



**UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA**

# **Critical QA and QC Process Procedure In Pressure Vessel Fabrication**

Thesis submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Malaysia  
Technical University of Malacca for the Bachelor Degree of Manufacturing  
Engineering in Manufacturing Process

By

**Raden Ahmad Muhaimin Humaidi**  
**(B050410038)**

Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering  
May 2008



# UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

## BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS TESIS\*

JUDUL: CRITICAL QA AND QC PROCESS PROCEDURE IN PRESSURE VESSEL FABRICATION

SESI PENGAJIAN: SEMESTER 2 TAHUN 4 (2008)

Saya RADEN AHMAD MUHAIMIN BIN HUMAIDI

### (HURUF BESAR)

mengaku membenarkan tesis (PSM/Sarjana/Doktor Falsafah) ini disimpan di Perpustakaan Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) dengan syarat-syarat kegunaan seperti berikut:

1. Tesis adalah hak milik Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka .
2. Perpustakaan Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka dibenarkan membuat salinan untuk tujuan pengajian sahaja.
3. Perpustakaan dibenarkan membuat salinan tesis ini sebagai bahan pertukaran antara institusi pengajian tinggi.
4. \*\*Sila tandakan (√)

- |                          |              |  |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SULIT        | (Mengandungi maklumat yang berdarjah keselamatan atau kepentingan Malaysia yang termaktub di dalam AKTA RAHSIA RASMI 1972) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TERHAD       | (Mengandungi maklumat TERHAD yang telah ditentukan oleh organisasi/badan di mana penyelidikan dijalankan)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TIDAK TERHAD |  |

Disahkan oleh:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TANDATANGAN PENULIS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TANDATANGAN PENYELIA)

Alamat Tetap:

Cop Rasmi:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tarikh: \_\_\_\_\_

Tarikh: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Tesis dimaksudkan sebagai tesis bagi Ijazah Doktor Falsafah dan Sarjana secara penyelidikan, atau disertasi bagi pengajian secara kerja kursus dan penyelidikan, atau Laporan Projek Sarjana Muda (PSM).  
\*\* Jika tesis ini SULIT atau TERHAD, sila lampirkan surat daripada pihak berkuasa/organisasi berkenaan dengan menyatakan sekali sebab dan tempoh tesis ini perlu dikelaskan sebagai SULIT atau TERHAD.

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby, declared this thesis entitled

**“CRITICAL QA AND QC PROCESS PROCEDURE IN PRESSURE VESSEL  
FABRICATION”**

is the results of my own research except as cited in references.

Signature : .....

Author's Name : RADEN AHMAD MUHAIMIN BIN HUMAIDI

Date : MAY 2008

## **APPROVAL**

This PSM submitted to the senate of UTeM and has been as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Manufacturing Engineering (Manufacturing Process). The member of the supervisory committee is:

.....  
**(Engr. Sivarao A/L Subramonian)**

## ABSTRAK

Projek ini mendedahkan berkenaan kritikalnya jaminan kualiti (QA) dan kawalan kualiti (QC) dalam kaedah dan proses bagi memastikan penghasilan pengandung tekanan yang berkualiti. Kawalan kualiti amat penting dalam pembuatan pengandung tekanan ini kerana tanpa pemeriksaan yang teliti ia boleh menyebabkan kegagalan pada pengandung tekanan yang dihasilkan. Projek ini dijalankan dengan kerjasama Akra Engineering Sdn.Bhd sebagai salah sebuah syarikat pengeluar kelengkapan minyak dan gas di Malaysia. Projek ini menggunakan kod *AMERICAN SOCIETY MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (ASME)* sebagai rujukan iaitu *ASME BOILER* dan *PRESSURE VESSEL CODE VIII*. Proses jaminan kualiti dan kawalan kualiti ini terbahagi kepada enam peringkat. Proses ini bermula dengan mengulaskan dokumen, kawalan bahan, proses mereka, pemeriksaan dan ujian. Pemeriksaan yang dijalankan bermula dengan meneliti dokumen dan kemudiannya memperbaiki setiap kesalahan dengan segera. Setiap prosedur perlu diperiksa dibahagian ini bagi mengelakkan kesilapan dari berlaku. Sebagai contoh, *Inspection Test Plan (ITP)*, *Welding Procedure Specification (WPS)* dan sebagainya. Peringkat seterusnya adalah kawalan material iaitu memastikan material yang sampai daripada pembekal hendaklah selaras dengan tempahan pembelian dan pensijilan bahan. Material yang sampai hendaklah mematuhi spesifikasi kod yang ditetapkan. Pembuatan adalah bahagian yang perlu diberi penekanan kerana bahagian ini memulakan proses penghasilan pengandung tekanan. Setiap proses perlu diperiksa dengan teliti bagi mengelakkan kegagalan dan kecacatan kimpalan. Peringkat pemeriksaan dan ujian menerangkan bahawa setiap pengandung tekanan yang telah siap akan diuji dengan *Non-Destructive Examination (NDE)* dan *Hydrostatic Test*.

