

Specification for unfired fusion welded pressure vessels

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Foreword

This Published Document has been prepared by Technical Committee PVE/1, Pressure vessels, to supersede PD 5500:2006 on 31 January 2009. It provides a specification for the design, manufacture, inspection and testing of pressure vessels manufactured from carbon, ferritic alloy and austenitic steels, nickel and aluminium.

The form and content of the original issue of PD 5500 was derived, without technical amendment, from the 1997 edition of BS 5500, *Specification for unfired fusion welded pressure vessels*, and all amendments issued thereto, up to and including No. 6 (September 1999). At the time PD 5500 differed from BS 5500 only insofar as it did not retain the latter's status as a national standard. This specification is thus, founded on the experience derived from the application of BS 5500 and the first edition of PD 5500, providing an integrated set of rules which have been shown to provide vessels of suitable integrity for a wide range of duties and risk environments.

BS 5500:1997 was withdrawn because its status as a national standard was incompatible with BSI's obligations to CEN consequent to the development of the European Standard EN 13445, *Unfired pressure vessels*. That European Standard was published in May 2002.

The process of development of EN 13445 by CEN and its reference in the Official Journal of the European Communities creates, for equipment which conforms to that standard, a presumption of conformity with the essential safety requirements of the EU's pressure equipment directive, 97/23/EC (see article 5 of that directive). This Published Document does not provide that presumption of conformity. However, this Published Document can be used, for vessels within the scope of directives, subject to:

- adherence of the directive's conformity assessment requirements;
- the manufacturer satisfying himself that this PD covers all the technical requirements of the Directive relevant to the vessel in question.

This use may be to cover the full range of applicable vessel requirements or to cover an issue not, at the time, appropriately supported in EN 13445.

The normative form of wording is used in this Published Document, even though this does not have the status of a national standard, in order to ensure clarity in the definition of its requirements and recommendations.

Reference is made in the text to a number of standards which have been withdrawn. Such standards are identified in the list of references (see page V). Consideration is currently being given as to whether replacement standards are available or are being developed, for example, in the European programme, and to the implications for PD 5500 of such replacement standards. When a decision is made about any replacement standards, these will be identified by the issue of an amendment.

The British Standards Institution will be pleased to receive constructive proposals based on experience or research that may lead to improvements in this Published Document. PVE/1 intends to keep the content and technical status of this specification under review along with the need to publish appropriate supplements covering other types of pressure vessels. If there is sufficient demand from industry, this Published Document will be extended to cover other non-ferrous materials.

The requirements for materials not listed in Section 2. Materials, are given in supplements to the main text, which are to be read in conjunction with the main text so as to provide comprehensive requirements for pressure vessels produced in the relevant material. Annexes to the main text are provided which can be either normative (i.e. requirements) or informative (i.e. recommendations). These annexes can include additional requirements to the main text or informative guidance or recommendations, or can provide worked examples. Enquiry cases are published primarily to give guidance and clarification of possible ambiguities

in the main text and will be incorporated into the main text or into an annex at an appropriate stage. Some Enquiry cases are published to provide new information and are identified as “preliminary rules”.

It should be noted that the effective date of amendments to this Published Document will be later than the publication date to allow users time to amend their own working procedures and documentation. See the introduction to the summary of pages table.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to xviii, pages 1/1 to 5/30, pages A/1 to Z/8, pages A1/1 to Ni/6, pages I to XII, an inside back cover and a back cover.