obtain the renewed COI from the TSSA.

The TSSA has an [automated process](#) to renew the COI for boilers and pressure vessels where owners are required to pay application (and inspection) [fees](#). After the fees for the

first inspection by TSSA, the COI fees will be the only ongoing cost that you will be required to pay as your insurer provides the inspection service at no additional cost to you.

How can I prepare for my TSSA inspection?

- Compile any information requested by the TSSA, including a list of the boiler and pressure vessel equipment and where these are installed on your premises.
- Identify the location of the vessel nameplate and note the details or take a picture for future reference.
- Assemble records of maintenance, boiler water treatment, and history of any repairs conducted in preparation for the TSSA visit. Previous COIs, if issued in the past, would also be useful.
- Check your pressure relief devices. A common recommendation issued during an inspection is to service/replace the pressure relief device on the boiler or pressure vessel. The intervals ([BPV CAD, 1.40](#)) for servicing/testing of pressure relief devices vary depending on where it is installed. It would be best to have the pressure relief device replaced prior to the first visit from the TSSA as this may otherwise generate a deficiency if the service interval is exceeded.

What new responsibilities do I have under the regulations?

Once you have your COI for your boiler or pressure vessel, be mindful of some additional responsibilities that you as the owner/operator have under the regulations:

- Keep the COI in good condition and post it in a visible place or have it readily available for an inspector.
- During an inspection, identify any defect(s) that you know or believe to exist.
- Have your broker arrange with your insurer to conduct periodic inspections prior to expiry of the COI.
- Have your contractor contact your insurer for a repair to a boiler or pressure vessel. Your insurer will provide an inspector for the repair inspection.
- Report the following to the TSSA:
 - Change of insurer (and any [updates to your information](#))
 - Installation of a new boiler or pressure vessel (some [exclusions](#))
 - Removal of a boiler or pressure vessel from service
 - Any defect that might render the boiler or pressure vessel unsafe to operate or use ([report a safety violation](#))
 - Explosion or rupture of a boiler or pressure vessel ([report an incident](#))

Where do I find more information?

For additional details and information, please refer to the [Technical Standards and Safety Authority website](#), or contact the TSSA at:

- Phone: 1-877-682-TSSA (8772)
- Email: agriculture.bpv@tssa.org