



MINISTRY OF  
MANPOWER

M/s Private Authorised Boiler  
Inspectors

Dear Sir

### Requirement for Safety Valves for Air Receivers

The Department has received a number of queries concerning whether a safety valve is required to be installed for every air receiver in a shared compressed air system.

2. Section 39(3) of the Factories Act stipulates that:

“For the purpose of subsection (2) (on requirements for fitting of safety valve and pressure gauge), relating to safety valves and pressure gauges, any set of air receivers supplied with air through a single pipe may be treated as one receiver”

3. Any set of air receivers (including air dryer, oil separator, blasting pots, etc) that is connected as a compressed air system to a single or multiple compressed air source (one or more air compressors) **through a single pipe and fitted with only one safety valve** may be deemed as having complied with Sections 39(2) and 39(3) on the requirements for fitting of safety valve, provided the following conditions are met:

- a) the safety valve is fitted directly onto the pipe (without any intermittent stop/isolating valves) connecting the compressed air source(s) and the air receiver(s);
- b) the safety valve is set to relieve at a pressure not exceeding the lowest safe working pressure (design pressure) of any one of the downstream air receivers; and
- c) the relief capacity of the safety valve must be sized to exceed the (combined) discharge rate of the compressed air source(s).

4. The Authorised Boiler Inspector is to state that whether the air receiver is fitted with its own safety valve or shares the safety valve of the system in compliance with paragraph 3 above in the “Observation” portion of the report for examination of the air receiver.

5. If any of the air receiver in the compressed air system is capable of receiving compressed air from another compressed air source this air receiver must be individually protected by a safety valve set to relieve at its design pressure. The air receiver in this arrangement will be treated as a separate air receiver from the compressed air system described in paragraph 3 above.

Yours faithfully

**YEONG CHARK SUNG**  
for CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES

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