



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

Limited

ACN 107 882 404- ABN 81 107 882 404

AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE BOILER SAFETY COMMITTEE

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To all boiler inspectors.

Dear Sirs,

31 August 2011

At the Newcastle Convention I offered to investigate suitable boiler treatments for our miniature boilers, with the following results

I contacted TANDEX who have been very helpful in the past and willing to assist us with their expertise in boiler water treatment.

After a number of discussions it was resolved that a single product would be suitable for all our miniature boilers.

Although not perfect for all the various water types encountered around Australia; however this will prove to be far superior than no water treatment, and will improve boiler longevity, steaming ability, prevent scale build up and reduce corrosion.

TANDEX are recommending that we use their product called TANBLEND which contains tannin, oxygen scavengers and flocculants to suspend dissolved solids which are removed during blow down, preventing scale build up inside the boiler.

TANBLEND is very economical only requiring 30-40 mls per 1000 litres. The recommended concentration is a pH of 8 to 9 and not to exceed 9.5 when ever in contact with copper or copper alloys. This should be checked with a pH meter (now available quite cheaply eg Dick Smiths and Tandy) or pH test strips from the local chemist.

TANBLEND feed water is only required with the initial boiler fill, at steam up with normal water top up for the rest of the run.

At the completion of the run, the boiler should be completely blown down.

Duplex steel and Copper boilers should then be stored dry.

However, Steel boilers if they are to be steamed up in say less than five weeks, they should be stored hydrostatically full with fresh TANBLEND treated water. To make sure that the boiler is maintained full, a small header tank may be fitted to the boiler and after filling must be closed, this is to prevent oxygen being dissolved into the treated storage water.

The advantage of this method is that only a small amount of the contents has to be wasted, the header tank removed and plugged; the boiler is then ready for firing.

If a longer period than the above is required then dry storage is recommended.

A number of clubs are already using TANBLEND with success so we would like to encourage all clubs to consider using water treatment in their boilers.

The usual disclaimer applies, that I have no affiliation with Tandex only that they are always willing to assist in answering my queries.

For further advanced treatment; water testing advice contact Tandex 03-9729-6722
With the release of the Duplex Steel Code clarification is needed in regards to Victoria and South Australia.

Under the present Victorian legislation they are unable to grant the AMBSC an exemption without an act of Parliament. With the introduction of Workcover Australia early next year it is hoped that all AMBSC codes will be exempted Australia wide. Workcover Victoria have no problems with the Duplex Code, so any Victorian wishing to build a Duplex boiler may do so by using professional boiler designers, Workcover pressure vessel testing and registering the design with Workcover.

It should be noted that Victorian Workcover have no problems with Duplex boilers imported from other states and operated in Victoria made to the AMBSC Duplex Code.

Since 1995 both Victorian and South Australian Legislation requires all AMBSC boilers be registered with their respective Workcover Authorities.

If any boiler inspector requires any further information please do not hesitate to make contact by phone or email.

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AMBSC Secretary

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