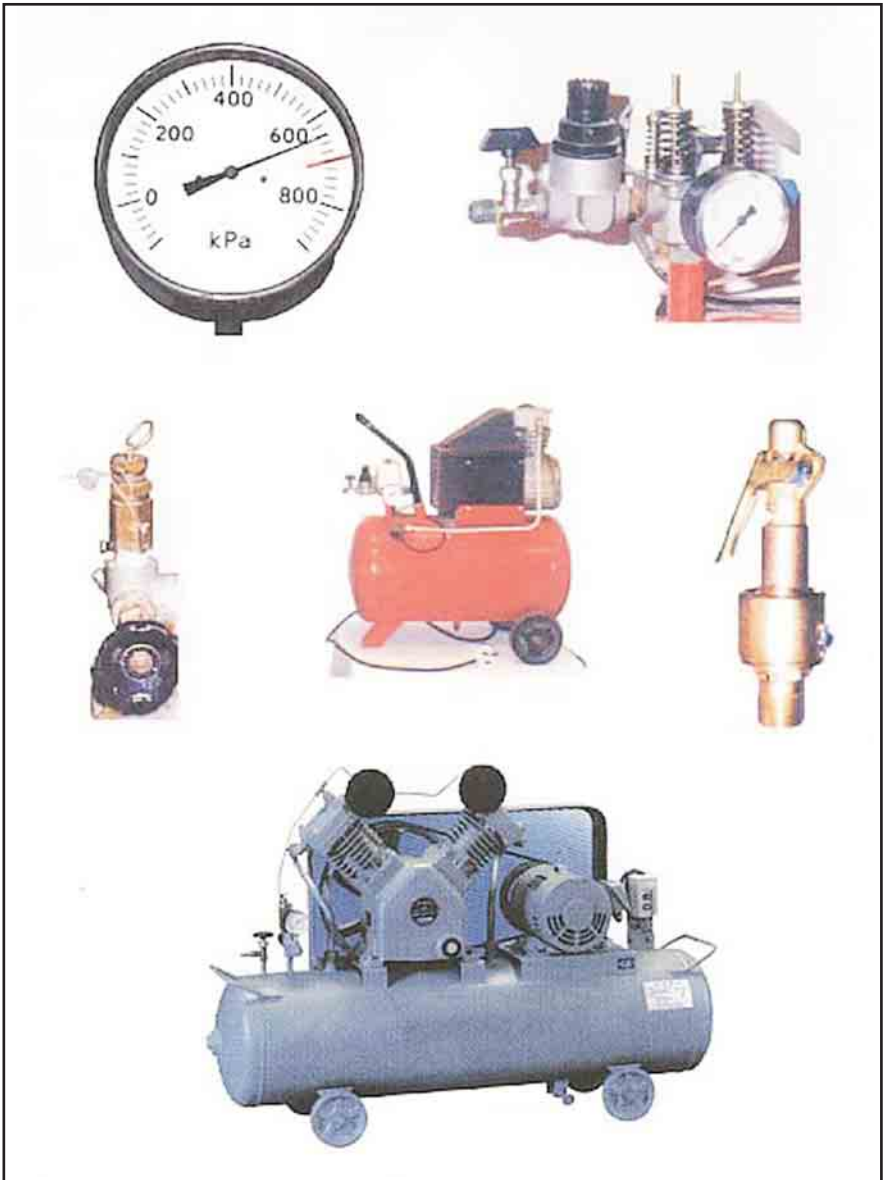


# OPERATIONAL GUIDE FOR AIR RECEIVERS



Occupational Safety and Health Branch  
Labour Department

<http://www.labour.gov.hk>

BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS AUTHORITY

# AIR RECEIVER IS ANY VESSEL FOR CONTAINING COMPRESSED AIR

## REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

The owner of an air receiver shall, not later than 30 days preceding the day on which he intends to put the same into use, apply to the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Authority (Authority) for registration. The documents required for submission include an application form, and one copy each of the maker's certificate and the certificate of inspection during construction issued in respect of the air receiver by a government recognized inspection body. Copies of the above certificates shall be certified by an appointed examiner.

