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The Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Trades Association Ltd.
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Rata - Newsletter

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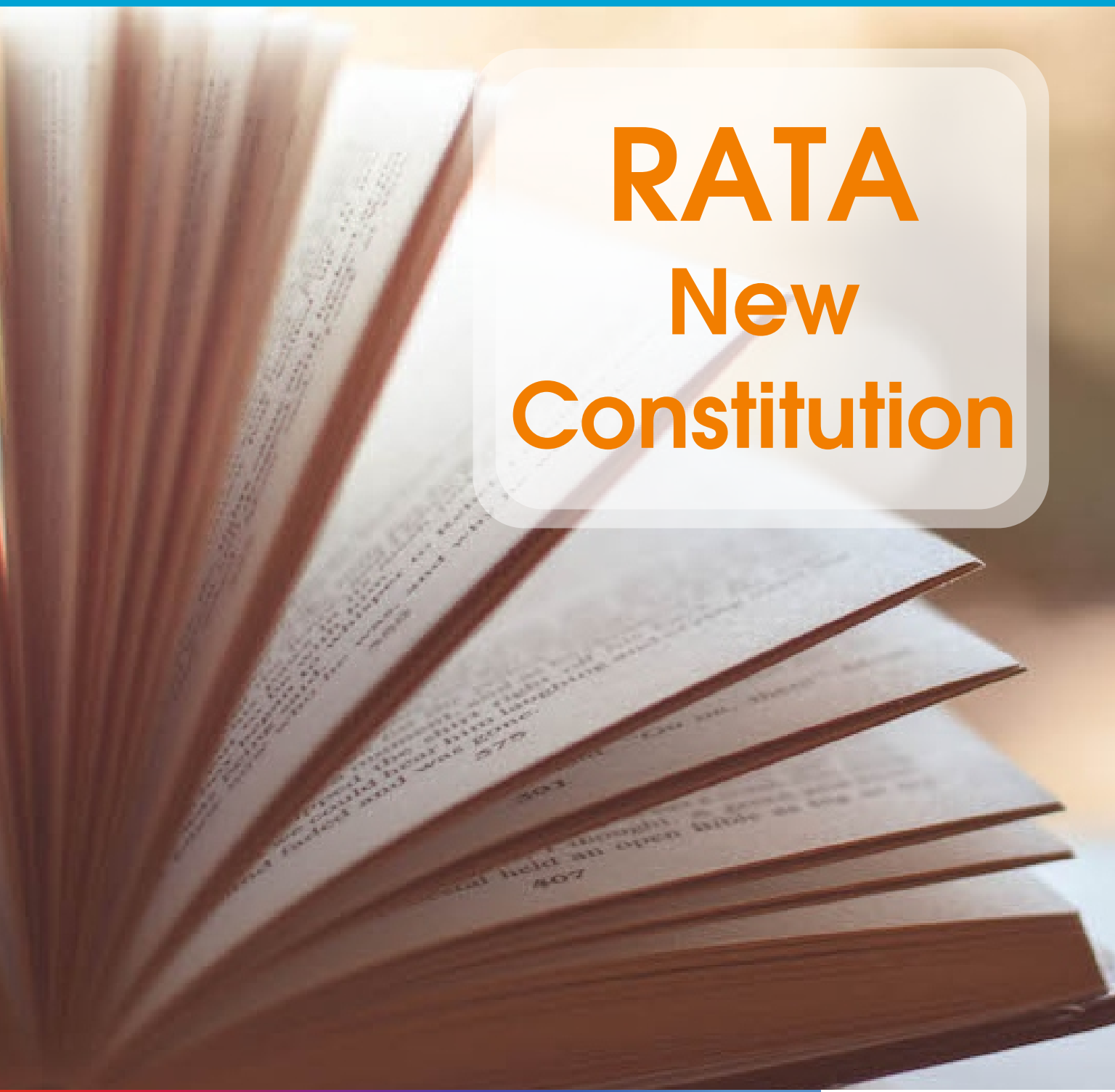

RATA New Constitution

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Overview Of RATA

The Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Trades Association Ltd. (RATA) is one of the oldest association working for the development of Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration industry in India. Established in the year 1949, the association brings together people from the entire industry and gives them a central forum to help them accomplish their common goal of making progress and achieving success.

