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Current Status of Brazing Certification Requirements

BCSA Safety Officers have on a number of occasions required technicians to produce brazing certificates on job sites. This requirement is not new, but has actually been in the regulations for quite some time; it just hasn't been enforced until recently.

In response to this technicians and employers contacted me and expressed concerns that the BCSA was enforcing requirements which were at the time unknown to them and without warning.

After meeting with BCSA and passing on these concerns the BCSA has backed-off for the time being and indicated a directive will be issued to address the situation. I expect the intent of the directive will be to inform contractors and their employees of the brazing certification requirements and announce a "grace period" allowing the industry to achieve compliance before they resume enforcement on job sites. Regulations require that each employer register their own Brazing Procedure Specifications (BPS) which their employees would be qualified on and be certified only while in the employ of that company.

This is a very cumbersome and costly process and would involve virtually identical procedures for all HVAC/R contractors. To simplify the overall process and the cost to its contractors UA Local 516 approached the BCSA about registering BPS's which all UA516 signatory contractors could adopt.

I have met with the BCSA and presented our proposal to register brazing procedures for the use of all UA 516 signatory contractors and their employees. Our first BPS for copper to copper has been completed and registered with the BCSA and our second BPS for copper to brass will be presented to the BCSA this week.

The second part of the proposal would see JARTS registered as an approved test facility which would allow it to deliver preparatory training to technicians, administer the Brazing Procedure Qualification (BPQ) test and issue certificates to the technicians.

Further updates will follow with more information as it becomes available.

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