## **ABSTRACT**

This project was discussed about the critical Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) in process and procedure to ensure that the manufacture of pressure vessel that been produces were in high quality. Quality control (QC) is very important in order to produces the pressure vessel, without the details test will lead the failure to the pressure vessel. This project was collaboration with Akra Engineering Sdn.Bhd which is part of oil and Gas Company in Malaysia. This project also used the AMERICAN SOCIETY MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (ASME) code as reference which is ASME BOILER and PRESSURE VESSEL CODE VIII. Quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) process were divided into 6 parts. The first part is documentation review, material control, fabrication process, inspection and testing. The inspections were start with the documentary check followed by repairing the defect instantly. Each procedure should be test to prevent the defect from occur. The procedure that should be held was Inspection Test Plan (ITP) and Welding Procedure Specification (WPS). The material receiving inspection was to ensure that the materials that deliver were same as the purchase order and material certificate. All the material should obeyed the specification code that already fixed. Fabrication part was the critical part that should be highlight because this part was the beginning of pressure vessel construction. As were mention above, all parts should been details check in order to prevent the defect and failure especially to the welding. The inspection and test part explains that when the pressure vessel is already done, it then was tested by Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) and Hydrostatic Test.

## **DEDICATION**

Special gratitude dedication to.....

### **My dearest parents,**

Mr. Humaidi Asnawi and Mrs. Mahaya Abu

For your love, care and support.

### **My brothers and sisters,**

Raden Adisidaharta, Raden Zuhair, Raden Humairah

For your helpfulness, encouragement and confidence in me.

### **My lecturers,**

Mr. Sivarao A/L Subramonian, Dr. Thoguluva Raghvan Vijayaram

and Mr. Mohd Amri b. Sulaiman

Thank you very much for your continued support, guidance and kind assistance in making sure the success of my project.

### **My friends in UTeM,**

Especially to Affendi b. Husin @ Cholan and Nurul Nadia Baharum

For helping me whenever I am in difficulties.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Praise is to ALLAH SWT, from whom I come and belong. This piece of work would not become possible without the contributions from many people and organizations. Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge my supervisor, Mr Sivarao A/L Subramonian for his kind assistance, constructive criticisms and observations in this degree project. A special thank you for my degree project examiner, Mr. Mohd Amri bin Sulaiman also to Dr. Thoguluva Raghvan Vijayaram as my project panel. I also would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Muhamed Zaihasren b. Muhamed Zainal, for his full contribution regarding this project, the information, moral supports, guidance and the confidence in me to finish this project with his company (AKRA Engineering Sdn. Bhd). Not to forget all staffs in AKRA Engineering Sdn. Bhd for their kindly help in providing me useful information and data where my heart will always remain. I would also like to thank my project partner Affendi B. Husin@Cholan with his cooperation in this project. Last but not least, special thanks to all people who involved in assisting me directly or indirectly, in various ways to ensure my project succeeded and I am thankful to them.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Abstrak.....  | i        |
| Abstract.....   | ii       |
| Dedication.....   | iii      |
| Acknowledgement.....  | iv       |
| Table of Contents.....  | v        |
| List of Figures.....  | ix       |
| List of Tables.....   | xii      |
| List of Appendices.....   | xiii     |
| <br>  |          |
| <b>CHAPTER 1.....</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>                                       | <b>1</b> |
| 1.1 Project Background.....                                     | 1        |
| 1.2 Problem Statement.....                                      | 2        |
| 1.3 Objective .....   | 2        |
| 1.4 Scope.....  | 3        |
| 1.5 Project summary .....                                       | 3        |
| <b>CHAPTER 2.....</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| <b>LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>                                  | <b>4</b> |
| 2.1 Introduction.....   | 4        |
| 2.2 Project Selection .....                                     | 4        |
| 2.3 Pressure Vessel .....                                       | 5        |
| 2.4 Project Execution Flow for Fabricator.....                  | 6        |
| 2.5 General Overview of Project Execution Process:.....         | 7        |
| 2.6 Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) parts ..... | 8        |
| 2.6.1 Inspection Test Plan (ITP).....                           | 9        |
| 2.6.2 Welding Procedure .....                                   | 11       |
| 2.6.3 Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) .....               | 11       |

