

**STANDARD FOR BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL  
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION  
16 VAC 25-40**

**16 VAC 25-40-10. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Accredited" means accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Act" refers to ~~§15.1-11.6~~ §15.2 - 910 of the Code of Virginia.

"Agent" means the agent established by a county, city or town, under local ordinance to examine and determine an applicant's qualifications for certification under the Act.

"Approved" means acceptable to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

"Board" means the board established by a county, city or town, under local ordinance to examine and determine an applicant's qualifications for certification under the Act.

"Boiler" means a closed vessel in which water is heated, steam is generated, steam is superheated, or any combination of them, under pressure or vacuum for use externally to itself by the direct application of heat. The term "boiler" shall include fired units for heating or vaporizing liquids other than water where these units are separate from processing systems and are complete within themselves.

"Boiler operator" means an individual who would normally be the senior operational and maintenance person at the site of the boiler who would be expected to react to changing operational and maintenance situations.

"Certificate of Competency" means a certificate issued to a person who has passed the prescribed examination as provided in subsection C of 16 VAC 25-40-30.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry.

"Department" means the Department of Labor and Industry.

"Heating plant" means a heating system containing a low pressure steam or hot water boiler used to generate energy for use in heating buildings, potable water or processing.

"High pressure boiler" means a steam boiler where the safety valves are set to relieve at a pressure of more than 15 pounds per square inch.

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"Horsepower rating of a boiler" for the purpose of this chapter shall be the largest rating determined in accordance with each of the following (i) by dividing the square feet of boiler heating surface by 10; or (ii) the manufacturer's rated output in horsepower; or (iii) where the manufacturer's rated output is expressed in terms other than horsepower, such rating converted into horsepower by the use of one of the factors as defined in this chapter.

"Hot water heating boiler" means any hot water boiler operated at pressures not exceeding 160 psi or temperatures not exceeding 250 °F.

"Jurisdiction" as referred to in this standard shall mean counties, cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

"Low pressure boiler" means a steam boiler where the safety valves are set to relieve at a pressure of 15 pounds per square inch or less and hot water heating boilers.

"Pressure vessel" as referred to in this chapter shall be any vessel in which (i) the pressure is obtained from an external source, or by an internal or external application of heat; and (ii) is an auxiliary to a boiler plant.

"One boiler horsepower" shall be defined as (i) the evaporation of 34.5 pounds of water per hour from and at 212°F; or (ii) 33475 British Thermal Units (B.T.U.) per hour; or (iii) 140 square feet of steam radiation; or (iv) 224 square feet of water radiation at 150 °F; or (v) 10 kilowatt per hour electrical input to boiler.

"Steam plant" means a system containing a high pressure boiler to generate energy for use in heating, power generation or processing operations.

**16 VAC 25-40-20. Authority and application.**

- A. This chapter is established in accordance with ~~§15.1-11.6~~ §15.2 - 910 of the Code of Virginia for use by counties, cities and towns for the certification of boiler and pressure vessel operators.
- B. This chapter shall apply to any person who engages in, or offers to engage in, for the general public for compensation, the operation or maintenance of a boiler or pressure vessel. All jurisdictions who choose to regulate the certification of boiler and pressure vessel operators shall utilize this standard for control of certification within the Commonwealth.
- C. This chapter shall not affect licensing or inspection under any other provision of the Code of Virginia.

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- D. Localities shall forward a copy of their certification ordinance upon adoption or amendment to the Office of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety in the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry.
- E. The Department of Labor and Industry will provide advisory opinions concerning interpretation and application of this chapter upon request.
- F. This chapter shall not apply to any person who, in his capacity as an employee, is engaged in the operation or maintenance of a boiler or pressure vessel owned by his employer.

**16 VAC 25-40-50. Penalties.**

Section ~~§15.1-11.6~~ §15.2 - 910 of the Code of Virginia provides that penalties for noncompliance with this chapter shall be set and levied by the governing body of a jurisdiction and may not exceed those penalties for a Class 3 misdemeanor.