

DNV Exams Amiantit

27 August 2010

Amiantit's GRP field specialists certified

Damman, 26 August 2010 - A system is as strong as the weakest link of the chain. For GRP tubing systems the crucial link is the joining of the Glas Reinforced Plastic tubes utilized for transporting fluids. The circumstances during the assembly and operation may vary considerably, ranging from extremely high temperatures to piercing cold, from desert dryness to high humidity. So it is essential that the GRP field specialist have up-to-date know-how, expertise, discipline and quality awareness. In view of this consideration, Amiantit Damman had six of its GRP field specialists assessed by DNV Certification. Amiantit is the first contractor in the industry to do so, and demonstrates its commitment to quality assurance and safety with this pilot for the Middle East. Amiantit leads the way as a responsible partner for GRP manufacturers and GPR end users, such as the petroleum industry, power plants, refineries etc.

Managing Director Abshir Dirie: "Triggered by the demand of major GRP users, Amiantit Damman decided to have its GRP bonders tested in accordance to a standardized certification program. DNV is the only internationally accredited agency having the expertise to administer this type of examination.

We found the examination was well balanced in both theory and in practice. Our bonders responded positively and felt the certification served as an recognition of their capabilities. Also, they felt, the audit came as a good exercise and a refresher for them. In my view, the DNV Certification and examination scheme is a very good initiative and an important step forward in the standardization of GRP piping installers qualifications. End users as well as producers may benefit from certification. It will generate additional confidence in utilizing GRP piping in a wider range of applications."



Personnel Certification

Six professionals of Amiantit in the Saudi Kingdom took part in the DNV certification examination. The examination consisted of a theoretical part with 60 questions on knowledge of materials, quality regulations and varying application conditions. For the practical examination a GRP spool was made with a laminate connection and a flange connection.

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The circumstances of the examination were realistic and the testing method was well-tryed, based on the manufacturers' procedures. Within the framework of traceability, the candidates kept a record of the followed approach, products and materials, in documents specially designed for the purpose (based on ISO 14692). In the evaluation phase, the DNV examiners checked the spools and joints for deviating dimensions based on ISO 14692. Subsequently, the spools designed for 16 bar were subjected to a hydrotest at a pressure of 40 bar for 1 hour.



Reducing risks by up-to-date competence

The Amiantit professionals successfully passed the examination. Examiner Jan Steen: "It was impressive to see how the candidates assembled the spool. Their skills demonstrated what it takes to work as a GRP specialist. Asking around, the engineers and foremen confirmed that it takes at least 3 to 4 weeks to become a reasonable laminator. And then substantial "on the job" experience is needed to develop the skills to handle difficult situations and exceptional circumstances. Training novices to the level of a 'skilled' laminator in 3 to 8 hours would be impossible and irresponsible. To avoid undue risks, it is important that the specialist can be trusted. The risks are substantial, both financial and environmental. Consider the risks involved in leaks, soil pollution, a production shut down or delay. Well-educated and experienced professionals could reduce the number of errors. Clearly, all parties can benefit from investing in GRP knowledge and skills."

Reliability and Certification

The DNV certification scheme for GRP field specialists is based upon the common needs of end-users, manufacturers, contractors and engineering organizations worldwide. Three years ago, DNV initiated this scheme to cover the quality chain of GRP installations and GRP specialists. A DNV Certification Committee of stakeholders, such as oil companies, consultants and pipe manufacturers worldwide, was set-up to discuss the necessary competence profiles, skills, behaviors and examination levels. Thus the certification scheme is an instrument developed and supported by all relevant stakeholders. DNV, as an international and independent certification institute, provides audit schemes, examination methods, process supervision and continuity.

The next pilots are planned for the Damman FPI plant, in August 2010, and for PDO in Oman, in September. This following test will also include threaded connections as well as adhesive bonded joints.