To bring this vision to reality, RATA with its base of ethics and a strong code of conduct, actively and responsibly helps its members to grow and has also encouraged new entries for the expansion and betterment of the industry.

RATA believes in providing a platform to its members to showcase their offerings which in turn will promote internal as well as external trade. In this constantly evolving industry and changing market trends, the association contributes towards the promotion and an overall development of its members and the industry by encompassing companies and traders to organize promotional, educative and informative events.

Details of Committee Members of Year 2017-2020

Name Of Member	Name Of Company	Post
Mr. Ajit Panicker	Nova HVAC Systems (India) Pvt Ltd	**Hon. President**
Mr. Mihir Sanghavi	Auro Engineering Company	**Hon. Secretary**
Mr. Jasprit Singh	H. J. International	**Hon. Jt. Secretary**
Mr. Akash Varma	Ishwar Trading	**Hon. Treasurer**
Mr. Parasmal Sirohia	Cruise Appliances (I) Pvt Ltd	Immediate Past President
Mr. Pankaj Choraria	Boulton Trading Corporation	Committee Member
Mr. Pritesh Shah	Filko Enggineering Co	Committee Member
Mr. Harshal Padia	T J Controls	Committee Member
Mr. Nasir Khan	Airofrost HVAC Systems Pvt Ltd	Committee Member
Mrs Subha Prasannan	Anshutech Airconditioning Pvt Ltd	Committee Member
Mr Rajendra Joshi	Arkk Consulting	Committee Member
Mr Amod Dikshit	Dikshit Consultants & Engineers Pvt Ltd	Committee Member
Mr. Jasprit Singh Saini	Dasmesh Airconditioning Engineers Pvt. Ltd.	Action Committee
Mr Bhavesh Mehta	Mr Bhavesh Mehta	Action Committee
Mr Harshal Ganjawalla	Ganjawala Fabripro Pvt Ltd	Action Committee
Mr Parth Thakkar	Polfrost Air-Con Pvt Ltd	Action Committee
Mr Shawn Rebello	Aircare Technologies India Pvt Ltd	Action Committee

Content

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Circulation: Monthly to every member randomly every quarter to non members reaching over 5000+ small and medium enterprises in the field of airconditioning and refrigeration.

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RATA 70TH AGM & RATA NEW CONSTITUTION

RATA 70TH AGM

RATA NEW CONSTITUTION

With the goal of making RATA a true national trade representation of the industry for the Small and medium scale entrepreneur's in India, The RATA constitution was amended in the 70th AGM held on 18th Sept 2019. The Constitution was passed unanimously post trade discussions for over four months with the various RATA members across the country. The draft constitution was circulated among members a month before the AGM for their valuable suggestions and feedback.

Below are the key Highlights of the 50-page document that details the new RATA constitution

1. Any region can form a recognized local committee subject to having at least paid 30 members. This is exempted only for the first two terms which is termed as transition period and has to be approved by the RATA National committee.
2. Each Regional Committee will have a minimum 5 elected members and a maximum of 15 elected members.
3. Each Regional committee will have the following office bearers President, Vice-President, Secretary and Immediate Past President for a period of two years.
4. The RATA National Committee headquartered out of Mumbai will have the following members in its committee
   a. Only Top 6 regional committees President will become members of the National Committee. The Top 6 committees will be finalized on a point-based system (1point point for every paid member + 3 points for every RATA local event held during the term)
   b. Any Regional committee having more than 10% of total ALL India RATA membership is eligible for one additional elected member in the National Committee
   c. The National Committee will have a minimum of 9 members and a max of 20 members and all past presidents of regional committees can stand to get elected for the national committees.
   d. The national committee will now be composed as 6 Regional Committee presidents + Immediate National Past President + 6 Elected Regional Past presidents +3special category members + Bal Co Opted members.
   e. There would be 10 Office bearers at the National Committee who would be for a two-year term and will have their DIN numbers registered with the ROC.
5. A detailed revenue sharing has been finalized for the regional and national committees and an election method and schedule clearly defined.
6. The Constitution comes into effect with elections process at regional levels to begin in 1st week of June and to be concluded with the AGM in Sept 2020.

Safety in Welding and Brazing

Source: Sumant Mathure, Mathure Metal Works Pvt. Ltd., Thane

Abstract

This article discusses occupational hazards in welding and brazing with reference to processes, equipments and products used. This information is meant to assist the operator and the user in gaining a basic understanding of the hazards related to welding and brazing.

