

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

April 16, 1991

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 86-21, SUPPLEMENT 2: RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR
N STAMP HOLDERS

Addressees:

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors and all recipients of NUREG-0040, "Licensee Contractor and Vendor Inspection Status Report" (White Book).

Purpose:

This information notice supplement is to alert addressees of a clarification of IN 86-21 and Supplement 1 concerning the recognition by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Accreditation Program. This supplement clarifies that a method, other than auditing, may be used by purchasers of certain ASME Section III Code items to verify that the ASME-accredited suppliers of the items are effectively implementing their quality assurance (QA) program. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this supplement do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Background:

In IN 86-21, the NRC informed holders of operating licenses and construction permits that the NRC recognizes the ASME Accreditation Program for N, NA, NPT, and NV stamps and associated certificates of authorization as evidence that the holder of the certificate of authorization has a documented QA program that meets the requirements of Appendix B to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50). The information notice also stated that when assessing whether a company has an acceptable QA program to enable it to become a supplier, licensees and their subcontractors could rely on the fact that ASME had surveyed the supplier and issued a certificate of authorization of the appropriate scope and for the desired location, without performing any additional evaluation of the supplier's QA program.

IN 86-21, Supplement 1, clarified the intent of IN 86-21, by noting that the NRC's recognition of the ASME Accreditation Program as providing evidence of an acceptable QA program also applied to holders of quality system certificates.

9104100050

Discussion:

IN 86-21 and Supplement 1 stated that the NRC's recognition of the ASME Accreditation Program applied only to the programmatic aspects of the QA programs and that holders of operating licenses or construction permits, and their subcontractors, are still responsible for ensuring that the suppliers are effectively implementing their approved QA programs. However, recent inquiries from licensees and vendors suggest the need to further clarify the earlier information notice and supplement regarding the purchaser's responsibilities for verifying effective implementation of a supplier's QA program.

Several nuclear industry standards and NRC regulatory guides (RGs) provide guidance for scheduling and performing periodic audits to verify that licensees and their suppliers are effectively implementing QA programs (i.e., ANSI N45.2.12, NQA-1, RG 1.28, RG 1.144). Licensees may wish to review their plant-specific commitments to determine which standards and NRC regulatory guides apply in their case.

The NRC issued RG 1.144, Revision 1, "Auditing of Quality Assurance Programs for Nuclear Power Plants," to endorse (with modifications) ANSI N45.2.12-1977. In that regulatory guide, the staff stated that the licensee should schedule and perform periodic audits when the supplier is performing a sufficient quantity of work to demonstrate that the supplier is adequately performing the functions defined in the QA program for the purchased item. In RG 1.144 and RG 1.28, Revision 3, "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Design and Construction)," the staff also noted that, after awarding a contract, the licensee may evaluate the procurement requirements and determine that implementation audits are not necessary for procuring items that are (1) relatively simple and standard in design, manufacturing, and testing; and (2) adaptable to standard or automated inspections or tests of the end product to verify quality characteristics after delivery.

It is important to note that the ASME Accreditation Program, as discussed in IN 86-21, Supplement 1, and this supplement, applies only to items manufactured in accordance with Section III of the ASME Code and does not apply to noncode items that may be supplied by ASME certificate holders. For example in IN 88-95, "Inadequate Procurement Requirements Imposed by Licensees on Vendors," the staff has provided additional information regarding the procurement of nonpressure-boundary parts used on ASME code components.

This information notice supplement requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this supplement, please contact the technical contact listed below or the appropriate NRR project manager.

Charles E. Rossi
Charles E. Rossi, Director
Division of Operational Events Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact: Larry L. Campbell, NRR
(301) 492-0976

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

Attachment 1
IN 86-21, Supplement 2
April 16, 1991
Page 1 of 1

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
91-29	Deficiencies Identified During Electrical Distribution System Functional Inspections	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-28	Cracking in Feedwater System Piping	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for pressurized water reactors (PWRs).
91-27	Incorrect Rotation of Positive Displacement Pump	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-90, Supp. 1	Pressurizer Safety Valve Lift Setpoint Shift	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-26	Potential Nonconservative Errors in the Working Format Hansen-Roach Cross-Section Set Provided with The Keno and Scale Codes	04/02/91	All fuel cycle licensees and other licensees, including all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, who use physics codes to support criticality safety in the use of fissile material.
91-25	Commercial-Grade Structural Framing Components Supplied As Nuclear Safety-Related Equipment	04/01/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-24	Recent Operating Experience Involving Reactor Operation Without A Licensed Reactor Operator or Senior Reactor Operator Present in the Control Room	03/26/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power, test, and research reactors, and all Part 55 licensed operators.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
91-29	Deficiencies Identified During Electrical Distribution System Functional Inspections	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-28	Cracking in Feedwater System Piping	04/15/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for pressurized water reactors (PWRs).
91-27	Incorrect Rotation of Positive Displacement Pump	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
89-90, Supp. 1	Pressurizer Safety Valve Lift Setpoint Shift	04/10/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-26	Potential Nonconservative Errors in the Working Format Hansen-Roach Cross-Section Set Provided with The Keno and Scale Codes	04/02/91	All fuel cycle licensees and other licensees, including all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, who use physics codes to support criticality safety in the use of fissile material.
91-25	Commercial-Grade Structural Framing Components Supplied As Nuclear Safety-Related Equipment	04/01/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
91-24	Recent Operating Experience Involving Reactor Operation Without A Licensed Reactor Operator or Senior Reactor Operator Present in the Control Room	03/26/91	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power, test, and research reactors, and all Part 55 licensed operators.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit