



Equivalent Standards Approach Proposal Guideline

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A. Introduction

This guideline assists in developing, updating or revising an Equivalent Standard Approach (ESA) proposal under the Alternative Safety Approaches Regulation (ASAR).

An ESA is an alternative safety approach that provides for the substitution of one or more requirements set out in a regulation made under the *Safety Standards Act* (The *Act*) with a requirement set out in:

- A code or standard established or recognized by a standard setting body,
- An enactment of a jurisdiction outside of British Columbia,
- A written statement signed by a qualified professional, or
- Other written materials acceptable to a safety manager.

In addition, an ESA:

- May only be used for a limited number of regulatory substitutions within a single technology.
- Cannot be used for fee, permitting, licensing or certification requirements / substitutions.

The applicant must demonstrate that the substitution meets the objectives of the regulatory requirement and must provide information on how the applicant will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the ESA in achieving the level of safety provided by the original regulatory requirements.

The exemptions and alternatives listed within the ESA establish the scope and limits of the regulated work and/or regulated products that will be the subject of the ESA. Any regulatory requirements not addressed within the ESA remain subject to the standard regulatory requirements.

The material presented here does not replace the applicable legislation. The applicant is encouraged to read the applicable sections of The [Act](#) and [ASAR](#) to enable the most comprehensive understanding of the requirements.

For more information on Alternative Safety Approach processes such as, application, assessment, oversight, renewal and fee's please see our [Process Overview Guide](#) or contact the Alternative Safety Approaches program by calling 1 866 566 7233 or by emailing asa@technicalsaftybc.ca.

B. Equivalent Standards Approach proposal guideline

This document provides guidance for creating an ESA Proposal. It is not intended to provide all of the information that may need to be included, but rather to serve as a guideline for basic content and format. Depending on the complexity of the substitutions requested, additional information beyond the contents of this guideline may be required.

1. Cover page

The cover page should contain:

- organization name,
- logo,
- physical address,
- applicable technology (i.e. electrical, gas, boiler and pressure vessel, etc.), and
- date of issuance.

2. Technical and administrative authorized representatives

The proposal must identify both the technical and administrative authorized representatives along with their contact information and signatures. Additionally, this section should include a the organization's commitment to adhering to and upholding the ESA in a manner consistent with the objectives of The *Act* and associated regulations.

3. Premises, regulated equipment and regulated work

The proposal must detail the premises, regulated equipment and/or regulated work to which the ESA will apply. This section should also include an overview of the organization's operations and intended function.

Detailed information should be provided within the proposal for each of the following as they apply to the ESA:

Premises are the definable location(s) where the ESA will apply. The premises description may vary based on whether it is a single definable location or distributed. Where the premises are distributed, area plans or some other suitable methods of description will be required. In many cases, a list external to the proposal can be maintained with direct reference made to the process within the proposal.

Any legally recognized classification will be acceptable for the purposes of describing the location of the premises, such as a street address issued by a local governing authority, or a grid location as identified using the Petroleum and Natural Gas Grid Regulation. If a name has been assigned to a location, the name should also be included.

Regulated Equipment is the equipment, regulated under The *Act*, to which the ESA will apply. Depending on the scope, ESAs may apply to a single piece of equipment or multiple pieces of equipment. In the case of multiple pieces of equipment, a method of detailing the specific pieces of equipment will need to be developed. In many cases a list external to the proposal can be maintained with direct reference made to the process within the proposal.

Regulated work is the specific regulated work to which the ESA will apply.

4. Exemptions, substitutions and equivalency

The proposal must identify the following information for each alternative being presented:

- **Exemption:** list the requirement from the regulation or code that you are seeking exemption from. This listing must take the form of *exact* reference to the requirement in regulation, standard or code (including section number);
- **Substitution:** list the substituted requirement you are seeking to implement in place of the regulatory requirement. This description can be an executive summary of what is being proposed, and does not necessarily need to include the entire body of work that will support the proposal (i.e. internal processes and procedures can be summarized and referenced rather than included in their entirety).
- **Equivalency:** provide a detailed explanation of how the substituted requirement will achieve a level of safety at least equivalent to the original regulatory requirement. Since the objectives of regulatory requirements are not explicitly listed it is generally necessary to first provide a description of how the requirements in regulation affect safety, followed by an explanation of how the proposed substitution will maintain or exceed these objectives.

The information should be presented in a way which allows for the exemption, substitution and equivalency to be easily referenced together. Below are a few examples of ways this material can be presented.

Exemptions, substitutions and equivalency			
No.	Regulatory requirement	Substituted requirement	Equivalency
1	<i>Include regulation name, clause number, and exact wording.</i>	<i>Describe / list the alternative requirement you wish to substitute in place of the regulatory requirement.</i>	<i>Explain how the substituted requirement will achieve a level of safety at least equivalent to the original regulatory requirement.</i>
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Exemptions, substitutions and equivalency	
1.	Regulatory requirement: <i>Include regulation name, clause number, and exact wording.</i>
	Substituted / Alternative requirement: <i>Describe / list the alternative requirement you wish to substitute in place of the regulatory requirement.</i>
	Equivalency: <i>Explain how the substituted requirement will achieve a level of safety at least equivalent to the original regulatory requirement.</i>
2.	Regulatory requirement:
	Substituted / alternative requirement:
	Equivalency:

5. Effectiveness

The proposal must include a description of how the continued effectiveness of the ESA will be maintained through a program that includes monitoring and evaluation.

The measures designed to assure the safety of the regulated work and/or regulated products must be evaluated for effectiveness. This evaluation would extend to the processes and procedures designed to monitor on-going compliance with any codes, standards or best practices identified in the submission.

The proposal must include a description of the processes and/or procedures that will ensure the ESA itself will remain current (i.e. updated to include changes in the operations and key personnel), effective (is it achieving safety levels that are consistent with or exceed the objectives of The Act) and continually improved.

6. Revision history

The proposal should include a means for tracking revision history, including revision number/level, a brief description of the scope of revision, the date revised, and the individual responsible for the revision.

Revision number	Revision date	Revised by	Summary of revision
00	2011-11-28	New Release	Spencer Fitschen SSO - ASA
01	2013-01-21	Revised content, layout	Spencer Fitschen SSO - ASA
01	2021-05-13	Liam McKearney	General update.

A proposal may be revised at any time during the term of an ESA provided that the revisions are submitted to Technical Safety BC along with a copy of the [Alternative Safety Approach Application Form \(FRM-1356\)](#) for review and acceptance prior to implementation.