



Contribution ID: 5

Type: **Oral**

The Development of Vacuum System Engineering Guidelines at ANSTO

Wednesday, 3 October 2012 09:00 (30 minutes)

A recent review of the Australian Standards for pressure vessels revealed the lack of scrutiny on vacuum type pressure vessels. The standard has a category for vacuum vessels but it is open for mixed interpretation which has led to some safety concerns about the vacuum equipment used around the accelerators at ANSTO. The immediate response was to treat all vacuum equipment as pressure vessels and adopt a similar certification process as high pressure vessels. It was clear to accelerator staff that this was grossly unnecessary and that we must demonstrate why. This talk will discuss the work done in the accelerator area and the engineering department at ANSTO to develop a rational and safe approach to designing, manufacturing, certifying and operating vacuum equipment.

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Session Classification: Technical Report 1