Introduction

The purpose of welding and brazing is to join metal parts. There are many different types of welding processes, with shielded metal arc being the most common along with gas metal arc, gas tungsten arc and oxy-fuel welding. All welding processes require heat and some other substances to produce the weld. Because high temperatures are required to produce the weld, a number of by-products result, including fumes and gases that can be a serious health hazard. Other problems such as the potential for fire or explosion, injuries from UV radiation, electric shock and material handling related injuries may also occur.

Welders are exposed to the following hazards:

Electric shock - due to contact with electrically live components.

Radiation burns - burns to the eyes or body due to large quantity of visible light, ultraviolet and infrared rays from the welding arc.

Body burns - burns due to weld spatter or hot or molten material, or due to burning of clothing.

Fire and explosion - due to arc, flame, sparks or spatter or electrical faults in combination with flammable materials, gases or liquids.

Fumes - due to inhalation of harmful fumes and gases from the welding process.

Noise - welding environments are sufficiently noisy above the limit level (85dBA).

Slips, trips and falls - due to improper arrangement of tools and power lines in different work environments.

Manual handling – problems due to the use of heavy tools and equipment manually.

The most significant health hazard in the welding and brazing process is the generation of fumes and gases. The amount and type of fumes and gases involved will depend on the welding process and the base material used. The toxicity of the contaminants depends primarily upon their concentration and the physiological responses of the human body. Sampling may be necessary to identify the fumes and gases actually being given off during a specific operation. The inhalation of such gases and fumes may cause, in extreme cases, severe respiratory problems and death may occur within 24 hours following the development of pulmonary oedema.

The next important health hazard associated with welding is 'flash' burn to the cornea of the eye and burn to the skin, if appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is not worn. The severity of flash burning depends on many welding characteristics including the current, metal, welding rods, gas combinations and the environment. For bystanders, the distance from the arc to the eye is also important.

Safety in Welding and Brazing

Source: Sumant Mathure, Mathure Metal Works Pvt. Ltd., Thane

An electric shock from the welding process in the workplace is a hazard that should be eliminated. Electric shock, depending upon the voltage and amperage, can result in permanent physical damage and even death.

Brazing or soldering is generally performed at much lower temperatures, so the main hazards are from the fluxes and some of the elements like cadmium, lead etc., from the brazing or soldering alloy. It is essential to have the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) of such elements available in the workshop.

How Can Risks be Controlled?

The most effective method of maintaining safety during welding, brazing and soldering activities is through a Risk Management Program. This requires the identification of hazards, assessment of risks and implementation of suitable controls to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Electrical Hazards/ Fire and Explosion

Regular maintenance of equipment and good housekeeping of the work area is an effective 5S program.

Heat/ Radiation

Wearing of the appropriate PPE, e.g. gloves, apron, etc.

Heat generated during welding and brazing can be a hazard

Fumes/ Gases

The elimination of airborne contaminants can be achieved through general dilution and local exhaust ventilation. Ventilation is effective if it is located close to the welding arc or flame where the fumes, gases and heat hazards are produced.

Physical Hazards

Operator injuries can be minimised by developing and implementing safe work procedures and practices. These include all welding processes and manual handling tasks involved (e.g. the welding task itself and the storage of gas bottles etc.).

Health Hazards

Other health hazards inherent in the process of welding include injuries to the skin, eyes, hearing and lungs. These can be minimised by wearing appropriate PPE including:

Skin protection: Welding helmets, caps, work boots, spats and fire retardant clothing.

Eye protection: Welders and persons in the immediate vicinity should wear suitable eye protection. The welder and any other persons involved in the process should also be protected against any foreign objects that might be released into the air. Anyone looking directly at the flame should have eye protection with dark lenses, and if near the torch, a hood to protect against slag. Flash burn is the most common injury associated with welding; it is caused by exposure to ultraviolet light and can affect anyone near the welder even if he is not looking at the welding flame. Although this usually occurs with arc welding, anyone within about 20 feet of a welder should have polycarbonate safety glasses with side shields, which will block ultraviolet light. Dark glasses are not required to prevent UV burns.

