

a cleanout plug or a drain valve and piping may be attached, should be placed in the water connection at every right-angle turn to facilitate cleaning. The water line in steam boilers should be carried at the level specified by the boiler manufacturer.

Safety valves should be capable of discharging all the steam that can be generated by the boiler without allowing the pressure to rise more than 5 lb above the maximum allowable working pressure of the boiler. This should be borne in mind particularly in the case of boilers equipped with mechanical stokers or oil burners where the amount of grate area has little significance as to the steam generating capacity of the boiler.

Where a *return header* is used on a cast-iron sectional boiler to distribute the returns to both rear tappings, it is advisable to provide full size plugged tees instead of elbows where the branch connections enter the return tappings. This facilitates cleaning sludge from the bottom of the boiler sections through the large plugged openings. An equivalent cleanout plug should be provided in the case of a single return connection.

Blow-off or drain connections should be made near the boiler and so arranged that the entire system may be drained of water by opening the drain cock. In the case of two or more boilers separate blow-off connections must be provided for each boiler on the boiler side of the stop valve on the main return connection.

Water service connections must be provided for both steam and water boilers, for refilling and for the addition of make-up water to boilers. This connection is usually of galvanized steel pipe, and is made to the return main near the boiler or boilers.

For further data on pipe connections for steam and hot water heating systems, see Chapters 15 and 16 and the *A.S.M.E. Boiler Construction Code for Low Pressure Heating Boilers*.

Smoke Breeching and Chimney Connections. The breeching or smoke pipe from the boiler outlet to the chimney should be air-tight and as short and direct as possible, preference being given to long radius and 45-deg instead of 90-deg bends. The breeching entering a brick chimney should not project beyond the flue lining and where practicable it should be grouted from the inside of the chimney. A thimble or sleeve grout usually is provided where the breeching enters a brick chimney.

Where a battery of boilers is connected into a breeching each boiler should be provided with a tight damper. The breeching for a battery of boilers should not be reduced in size as it goes to the more remote boilers. Good connections made to a good chimney will usually result in a rapid response by the boilers to demands for heat.

ERECTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE

The directions of the boiler manufacturer always should be read before the assembly or installation of any boiler is started, even though the contractor may be familiar with the boiler. All joints requiring boiler putty or cement which cannot be reached after assembly is complete must be finished as the assembly progresses.

Five precautions that should be taken in all installations to prevent damage to the boiler are given.

CHAPTER 12. HEATING BOILERS

1. There should be provided proper and convenient drainage connections for use if the boiler is not in operation during freezing weather.

2. Strains on the boiler due to movement of piping during expansion should be prevented by suitable anchoring of piping and by proper provision for pipe expansion and contraction.

3. Direct impingement of too intense local heat upon any part of the boiler surface, as with oil burners, should be avoided by protecting the surface with firebrick or other refractory material.

4. Condensation must flow back to the boiler as rapidly and uniformly as possible. Return connections should prevent the water from backing out of the boiler.

5. Automatic boiler feeders and low water cut-off devices which shut off the source of heat if the water in the boiler falls below a safe level are recommended for boilers mechanically fired.

Boiler Troubles

A complaint regarding boiler operation generally will be found to be due to one of the following:

1. *The boiler fails to deliver enough heat.* The cause of this condition may be: (a) poor draft; (b) poor fuel; (c) inferior attention or firing; (d) boiler too small; (e) improper piping; (f) improper arrangement of sections; (g) heating surfaces covered with soot; and (h) insufficient radiation installed.

2. *The water line is unsteady.* The cause of this condition may be: (a) grease and dirt in boiler; (b) water column connected to a very active section and, therefore, not showing actual water level in boiler; and (c) boiler operating at excessive output.

3. *Water disappears from gage glass.* This may be caused by: (a) priming due to grease and dirt in boiler; (b) too great pressure difference between supply and return piping preventing return of condensation; (c) valve closed in return line; (d) connection of bottom of water column into a very active section or thin waterway; and (e) improper connections between boilers in battery permitting boiler with excess pressure to push returning condensation into boiler with lower pressure.

4. *Water is carried over into steam main.* This may be caused by: (a) grease and dirt in boiler; (b) insufficient steam dome or too small steam liberating area; (c) outlet connections of too small area; (d) excessive rate of output; and (e) water level carried higher than specified.

5. *Boiler is slow in response to operation of dampers.* This may be due to: (a) poor draft resulting from air leaks into chimney or breeching; (b) inferior fuel; (c) inferior attention; (d) accumulation of clinker on grate; and (e) boiler too small for the load.

6. *Boiler requires too frequent cleaning of flues.* This may be due to: (a) poor draft; (b) smoky combustion; (c) too low a rate of combustion; and (d) too much excess air in firebox causing chilling of gases.

7. *Boiler smokes through fire door.* This may be due to: (a) defective draft in chimney or incorrect setting of dampers; (b) air leaks into boiler or breeching; (c) gas outlet from firebox plugged with fuel; (d) dirty or clogged flues; and (e) improper reduction in breeching size.

8. *Low carbon dioxide.* This may be due on oil burning boilers to: (a) improper adjustment of the burner; (b) leakage through the boiler setting; (c) improper fire caused by a fouled nozzle; or (d) to an insufficient quantity of oil being burned.

Cleaning Steam Boilers

All boilers are provided with flue clean-out openings through which the heating surface can be reached by means of brushes or scrapers. Flues of solid fuel boilers should be cleaned often to keep the surfaces free of soot or ash. Gas boiler flues and burners should be cleaned at least once a year. Oil burning boiler flues should be examined periodically to determine when cleaning is necessary.

The grease used to lubricate the cutting tools during erection of new piping systems serves as a carrier for sand and dirt, with the result that