

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Recently, the ASME/PVHO organization published new regulations regarding the service and inspection of acrylic windows installed in hyperbaric chambers. This new publication is referenced as ASME PVHO-2 and was issued on February 6, 2004.

In the past, the only standard governing the acrylic windows was the ASME PVHO-1 which addressed the "Design Life" of acrylic, pressure-holding windows. The design life is generally defined as 10 years from date of manufacture or 10,000 cycles. The new ASME PVHO-2 standard provides an additional definition addressing the "Service Life" of an acrylic window based on the environment in which it is used. The service life of a cylindrical medical window can now be as long as 20 years or 20,000 cycles. Once the maximum usage period of 20 years or 20,000 cycles is met, the chamber must be removed from service or the acrylic window replaced.

In addition to the provisions relating to the Service Life of the window, ASME PVHO-2 also addresses the new requirement for in-service window inspections. It is now the user's responsibility to establish and implement window inspection schedules based on ASME PVHO-2 and to maintain all records related to those inspections. The requirement for in-service inspection begins once the user has taken delivery of the chamber and is intended to verify the window remains in proper working order during the life of the chamber. Once the window reaches its specified Design Life, window inspections are used to justify the extension of the Service Life beyond the Design Life.

Window inspections must be performed by personnel trained and certified to ASME PVHO-1 and ASME PVHO-2. The personnel can either be internal to the user's organization or provided by a competent third party inspection agency. The user is responsible for determining whether a third party inspection agency is qualified to perform inspections to ASME PVHO-2. Details of the inspection requirements including inspection intervals, inspection criteria, and inspection personnel training and qualification are specified in ASME PVHO-2.

This notification is designed to alert you of this important new standard and we encourage you obtain a copy directly from ASME/PVHO as follows:

Mail: ASME International  
22 Law Drive, P.O. Box 2900  
Fairfield, NJ 07007-2900 USA

Phone: 1-800 843-2763  
1-973-882-1167 (outside North America)  
Fax: 1-973-882-1717

Email: [infocentral@asme.org](mailto:infocentral@asme.org)

In addition, Sechrist Industries is currently **evaluating** this new PVHO-2 standard and will be contacting all **Sechrist customers (of record) with Sechrist chambers** regarding possible changes in our service programs to better meet your service requirements.