|                  |  |           |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| 2.6.4            | Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) .....     | 11        |
| 2.6.5            | Welder Performance Qualification (WPQ) .....   | 12        |
| 2.6.6            | Other Testing Procedure .....                  | 12        |
| 2.7              | Material Identification and Verification ..... | 12        |
| 2.8              | Fabrication .....                              | 13        |
| 2.9              | Inspection and Testing .....                   | 14        |
| 2.10             | Manufacturer's Data Reports (MDR) .....        | 16        |
| 2.11             | Literature Review from Journals .....          | 17        |
| 2.11.1           | Material .....                                 | 17        |
| 2.11.2           | Code .....                                     | 18        |
| 2.11.3           | Failed .....                                   | 20        |
| 2.11.4           | TEST .....                                     | 22        |
| 2.11.5           | Safety .....                                   | 25        |
| 2.11.6           | Inspection .....                               | 28        |
| 2.11.7           | Welding .....                                  | 32        |
| <b>CHAPTER 3</b> | <b>.....</b>                                   | <b>37</b> |
| 3.1              | INTRODUCTION .....                             | 37        |
| 3.2              | Basic Process Methodology .....                | 38        |
| <b>CHAPTER 4</b> | <b>.....</b>                                   | <b>40</b> |
|                  | EXPERIMENTAL SET UP AND PROCEDURE .....        | 40        |
| 4.1              | Introduction .....                             | 40        |
| 4.2              | Documentation Review .....                     | 42        |
| 4.3              | Material Receiving Inspection .....            | 42        |
| 4.4              | Marking and cutting process .....              | 45        |
| 4.4.1            | Marking Phase .....                            | 45        |
| 4.4.2            | Quality control check Phase .....              | 46        |
| 4.4.3            | Cutting Phase .....                            | 49        |
| 4.4.4            | Grind and edge preparation phase .....         | 50        |
| 4.5              | Fit-up and assembly process .....              | 50        |
| 4.5.1            | Fit-up phase .....                             | 51        |
| 4.5.2            | Quality control check phase .....              | 52        |
| 4.6              | Weld-Up Process .....                          | 54        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 4.6.1 Procedure and document reference phase .....                      | 55        |
| 4.6.2 Equipment preparation Phase .....                                 | 55        |
| 4.6.3 Set up welding equipment phase .....                              | 56        |
| 4.6.4 Welding .....   | 57        |
| 4.6.5 Inspection Phase .....  | 60        |
| 4.7 Non destructive test (Dye Penetrant Inspection) .....               | 61        |
| 4.7.1 Dye penetrant inspection Procedure (Code Par UG-103, p.80): ..... | 61        |
| 4.8 Hydrostatic test .....  | 64        |
| 4.8.1 Confirm the entire prior to hydrostatic test .....                | 64        |
| 4.8.2 Hydrostatic test .....  | 65        |
| 4.8.3 Inspection.....   | 66        |
| 4.8.4 Post hydro flushing & drying .....                                | 66        |
| 4.8.5 Weld up.....  | 67        |
| <b>CHAPTER 5.....</b>   | <b>68</b> |
| 5.1 Result .....  | 68        |
| 5.1.1 Dye penetrant inspections show the result as below: .....         | 68        |
| 5.1.2 Hydrostatic Test Result .....                                     | 75        |
| <b>CHAPTER 6.....</b>   | <b>81</b> |
| <b>REFERENCES .....</b>   | <b>83</b> |

