

City of Hialeah Building Department

CHIEF MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

General Boiler/Pressure Vessel Inspection Protocol/Guidelines

This is a general and basic overview of procedures relating to inspecting and registering the various types of boilers and pressure vessels in the City of Hialeah. This document also describes how the inspector is to act and comport while dealing with the public during the inspection process.

1. When arriving at the inspection location, always use the front/main entrance, be polite and professional, as you are representing the City of Hialeah, try to make a good impression, as this may help to put the customer at ease, and help make the inspection run smoother.
2. Identify yourself, state the reason for your visit, and ask to be escorted by the owner's representative to the pressure vessel(s). Explain that this is a required annual inspection and registration, as per Florida State Statutes (#554), and Miami-Dade County Code, Chapter #8-11. Note: High-pressure steam boilers require a semiannual inspection/registration.
3. Stress that this is only a visual, external, life safety inspection, done on an annual basis.
4. Perform the inspection, and if checking or testing any items such as safety valves, ask your escort to do the physical test while you only observe (liability reasons).
5. Write down all relevant and required information for each pressure vessel that is inspected.
Example: Manufacturer/brand name. Date when produced. Maximum working pressure. National board number and/or serial number. Safety relief valve pressure rating. Actual physical location of pressure vessel. Take photos of equipment.
6. Always take a carbon monoxide reading for all fired boiler/pressure vessels. Record C/O level, if the reading is high and dangerous **RED TAG** the vessel!!! Note: A maximum permissible limit of 35 P.P.M. for a one (1) hour exposure to C/O., as per the EPA and OSHA. Note: These organizations are nationally or internationally recognized experts regarding indoor air quality. Note: A reading of 35 P.P.M. of C/O is the level that the Deputy State Boiler Inspector uses to **Red Tag** a boiler.
7. If there is a serious and/or dangerous problem with the vessel, it must be taken off line. Request that a licensed contractor make the needed repairs, leave a written report, and request another inspection within a thirty (30) day period. Contractor needs to obtain a mechanical repair permit.
8. Give the owner the necessary registration paperwork. The inspector will inform the owner that the City of Hialeah will bill them with the correct fees.
9. Ask the customer to complete the registration paperwork and mail the completed paperwork including a check for the proper amount, to the City of Hialeah, within thirty (30) days.
10. Explain to the customer that when the fees are received by the City of Hialeah, an inspector will return and finish the registration and inspection process, which will include affixing a registration sticker to the pressure vessel(s).
11. In the case of steam boilers, or very large hot water boilers (over 400,000 BTUH), explain that a State Inspector, in most installations, will make the required inspections. Please note: This only applies if the equipment or business is accessible to the public. If the pressure vessels are not accessible to the public, a duly licensed mechanical contractor/plumbing/boiler contractor, or an insurance underwriter special inspector will need to make an annual inspection and leave a written report for the owner, and a copy for the City of Hialeah. Explain, that even if inspected by the State or licensed contractor, the equipment still requires an annual registration by the City of Hialeah. Note: In most instances, for this type of registration, there will be no charge.
12. Note: Always take a carbon monoxide reading of any and all "*fired*" equipment!!!

Cross Reference Procedure: General Boiler/Pressure Vessel Inspection/protocol Guidelines

Related Documents: Boiler Brochure

Forms Used: Notice of Required Annual Recertification