

Field Specialists successfully pass GRP exam

Damman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, November 2010 - Recently, DNV carried out the second pilot exam for GRP Field Specialists in the Middle East; a personnel certification scheme, developed by DNV to ensure quality and safety of GRP joints. These joints, made by bonders, laminators and jointers, are critical elements in GRP pipe installations. Future Pipe Industries Group in Damman (FPI), in conjunction with the end-user Saudi Aramco, invited DNV to perform the test.

General Manager of FPI KSA Riad El Ferkh: „Our experience has shown that poor installation is one of the major reasons of failures in fiberglass pipe systems. Since FPI is the global leader in the large- diameter fiberglass pipe industry, we need to ensure that our reliable and high performance systems are handled by well- educated and experienced men. All efforts related to product qualification and pipe system design will serve no purpose if the pipe system is incorrectly installed. Therefore, we strongly believe in extensive training and certification for contractor personnel as an essential step toward achieving high quality installed pipe systems.”



Saudi Aramco

Since 2008, end-user Aramco Overseas Co. has been a member of the world-class committee that sets the qualification standards for composite pipefitters, supervisors and inspectors. By participating in this committee, Saudi Aramco will be involved in the ongoing process of updating standards and competencies. Dr. Mauyed S. Mehdi, Aramco Overseas Non-metallic and Protective Coating Supervisor: „We are establishing a reliable mechanism to ensure high levels of training, and a means to verify the skills and knowledge of the personnel working for Saudi Aramco contractors.”

DNV newsletter

November 2010

„By our direct involvement, we can positively influence transparency, minimize risk and increase the competency level of pipefitters and their superiors. The certification program will help minimize incidents caused by poor workmanship.’’

Personnel Certification

During the exam, four FPI bonders were tested by means of a 60 questions exam on fiberglass materials, handling and storage, installation procedures and varying conditions. This practical test involved the assembly of an adhesive-bonded joint, as well as an API 5B threaded joint. Upon assembly, the joints were pressurized over 1 hour to demonstrate the quality of the assembly process. The four bonders that underwent the examination proved to be trained and skilled professionals. The audit provided them with the tools to improve even more in the future. They now belong to the DNV-Certified GRP Pipe Field Specialists.



Knowledge and know-how

DNV auditor Aart den Boer and examiner Jan Steen underline the importance of independent testing: „Our thorough audits prove the need for education and training. The environmental conditions in the area are extreme: high temperatures (48° C/ 118° F.) during the day, low temperatures and even frost at night and a high humidity up to 85%. Independent assessments make personnel aware of the importance of their work.’’

DNV newsletter


November 2010

The DNV auditors are convinced that the industry and applications for GRP are still growing, based on quality improvements. During the DNV assessments, all parties involved discovered, beside the need for approved (certified) GRP pipes, the need for pre-tested approved joint constructions and joint assembly-procedures.



Don't go for the lucky ones

Aart den Boer: „The whole GRP industry will benefit from a quality based structure and attitude. Quality has to be defined in all aspects. Since corrections may not always be possible afterwards, circumstances need to be controlled to achieve the maximum quality level. It is our mission to ensure that it is not 'the lucky one' that succeeds, but that maximum quality is the common standard. DNV, as an independent certification institute wants to contribute to the higher quality level, that can only be achieved through a united effort.'"



DET NORSKE VERITAS

CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE

CERT-101187-2010-GRP-JB-ROT-RvA

DNV Certification B.V. certifies that

Name of the certificate holder	: Bishal Rai Ram Kumar
Date of birth	: 11 August 1982
Place of birth	: Morang
Country	: Kingdom of Nepal



Has fulfilled the conditions to be certified as:

Competence profile: **Joiner / Bonder GRP Pipes**


The qualified joint types, involving procedures, diameters and pressure ranges of the certificate holder are:

Joint type	Joining Procedures	Diameter range	Max. Pressure
FB-TS	FPJ assembly guide WS TCD 803 (E), rev. 0	150 – 600 mm	25 Bar
Threaded (yellow box)	FPJ thread make up procedure HP DNS W003	25 – 300 mm	1500 Psi

Date of examination : 29 August 2010
Place of examination : Dammam, Saudi Arabia
Country of examination : The Netherlands
Examination organisation : DNV supervision

This Certificate of Competence is valid only after the certificate holder has signed, as per examination date until 29 August 2012. The validity conditions of this Certificate of Competence are specified in the relevant standard, endorsed by the DNV Certification Committee of GRP pipes attachment D1 and reference to ISO 14002. See reverse side for the information statement by employer and prolongation by DNV Certification B.V. Additional information can also be stated in the column 'supplementary remarks'.

Thus agreed and signed,
The certificate holder:

Baregevecht, 20 September 2010
For DNV Certification B.V.
Signature:

A.A. den Boer
Stamp

Before information is published, the validity of this certificate will be published.
This certificate is property of DNV Certification B.V. Misuse of this Certificate of Competence will render this certificate invalid.
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The validity of this certificate can be verified on our website: www.dnv.com

All stakeholders in the global DNV Certification Committee and Exam Committee GRP Pipe Field Specialists have contributed their know-how to develop a global DNV certification scheme for fiberglass pipe installations. In line with this commitment, Future Pipe Industries continues to work closely (together) with a number of end-users and other involved entities.