



Memo to Members and Facility Operators

Re: Recent TSBC and WorkSafe BC Orders

The RFABC acknowledges that there have been recent initiatives within the industry that have created challenges to many facilities across the province. While the RFABC does not provide a direct role in regulating or enforcement of the industry, it is our role to collaborate and communicate on behalf of our members with the agencies that have this authority and to promote the successful operation of recreational facilities across the province through the provision of educational opportunities, networking, training, and advocacy for recreation facility personnel,

On December 22, 2017, Technical Safety BC (TSBC) issued Safety Order SO-BP 2017-02 which specifically applies to refrigeration plants that utilize ammonia as a refrigerant, that exceed 50 kW capacity, and that are subject to the provisions of section 45 of the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation as a Continuous Supervision Status Plant. Any owner of a refrigeration plant, within the scope of this safety order, (includes ice rinks and curling rinks) shall comply with all of the conditions and timelines by January 19, 2018, otherwise the owner shall not authorize or allow the refrigerant plant to be in operation beyond this date. The RFABC recognizes that the SO is not specifying new regulation but rather identifying enforcement of current regulation. We also recognize that facilities, that are within the scope of the SO and are currently non-compliant, are challenged to meet compliance within the terms and conditions of the SO.

The RFABC has been in ongoing discussion with TSBC to share our industry concerns while at the same time collaborating to support potential and current operators, avenues to resolve issues and to support the industry. While the timeline of the SO is short there may be certain direction that could provide opportunities to become compliant which we would recommend.

1. Contact your Refrigeration Contractor to see if there is a possibility of modifying the refrigeration plant to lower your plant capacity below 50kW;
2. Obtain certification for staff to meet qualifications required. The RFABC can assist with educational opportunities for Refrigeration Operator and Ice Facility Operator certification.
3. Apply for Risk Assessed status. (For more info go to www.rfabc.com and the manual for Requirements manual for owners /operators of Special Status Plants)

We also recognize that each facility is unique so if any of the above does meet your need, contact the RFABC office and we may be able to discuss and possibly explore alternative solutions.

The RFABC also recognizes the Ammonia Initiative by Work Safe BC (WSBC) and the inspections conducted at facilities in December 2017. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that ice arenas and ice rink facilities using anhydrous ammonia refrigeration systems throughout British Columbia have implemented appropriate controls, measures, plans, and procedures to protect workers and minimize the risk of an adverse exposure to anhydrous ammonia. We appreciate the follow up being done by the facilities to meet the WSBC orders that were subsequently issued. To assist our members, we have various documents on the RFABC [website](#) that might serve as a guideline for developing Exposure Control Plans (ECP), Emergency Response Plans, Risk Assessment to name a few. Our greatest asset is our members and their networking potential, so if anyone has a document that they wish to share, or perhaps can provide support/assistance on various issues, we would encourage you to contact us.

In closing, to assist RFABC with future scheduling of IFO/RO courses, can you please let Dan at dan@rfabc.com know by January 15th, how many operators you would need trained in the next 6 months.

Visit the website at www.rfabc.com for more info.