



September 24, 2009

INFORMATION LETTER # OGC 09-24

Subject: Welding of Casing Bowls

To: Industry Clients

Effective Date: Immediate

Background:

On July 15, 2009 the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) issued [Information Bulletin 07-09](#) to communicate to permit holders the importance of the use of properly qualified welding procedures for the deposition of casing bowl welds.

Following the issuance of that Bulletin, the Commission met with representatives of the BC Safety Authority (BCSA) and Northern Lights College to discuss the standards that should be applied to casing bowl welds. In addition, the Commission reviewed a number of documents including *Minimum Wellhead Requirements – Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) Volume 5* published by ENFORM, and *ERCB Directive 36 - Drilling Blowout Prevention Requirements and Procedures*.

Requirement:

Effective immediately, all casing bowl welds performed on wells under the authority of the Commission shall be completed by welders qualified to complete pressure welds in the province of British Columbia. The welds shall be performed in accordance with a qualified ASME Section IX welding procedure. The welding procedure specification and supporting procedure qualification records shall be available on site when casing welding is performed.

Completed casing bowl welds shall be pressure tested in accordance with documented practices established by the permit holder or their representative.

Permit holders are encouraged to take reasonable steps to ensure the integrity of the completed weld which may include monitoring of welding parameters and verification of welder qualifications.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:

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