



Guide to Plant Design Registration- Pressure Equipment



A pressure vessel is a container that holds either gasses or liquids and is subject to internal or external pressure. It includes interconnecting parts and components, valves, gauges, and other fittings up to the first point of connection to the connection piping.

Every pressure vessel has a hazard level assigned to them as assessed using the criteria in Australian Standard AS4343- Pressure Equipment- Hazard Levels. Pressure vessels are rated from hazard level A to E, A being the most hazardous and E being the least hazardous. There are a number of factors that contribute to a pressure vessel hazard level, which include-

- Volume
- Pressure
- Contents type
- Hazardous contents
- Location
- Boiler/ vessel type

Examples of types of pressure equipment include- Steam boilers, hot water boilers, air receivers, refrigeration/ chiller vessels, gas storage tanks, sterilizers/ autoclaves.

Owners of pressure equipment must comply with current laws, legislation and Australian Standards relating to pressure equipment and can be fined if they fail to do so.

Design Registration

All boilers and pressure vessels categorized as Hazard Level A,B,C or D (AS4343) must, by law, have a current design registration/ and a current design registration number.

This number was previously referred to as a “design approval number”, and is really an approval number to use and operate pressure equipment within Australia.

The manufacturer, Supplier, Importer of an item of pressure equipment is responsible for obtaining design registration.



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It is against the law for a Manufacturer to manufacture, a supplier to Supply, and an Importer to import pressure equipment for use in Australia without obtaining design registration and supplying the purchaser with design registration number/ documents.

The registration holder must keep the design registration document available for inspection under the WHS (NUL) Act.

It is against the law to supply pressure equipment hazard level A,B,C,D without design registration. A design registration number is mandatory in accordance with the work Health & Safety Regulation 2011 with fines of up to \$30,000 issued to a Manufacturer, Supplier or Importer for non-compliance

In accordance with the Work Health & Safety Regulation 2011 Schedule 5 Part 1) It is also against the law to operate an item of pressure equipment without correct design registration.

All design registration documentation must be readily accessible at all times. The PCBU must ensure the design registration number is readily accessible and in the vicinity of the plant at all times – Regulation 260(5).



Workcover/ Worksafe

Each State and Territory Workcover Authority is the Issuing Authority with regard to pressure equipment design registration numbers.

Design registration numbers are issued by each of the regulatory authorities within Australia (eg Workcover NSW, Worksafe Vic, Worksafe SA).

For information regarding design registration numbers for pressure equipment, contact the regulatory authority in your state or territory-

- Safework NSW- Phone 13 10 50
- Safework Victoria- Phone- 1800 136 089
- Queensland DIR- Phone- (07) 3224 2111
- Safework SA- Phone- 1300 365 255
- Worksafe WA- Phone- 1300 307 877
- Worksafe Tasmania- Phone- 1300 366 322
- Worksafe ACT- Phone 13 22 81
- NT Worksafe- Phone- 1800 193 111

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The design registration process



Any person conducting a business or undertaking that designs plant or a person who has management or control of an item of plant may apply to the Regulator for the registration of the plant's design – Regulation 249. "Person conducting a business or undertaking" (PCBU) is defined in Section 5 of the WHS (NUL) Act.

The process for obtaining design registration is-

- 1- The design of the item of pressure equipment must be "design verified" by an approved design verifier. The design verifier will require as a minimum the following documentation to support the vessel design
 - An Engineering drawing- in English- showing-
 - All dimensions in mm
 - Material Grade
 - Material thickness
 - Weld detail- including weld prep detail
 - Class of Construction
 - Test Pressure
- 2- If the design verifier believes that the design is compliant with the requirements of the Work Health & Safety Regulation in regard to plant design, the design verifier will issue a design verification statement along with other supporting documentation to support the design registration application.
- 3- The applicant will lodge an application with the Regulatory Authority to issue a design registration number. The application for registration must include a statement by a person who has verified the design that the design was produced in accordance with published technical standards or engineering principles specified in the application, and a statement from the designer that the designer has complied with their obligations under section 22 of the WHS Act in respect to the design of the plant. The application must be made in the format required by the Regulatory Authority and must include the registration fee.
- 4- If the Regulatory Authority approves the application, a design registration number is issued to the applicant along with relevant paperwork/ certificate of plant design



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ABV Inspections can assist your company with any of the above with regard to pressure equipment.

If you require any further information or assistance, please contact our office on-

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