A list of appointed examiners can be obtained from the Labour Department (LD) website; or the LD's 24-hour hotline 2717 1771.

## REGISTRATION NUMBER

After registering the air receiver, the LD will immediately notify the owner of the air receiver of the registration number allotted to it and its maximum permissible working pressure. The registration number shall be engraved in a conspicuous position on the air receiver and to be clearly legible at all times.

## CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS

Every air receiver and its fittings have to be inspected by an appointed examiner. An air receiver can only put into use when the safety valve is properly sealed and a certificate of fitness is issued by an appointed examiner. The certificate of fitness will be issued by an appointed examiner in duplicate. The owner shall keep one copy at the premises at which the air receiver is installed and deliver one copy to the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Division for retention.

## OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

An air receiver is deemed to be taken into use whenever it has storage of compressed air. It is an offence to use an air receiver without a valid certificate of fitness. The Authority may issue an order to prohibit its further use and may prosecute the owner.

## POINTS TO NOTE FOR THE USE OF AIR RECEIVER

### 1. Location of installation

An air receiver shall be situated in a clean and well-ventilated location, and be installed on a suitable foundation with its bottom set off the ground, as stagnant water and moisture may cause rusting and corrosion around it.

### 2. Not in use

Whenever an air receiver is to be taken out of service for a long period of time, the receiver should be drained thoroughly and kept clean as well as stored in a dry place.

### 3. Periodic examination

An air receiver shall be properly maintained and re-examined by an appointed examiner at an interval of 26 months for re-issuance of a certificate of fitness.

### 4. Change of address

The owner of a registered air receiver shall, within 7 days of the change, notify the Division of any change in his address.

### 5. Sale or Hiring

The owner of a registered air receiver who sells or hires the same to any person shall, within 7 days of the sale or hiring, notify the Division in writing of the name and address of the person to whom the air receiver has been sold or hired. If the air receiver is designed as a fixed installation, the owner shall also notify the Division whether or not the sale or hiring has resulted in the removal of the air receiver. If an air receiver designed for fixed installation has been relocated to new premises, or it has been extensively repaired, it shall, together with its fittings and attachments, be re-examined by an appointed examiner to ascertain if it can be again put into use

**NO ONE OTHER THAN AN APPOINTED EXAMINER SHALL REMOVE THE LEAD SEAL ON THE SAFETY VALVE, OR ADJUST THE SAFETY VALVE IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE WORKING PRESSURE OUTPUT. TAMPERING WITH THE ABOVE IS A BLATANT DISREGARD OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY. IT MAY CAUSE EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRESSURE IN THE AIR RECEIVER, RESULTING IN EXPLOSION THAT ENDANGERS LIFE.**

## EVERY AIR RECEIVER SHALL:

1. be so constructed as to withstand with safety the maximum pressure that can be obtained in the compressor or be fitted with a suitable reducing valve or other suitable appliance to prevent the maximum permissible working pressure of the air receiver being exceeded;
2. be directly fitted with a suitable spring-loaded safety valve. Where the safety valve is not fitted directly to the air receiver, a suitable fusible plug shall also be fitted to the air receiver;
3. be fitted with a correct pressure gauge, which shall indicate the pressure of air in the air receiver in kilopascal (kPa);
4. be fitted with a suitable appliance for draining the air receiver;
5. be provided with a suitable manhole, handhole or other means that will allow the interior thereof to be thoroughly cleaned;
6. where more than one air receiver is being used, bear a distinguishing mark which shall be clearly visible; and
7. have marked upon it so as to be clearly visible the maximum permissible working pressure of the air receiver and the date on which it was last examined.

## ENQUIRIES:

The owner of an air receiver must comply with the provisions of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance (Cap. 56) and its associated regulations. You may contact an appointed examiner for the requirements of the Ordinance and the regulations. If you have any enquiries, please contact the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Division of the Labour Department.

### Boilers & Pressure Vessels Division

Telephone No.: 3107 3458  
Fax No. : 2517 6853  
E-mail : [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)  
Website : [www.labour.gov.hk](http://www.labour.gov.hk)

## COMPLAINTS

If you have any complaints about unsafe workplaces and practices, please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at **2542 2172**.

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.