

GAS SAFETY UK, CLIENT UPDATE AUGUST 2003.

BJ INDUSTRIES LTD. (GAS SAFETY UK DIVISION), CLAYLANDS AVENUE, DUKERIES INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WORKSOP, NOTTS, UK. TEL: ++ 44 (0)1909 501771. FAX: ++ 44 (0)1909 501022

Visit Us At: www.gas-safety.uk.com E-mail: david@bj-industries.co.uk



1. NEWS FROM PIPELINE INSTALLATION & TESTING SERVICES

Our projects team has been beavering away over the last few months (since our previous Update) on both new installation and remedial works and testing contracts. It seemed timely, therefore, to use this opportunity to review their progress and recognise their achievements in the first part of this Update.

Some projects are comparatively small...

Due to the vagaries of the British climate, Grant seemed to have drawn the short straw when he was fitting new helium and nitrogen manifolds and stainless steel lines into a laboratory recently. The rain came down and the wind blew but he soldiered bravely on. In fact he soldiered on so bravely and so productively that he ran out tubing. As he was about 150 miles from our factory and this, to anyone else, could have been a bit of a problem. Being the kind of chap he is though, this 'opportunity' to excel was duly accepted and the installation was completed on time, to budget and, with the exception of one minor post-commissioning glitch, to the client's satisfaction too.

Some projects are bigger...

Les Cooper found himself being 'tested' on a more recent project when he was replacing some manifolds for a client recently. The pipelines in this case were 'of an age' but looked like they'd test out OK (for leakage and strength). Indeed they did - with one exception. There's always one. By all accounts it took some doing but the offending joint was found (eventually) and the fault was corrected. Although we were all pulling our hair out by this stage (time was moving on and all), some new expletives had been invented (the project was running over budget) and added to the engineering lexicon, we had, in a strange way, justified exactly why this kind of service is so important.

The leak on this line had, quite possibly, been there since the original installation work was done. For speed and cost they had used compression fittings on 15mm copper tube when the joints should have been [fluxless] silver-brazed. Leaks can be wasteful and expensive of course but, depending on the gas type and the circumstances they can also be very dangerous too. In fact, a nitrous oxide line I was drop testing a few weeks ago brought this home to another client when it failed. This was because one of the outlet control valves had been badly fitted by the original contractor. In this case, the AAS room was small and even with the LEV running when the instrument was in use we could easily visualise a situation where the OES would have been exceeded. Obviously, the fault was corrected, the test was repeated and the line passed for another year of usage.

But they all bring challenges...

From the ultra-high purity stainless steel stuff that's orbitally welded right through to the more run of the mill copper lines, we sometimes forget the efforts and skills of the guys on the tools. The process that any given gas line supplies is, of course, vital (to the client's research or production) but without the diligence of Rob (Installation Engineer) and his team, Gas Safety UK would be just another installer and the safety that we pride ourselves in could be compromised.

To find out more about our pipeline installation and testing service and how they could help you just give us a call on: 01909 501771. The initial site visit is, of course, free and gives us the chance to have a look at your fixed gas installations, give you the appropriate advice and discuss your requirements (if any) for installation, modification, maintenance or testing.

2. PRODUCT NEWS

Some time ago we reported on the issue of imported gas control equipment and it's potential for being of dubious quality and construction cf. prevailing BS EN ISO standards.

The following notes are paraphrased from a U.K. manufacturer's tests on a Chinese copy of one of their regulators:

In accordance with BS EN ISO 2503 (1998)

Test 11.5.4 Relief valve = FAILED

Test 11.5.2 Leakage tests = FAILED

Test 11.5.1.2 Safety Test = FAILED (On this test the bonnet exploded and the internal parts were ejected. The inlet stem then sheared at the body joint due to the forces produced by the initial explosion).

They also noted that:

*The pressure gauges did not conform to the safety pattern standard and failed to danger with ejection of parts.

*The output pressure was stated at 10 bar whilst the maximum pressure of delivered was actually 16.5 bar

*Whilst the safety relief valve should have been fully open at $2 \times P_2$ (i.e. 20 bar) the safety relief valve on this regulator only began to vent at 103 bar.

*Leakage was found between the gauges and the regulator body.

Amongst other things...!!!

Please be careful. These things are circulating around the market place and even the boxes they come in look authentic (apart from some of the spelling). We trust that the test results outlined above will have been passed to the DTI for investigation but in the interim - beware.

BIRTHDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Traditionally, August is holiday time for many of us (I'll be off for the last week in August and for the first week in September - hurrah!). If you're going away have a grand time!

Andy Oates, General Manager at BJ Industries Ltd has his 42nd birthday whilst he's away in Holland next week - he'll be lying drunk in a tent somewhere by the time you receive this attachment, so let's hope that all those candles don't come into contact with the flysheet or his family's butane supply! Truth be told, Andy looks much older than his 42 years but he thrives under stress and would like to come back to bigger premises and more machines with more complex manufacturing problems to solve. I'm sure that he won't be disappointed.

More seriously though, we note that our Managing Director, John Barclay, turns 50 in September - congratulations John! You don't even look 40 (in spite of the new reading glasses), so don't be down about getting older - especially when one considers the alternative...

John and Margaret Barclay founded BJ's over twenty years ago and, since then, it's gone from strength to strength. We are all grateful for their energy and vision and for making the company such a happy place to work. Indeed, without their approach to life and business, I wouldn't be writing this piece now and we'd never have been able to get Gas Safety UK set up and running so successfully. Happy Birthday and Many Happy Returns.

Best regards, David Bayliss

(Technical Manager, Gas Safety UK; Safety & Training Engineer; Partner I.G.S.)

GAS SAFETY UK IS A DIVISION BJ INDUSTRIES LTD., CLAYLANDS AVE., DUKERIES INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WORKSOP, NOTTS S81 7DJ. TEL. 01909 501771. FAX. 01909 501022
WEB SITE: www.gas-safety.uk.com