



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Pressure Vessel Explosion at Loy-Lange Box Company
Recommendation Number:	2017-04-I-MO-R8
Date Issued:	July 29, 2022
Recipient:	National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NBBI)
New Status:	Open - Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Update NB-263 Rules for Commissioned Inspectors to include prescriptive elements in the boiler and pressure vessel repair and alteration inspection and acceptance process that would prevent the acceptance of a non-conforming repair or alteration.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On April 3, 2017, an explosion occurred at the Loy-Lange Box Company (Loy-Lange) in St. Louis, Missouri when the bottom head of a pressure vessel (called a Semi-Closed Receiver (SCR)) catastrophically failed. The pressure vessel failure caused a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion (BLEVE) which fatally injured a Loy-Lange employee working nearby. The pressure vessel then launched from the Loy-Lange building into the air and crashed through the roof of a nearby business, fatally injuring three members of the public.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found that the failed pressure vessel resulted from oxygen pitting corrosion and generalized corrosion which thinned the pressure vessel bottom head until it could no longer contain the pressure inside the vessel. The CSB determined that the cause of the incident was deficiencies in Loy-Lange's operations, policies, and process safety practices that failed to prevent or mitigate chronic corrosion in the pressure vessel as well as Kickham Boiler and Engineering, Inc.'s performance of an inadequate repair to the SCR in 2012 that left damaged material in place. A contributing factor was, despite the fact that the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NBBI) *NB-263 Rules for Commissioned Inspectors* was applied, the inadequate repair was accepted by an Authorized Repair Inspector. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to NBBI. This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2017-04-I-MO-R8**.