Introduction

The subject “Boilers” is on the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Administration of the Boilers Act, 1923, is undertaken by the Inspectorate of Boilers of States Governments. The Boilers Act, 1923 is meant to provide for safety of life and property from the dangers of explosion of boilers and for achieving uniformity in registration and inspection during operation and maintenance of boilers throughout the country. At present, there are more than 41,000 boilers in use and around 935 manufacturers of boilers and boiler components in the country. Self-certification and third-party inspection, authorizing independent competent persons to work in individual capacity for inspections, reduction in frequency of inspections, streamlining and simplifying the inspection process, reduction in frequency of inspections and granting approvals within prescribed timelines are the prominent reform measures on Boilers implemented in the last six years.

Need for Reforms

Prior to May 2014, inspection of Boilers was undertaken by Boiler Inspectors and there was no provision for self-certification in most of the States. This led to delay in inspections forcing long shut downs for Boiler users. Delays were also caused due to inadequate number of Boiler Inspectors and only three nos. ‘Third party Inspecting Authorities’ for inspection and certification of boilers and boiler components. Unless the ‘Competent Persons’ were employed in a Third-party Inspecting Authority, they were not allowed to inspect Boilers independently. Only 26 qualified Competent Persons existed in the country. Voluminous paperwork was required for registration and no facility for on-line registration of boilers was a cause of hardship to Boiler Users. No timelines were prescribed for most of the approvals/permissions required under the Boilers Act/Regulations resulting in delays during manufacture and use of Boiler and Boiler components.

Major Reforms

A number of reform measures have been undertaken on Boilers after May 2014.

Self-certification and third-party inspection of Boilers

The concept of self-certification and third-party inspection of Boilers, suggested by the Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been implemented by the State Governments for promoting Ease of Doing Business. Self-certification of Boilers during use has been implemented by several States and UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra,
Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

**Inspection of Boilers & Boiler components by third party Inspecting Authorities**
Earlier, only Boiler Inspectors from State Governments were allowed to inspect Boilers and Boiler components during their manufacture. A provision has been made in the Indian Boiler Regulations (IBR) for inspection by third party Inspecting Authorities, recognized by the Central Boilers Board. During the last six years, the number of third-party Inspecting Authorities, permitted to work in the entire country, have increased from 3 to 12. Similarly, the number of qualified Competent persons have increased from 26 to 216.

**Independent Competent Persons have been authorized to work in individual capacity**
In addition to Boiler Inspectors from State Governments and third-party Inspecting Authorities, a provision has been made in the IBR for allowing yearly inspection of Boilers by independent competent persons without being employed in any third-party inspecting authority. 27 independent Competent Persons have been authorized for in-service inspection of Boilers in the country.

**Reduction in frequency of inspections**
Instead of being shut down every year for inspection, as per the new procedure, Boilers in power plants and waste heat boilers in continuous process plants are not required to be shut down. Now Boilers in power plants are required to be shut down for inspection once in two years, Waste Heat Boilers (Fired) once in three years and Waste Heat Boilers (Un-fired) once in four years.

**Streamlining and simplification of inspection process**
The inspection process during manufacture of boiler & boiler components has been simplified and streamlined. Earlier a number of manufacturing drawings/documents were required to be submitted to States’ Boiler Directorate for registration of boilers. Now only a few drawings/documents are required. The simplified process has benefitted more than 900 Boilers & boiler component manufacturers in the country.

**Granting approvals within prescribed timelines**
Timelines have been prescribed for all approvals/clearances under the Boilers Act/IBR e.g., approval of materials, drawing/design, inspection during manufacture, registration, permission for repair/alteration etc. After expiry of prescribed time limits, approval is deemed to have been granted.
Impact

Self-certification and third-party inspection of Boilers has benefited a broad spectrum of industries both in large and small-scale sectors including power plants, chemical plants, refineries, paper plants, steel plants, sugar mills and other processing industries.

Inspection of Boilers & Boiler components by third party Inspecting Authorities has provided options to their Manufacturers and boiler users and has resulted in reducing delays in inspection. It has benefitted more than 900 boilers & boiler component manufactures and more than 41,000 Boiler users in the country

The policy change authorizing independent competent persons to work in individual capacity has benefitted boiler users in the country as they are no longer dependent only on Boiler Inspectors for yearly inspection. The reduction in frequency of inspections has benefitted power plants and continuous process plants resulting in increase in production from these plants. The on-line registration of Boilers in 23 States/UTs and prescribing timelines for approval has benefited boiler users in the country in getting the approvals in time.

Future Plan

To increase third party Inspecting Authorities and Competent Persons for inspection and certification of Boilers; strengthen on-line registration of boilers and to ensure that all approvals are granted within the prescribed timelines.

State boilers allowed self-certification and 3rd party inspection

Reforms by boiler division for Ease of Doing Business

172 competent persons qualified for Inspection and Certification of Boilers