Hearing protection: During various welding activities, welders are often exposed to harmful noise levels generated by particular processes, e.g. arc air or plasma arc cutting, chipping and grinding. The most effective control is at the source. While this is not always possible, protection can be provided by the use of hearing protectors

Respiratory system: Generally airborne contaminants can be eliminated when local exhaust ventilation is provided, but in extreme cases, e.g. remote locations, a personal positive air respirator may need to be worn to prevent the possibility of lung damage.

Safety in Welding and Brazing

Source: Sumant Mathure, Mathure Metal Works Pvt. Ltd., Thane

As with many activities performed at the workplace, there are inherent hazards. In order to ensure that these hazards are either eliminated or controlled, the following procedures must be established:

- Operators are provided with information and training in the safe use of welding equipment.
- All safety equipment is maintained and functional.
- Safe operating procedures are developed and followed by operators.

Difficult work situations such as work outdoors, in confined spaces or on steel structures can also add to the hazards of welding. Falls from heights, asphyxiation and sunburn are some examples of hazards in different work environments.

Storage and Use of Cylinders

There are several safety factors to be considered for the safe use and storage of gas welding equipment and industrial gas cylinders. A sound knowledge of these factors will protect us.

Let us first take a look at the safe storage of cylinders. Cylinders must be stored in a dry, protected and well-ventilated area and securely fastened in an upright position. They must be placed at least 20 feet from combustibles, sparks, excessive heat and open flames. Cylinders should not be stored near stairways, elevators or shafts. Acetylene cylinders should be secured in an upright position prior to and during use.

Acetylene is packaged in a cylinder filled with Diatemaceous Earth, a naturally occurring, soft, siliceous sedimentary rock that is easily crumbled into a fine white to off-white powder. The acetylene is dissolved in acetone and the solution is then pumped into the cylinder. If the cylinder is placed on its side and then set upright again, it takes some time for the system to re-equilibrate and for the acetone to drain out of the dip tube in the valve. If welding is done during this period, the weld will be high in carbon due to the acetone. If welding is done with the cylinder on its side, you may get 'spitting'.

All cylinders that are not connected for use must be capped. Stored oxygen cylinders must be separated from stored fuel gas cylinders or combustibles by at least 20 feet or by a 5-foot high, fire-resistant barrier with a 30-minute rating.

All cylinders that are connected for use must be lashed or chained; cylinders must be clearly marked to identify the contents. Mark empty tanks with the letters MT, and close the valves and replace the caps securely. Empty cylinders should never be placed where they could become part of an electrical circuit. Because regulators are delicate, they must be handled carefully. Never use pliers or pipe wrench to attach them. Never pound valves equipped with wheels to open or close them. 'Creeping' regulators must be repaired immediately.

Pressure gauges need careful handling

Hoses should be color coded to avoid using the wrong hose. Any hoses with leaks, worn spots or burns must be replaced or repaired before use. Oxygen hose connections are threaded right-handed. Acetylene and other fuel gas hose connections are threaded left-handed. This helps prevent accidentally switching oxygen and fuel gas hoses. Hoses can be tested for leaks by immersing them in tap water or grease-free soapy water. Do not try to repair hoses with tape.

Use only fittings that are bronze or brass (less than 65 percent copper). Never use copper because it forms copper acetylide, which can explode. Never use oil, grease or a similar substance on torches or regulators, because in the presence of oxygen they may burn or, if ignited, explode.

Before hookup, always make sure the cylinder outlets are pointing away from each other. This prevents improper mixtures in case a leak occurs. When opening the cylinder valve, never face the gauge--stand to one side to prevent injury caused by malfunctioning valves.

To be continued in the next newsletter

Business Doctor - Vadodara

Conducted on 17th Sept, 2019

RATA Vadodara organized its 1st event on 17th Sep 2019 at Hotel Fern, Vadodara with over 50 trade members attending the same. Speaker for the same was Mr Saurabh Khandelwal from Business Doctor, he explained all the members of the various laws and the ways how pending dues can be recovered. He also explained the various precaution company owners should take to avoid falling in a situation where money recovery becomes an issue. This event is a flagship event done in Mumbai/ Ahmedabad/Indore/Bangalore with the same speaker. Mr Manan Vora addressed the crowd on behalf of RATA and explained all the vision and goal of RATA. The event was followed by a Networking Dinner. Team Vadodara's first event was a successful and a good start for RATA VADODARA

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