

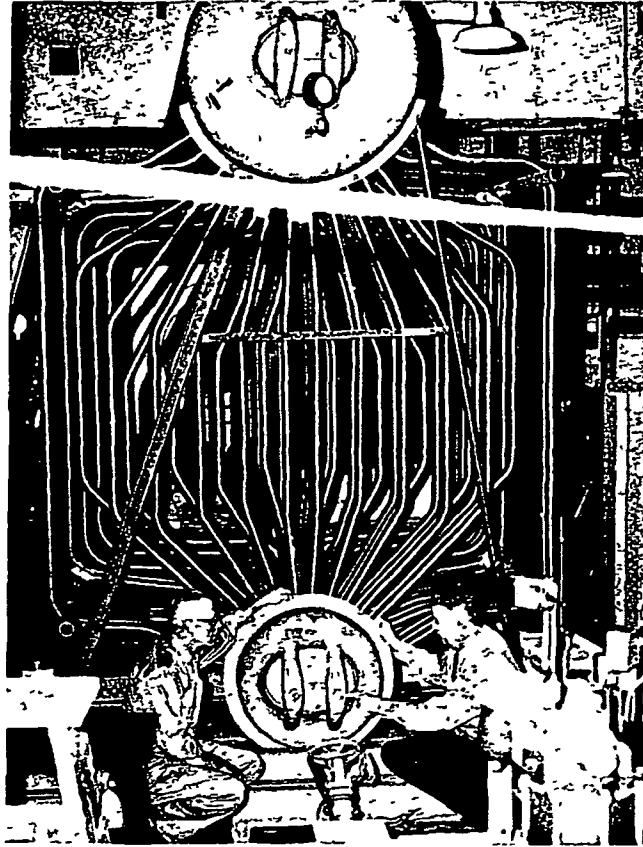


FIG 18-1 —Boilers and pressure vessels subject to ASME Code regulations must be checked during construction at all points by authorized inspectors who can certify compliance with the Code. Inspectors are commissioned by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

Courtesy Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Ill

though losses from explosion of gas-fired equipment have occasionally been catastrophic.

The majority of boilers in use are automatically fired, and they operate unattended for long periods. Many are not maintained regularly, and their condition is less than perfect. Because the boilers are unattended, fires that do start can gain considerable headway unless adequate precautions are installed against them.

The means for controlling and containing fires from boilers include

- 1 Provide a fully enclosed boiler room of fire-resistive construction ($\frac{3}{4}$ in gypsum wallboard or better) (Be sure to leave sufficient space for maintenance, including pulling of tubes.)
- 2 Provide a fire-resistive ceiling over the

boiler, with draft curtains at the perimeter of the ceiling and automatic sprinkler protection.

- 3 Provide proper clearance around exteriors of boiler room walls so that combustible materials are not stored against the walls.

In order to minimize low pressure boiler fires and explosions caused by faulty controls and safety devices

- 1 Establish a test and servicing program whereby operating controls, safety controls, and safety and relief valves will be tested and maintained at regular intervals.
- 2 Make sure that safety and relief valves are always tested with pressure on the boiler to prevent damage to the valve seats.
- 3 Have repairs made *immediately* upon any indication of malfunction or leakage of