

The Boiler Act, 1923

It is an Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to steam boiler. It extends to the whole of India.

Intending user/manufacturers of boiler must obtain clearance from the competent authority, i.e. Chief Inspector/Dy. Chief Inspector of Boiler as the case may be before installation/manufacturer of any boiler. The application for Clearance Certificate should be made in the prescribed form to be obtained from the Office of the Chief Inspector of Boiler along with all requisite documents as will be required by the Authority. After their thorough inspection and satisfaction for all safety measures they will issue the necessary Certificate for its operation/manufacture.

It is also mandatory to get it inspected each and every year by the said Competent Authority for permission of running the boiler in the next very year.

F.A.Q

1. What is IBR?

IBR is Indian Boiler Regulations, which was created in 15th September 1950 in exercise of the powers conferred by section 28 & 29 of the Indian Boilers Act. The Indian Boilers Act was formed in 1923, 23rd February to consolidate and amend the law relating to steam boilers.

2. Which steam boilers and steam pipes are regulated by IBR?

Steam boiler:

Steam boilers under IBR means any closed vessel exceeding 22.75 liters in capacity and which is used expressly for generating steam under pressure and includes any mounting or other fitting attached to such vessel which is wholly or partly under pressure when the steam is shut off.

Steam pipes:

IBR steam pipe means any pipe through which steam passes from a boiler to a prime mover or other user or both if pressure at which steam passes through such pipes exceeds 3.5 kg/cm² above atmospheric pressure or such pipe exceeds 254 mm in internal diameter and includes in either case any connected fitting of a steam pipe.

3. How to register a new Boiler?

[As per section 7 of Indian Boiler Act, 1923]

- 1) The owner of any boiler which is not registered under the provisions of this Act may apply to the inspector to have the boiler register. Every such application shall be accompanied by prescribed fee.
- 2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the inspector shall fix a date, within thirty days or such shorter period as may be prescribed from the date of the receipt, for the examination of the boiler and shall give the owner thereof not less than ten days notice of the date so fixed.
- 3) On the said date the inspector shall proceed to measure and examine the boiler and to determine in the prescribed manner the maximum pressure. If any, at which such boiler, may be used, and shall report the result of the examination to the Chief Inspector in the prescribed form.
- 4) The Chief Inspector, on receipt of the report, may
 - a) Register the boiler and assign a register number thereto either forthwith or after satisfying himself that any structural alteration, addition or renewal which he may deem necessary has been made in or to the boiler or any steam-pipe attached, or
 - b) Refuse to register the boiler:

Provided that where the Chief Inspector refuses to register a boiler, he shall forthwith communicate his refusal to the owner of the boiler together with the reasons therefor.
- 5) The Chief Inspector shall, on registering the boiler, order the issue to the owner of a certificate in the prescribed form authorizing the use of the boiler for a period not exceeding twelve months at a pressure not exceeding such maximum pressure as he thinks fit and as is in accordance with the regulations made under this Act:
- 6) The Inspector shall forthwith convey to the owner of the boiler the orders of the Chief Inspector and shall in accordance therewith issue to the owner any certificate of which the issue has been ordered, and, where the boiler has been registered, the owner shall within the prescribed period cause the register number to be permanently marked thereon in the prescribed manner.

4. When and how the renewal of certification of a boiler is done?

- 1) A certificate authorizing the use of a boiler shall cease to be in force
 - a. On the expiry of the period for which it was granted, or
 - b. When any accident occurs to the boiler, or

- c. When the boiler is moved (excluding vertical boilers with heating surface less than 200 sq.ft., (portable boilers or vehicular boilers), or
- d. When any structural alteration, addition or renewal is made in or to the boiler, or
- e. If the Chief Inspector in any particular case so directs when any structural alteration, addition or renewal is made in or to any steam pipe attached to the boiler, or
- f. On the communication to the owner of the boiler of an order of the Chief Inspector or Inspector prohibiting its use on the ground that it or any steam pipe attached thereto is in a dangerous condition

2) Where an order is made under Clause (f) of Sub Section (1) the grounds on which the order is made shall be communicated to the owner with the order.

3) When a certificate ceases to be in force the owner of the boiler may apply to the Inspector for a renewal thereof for such period not exceeding twelve months as he may specify in the application. [Provided that where the certificate relates to an Economizer or an unfired boiler which forms an integral part of a processing plant in which steam is generated solely by use of oil, asphalt or bitumen as a heating medium, the application for its renewal may be for a period not exceeding twenty-four months.]

4) An application under Sub Section (3) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee and, on receipt thereof, the Inspector shall fix a date, within thirty days or such shorter period as may be prescribed from the date of the receipt, for the examination of the boiler and shall give the owner thereof not less than ten days notice of the date so fixed. [Provided that, where the certificate has ceased to be in force owing to the making of any structural alteration, addition or renewal, the Chief Inspector may dispense with the payment of any fee.]

[Provided further that in the case of an Economiser or an unfired boiler which forms an integral part of a processing plant in which steam is generated solely by use of oil, asphalt or bitumen as a heating medium, the date fixed for its examination shall be within sixty days from the date of the receipt of the application and the owner shall be given not less than thirty days notice of the date so fixed.]

5) On the said date, the Inspector shall examine the boiler in the prescribed manner and if he is satisfied that the boiler has a steam pipe or steam pipes attached thereto are in good condition shall issue a renewed certificate authorizing the use of the boiler for the specified period at a pressure not exceeding such maximum pressure as he thinks fit and as is in accordance with the regulations made under this Act.

[Provided that renewed certificate issued under this subsection in respect of an Economizer (or of an unfired boiler which forms an integral part of a processing plant in which steam is generated solely by use of oil, asphalt or bitumen as a heating medium)

may authorize its use for a period not exceeding twenty four months] Provided further that if the Inspector -

- a) Proposes to issue any certificate -
 - i) Having validity for a less period than the period entered in the application or
 - ii) Increasing or reducing the maximum pressure at which the boiler may be used or
 - b) Proposes to order any structural alteration, addition or renewal to be made in or to the boiler or to any steam pipe attached thereto or
 - c) Is of opinion that the boiler is not fit for use the Inspector shall within 48 hours of making the examination inform the owner of the boiler in writing of his opinion and the reasons therefore and shall forthwith report the case for orders to the Chief Inspector.
- 6) The Chief Inspector, on receipt of a report under Sub Section(5), may, subject to the provisions of this Act, and of the regulations made thereafter, order the renewal of the certificate in such terms and on such conditions, if any, as he thinks fit, or may refuse to renew it:
- Provided that where the Chief inspector refuses to renew a certificate, he shall forthwith communicate his refusal to the owner of the boiler, together with the reasons therefore.
- 7) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent an owner of a boiler from applying for a renewed certificate therefore at any time during the currency of a certificate.