ASME QAI-1-2018 Case 9, Revision 01

(Dated 11-27-2023)

Topic: Remote Inspections performed by the Authorized Inspector

Applicable Standards: QAI-1-2018; Section I; Section IV; Section VIII, Divisions 1, 2, and 3; Section X; Section XII

Inquiry: Under what conditions may the Authorized Inspector perform inspections of boilers and pressure vessels remotely when the Authorized Inspector is prohibited from being physically present?

Reply: It is the opinion of the Committee that the Authorized Inspector may perform inspections of boilers and pressure vessels remotely when the Authorized Inspector is unable to be physically present at the shop or field site location where construction or fabrication is occurring under the following conditions:

a) The Authorized Inspector is prohibited from being physically present at the location due to a pandemic, war, civil unrest, or natural disaster representing a personal safety risk.

b) The inspection event is live-streamed using audio-video technology and the Authorized Inspector shall be able to view and hear the live feed of the event in real time.

c) The Authorized Inspector Supervisor reviews and accepts all requests in which this Code Case will be used.

d) The Manufacturer:

1. Shall inform ASME, via email at ca@asme.org, of each use of this Code Case, the required notification shall confirm the specific condition(s) prohibiting the in-person execution of the required inspection activities.

2. Shall have the capability to stream live video and audio from the shop or field location.

3. Shall coordinate the activity with their Authorized Inspection Agency of record so that the Authorized Inspector is available to witness and direct the live stream video of the inspection activity.

4. Shall facilitate the remote inspection activity. This includes providing access to the video technology and connectivity required to execute the inspection activity in a manner acceptable to the Authorized Inspector.

5. Shall, at the start and conclusion of each inspection event, perform an audio-video recording check to establish the level of quality of the live video and audio feed. The equipment used in the inspection shall be demonstrated to have a minimum resolution capability of 1/32 in. (0.8 mm) and light intensity equivalent to at least 100 fc (1076 lux). The level of quality shall be acceptable to the Authorized Inspector and the Authorized Inspector Supervisor.

6. Shall assure that the video and audio can be recalled and viewed upon request.

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7. Shall provide for the Authorized Inspector to have access to all documentation needed to evaluate and confirm compliance of the specific inspection activity being performed.

8. Shall identify the audio-video file with the time, date, and location, and shall retain the file, without edits or alteration by any means, until the Data Report has been certified.

e) The Authorized Inspector:

1. Shall be present for the full duration of the live remote inspection activity.
2. Shall access all documentation necessary to evaluate and confirm compliance of the specific inspection activity being performed.
3. Shall have the ability to direct the remote inspection in a manner that the Authorized Inspector can be satisfied that the specific inspection activity is in compliance with the applicable ASME Code criteria, and the Manufacturers’ documentation.
4. Shall enter into the Inspector’s Diary, as a minimum:
   i. Type of activity performed.
   ii. The name, title, and location of personnel involved in the activity.
   iii. The AI Supervisor’s acceptance of the use of this Code Case and the demonstration of equipment used. See paragraph (d)(5).
   iv. Confirmation that the activity was performed using live videoconference technology and this Code Case number.

If the assigned Inspector’s Diary is not available, then the information shall be recorded in an alternate Inspector’s Diary, the provisions of which shall be described in the AIA’s Quality Program.

f) The Authorized Inspector Supervisor shall include the review of the use of this code case during the annual audit of the Authorized Inspector.

g) The Manufacturers’ Quality Control System policies, procedures, forms, and checklists that were established for use during physical on-site visits shall be followed.

h) This Code Case number shall be recorded on the inspection form, traveler, or inspection checklist and the Manufacturer’s Data report.

i) The provisions of this Code Case shall expire June 30, 2024, or until revised, extended or annulled.