## LIST OF FIGURES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Figure 2. 1 : AKRA Engineering Sdn. Bhd.....   | 4  |
| Figure 2. 2 : Pressure vessel .....  | 5  |
| Figure 2. 3: Project Execution Flow Process.....   | 6  |
| Figure 2. 4: Parts of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) .....              | 8  |
|  |    |
| Figure 4. 1: Fabrication Flow Chart in Quality Assurance and Quality Control process.... | 41 |
| Figure 4. 2: Checked the material arrive according mill certificate .....                | 43 |
| Figure 4. 3: Checked the material condition.....   | 43 |
| Figure 4. 4: Material dimensional checked .....  | 44 |
| Figure 4. 5: Checked material diameter.....  | 44 |
| Figure 4. 6 : Marking and cutting process flow.....                                      | 45 |
| Figure 4. 7: Marking for vessel size .....   | 45 |
| Figure 4. 8: Marking for vessel orientation .....  | 46 |
| Figure 4. 9: Punched the orientation to prevent from disappeared.....                    | 46 |
| Figure 4. 11: Orientation checked at shell .....   | 47 |
| Figure 4. 12: Orientation checked at end cap .....                                       | 48 |
| Figure 4. 13: Checked the marking for nozzle opening .....                               | 48 |
| Figure 4. 14: Nozzle opening at shell .....  | 49 |
| Figure 4. 15: Nozzle opening at end cap .....  | 49 |
| Figure 4. 16: Beveling process .....   | 50 |
| Figure 4. 17: End cap and shell fit-up using tackweld. ....                              | 51 |
| Figure 4. 18: Nozzle to flange fit-up .....  | 51 |
| Figure 4. 19: Fit-up check 1.....  | 52 |
| Figure 4. 20: Fit-up check 2.....  | 52 |
| Figure 4. 21: Prove that the fit-up have been checked .....                              | 53 |
| Figure 4. 22: Weld up process .....  | 54 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 4. 23: Baked electrode in the baking oven.....                                     | 55 |
| Figure 4. 24: Electrode was put in the holding oven to control electrode temperature..... | 56 |
| Figure 4. 25: Weld for the root pass .....  | 57 |
| Figure 4. 26: Root pass .....   | 58 |
| Figure 4. 27: Removed all the slag from root pass.....                                    | 58 |
| Figure 4. 28: Weld for capping pass.....  | 59 |
| Figure 4. 29: Capping pass .....  | 59 |
| Figure 4. 30: Checked welding seam.....   | 60 |
| Figure 4. 31: Checked weld at the nozzle.....   | 60 |
| Figure 4. 32: Non-destructive test process flow .....                                     | 61 |
| Figure 4. 33: Apply penetrant at circumferences seam .....                                | 62 |
| Figure 4. 34: Apply penetrant at nozzle .....   | 62 |
| Figure 4. 35: Apply developer at circumferences seam .....                                | 63 |
| Figure 4. 36: Apply developer at nozzle.....  | 63 |
| Figure 4. 37: Describe indication appeared.....   | 63 |
| Figure 4. 38: Hydrostatic test process flow .....   | 64 |
| Figure 4. 39: Pumped water inside the air receiver .....                                  | 65 |
| Figure 4. 40: Waiting for the result .....  | 66 |
| Figure 4. 41: Drain out the water from air receiver.....                                  | 66 |
| <br>  |    |
| Figure 5. 1: Welding seam 1 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 69 |
| Figure 5. 2: Welding seam 2 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 69 |
| Figure 5. 3: Welding seam 3 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 70 |
| Figure 5. 4: Welding seam 4 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 70 |
| Figure 5. 5: Welding seam 5 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 71 |
| Figure 5. 6: Welding seam 6 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 71 |
| Figure 5. 7: Welding seam 7 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 72 |
| Figure 5. 8: Welding seam 8 does not show any surface defect.....                         | 72 |
| Figure 5. 9: Nozzle 1 does not show any surface defect .....                              | 73 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 5. 10: Nozzle 2 and nozzle 3 does not show any surface defect .....              | 73 |
| Figure 5. 11: Nozzle 4 does not show any surface defect. ....                           | 74 |
| Figure 5. 12: Nozzle 5 does not show any surface defect. ....                           | 74 |
| Figure 5. 13: Waiting for the result .....  | 76 |
| Figure 5. 14: Pressure gauge show the test pressure, 10 bars and no pressure drop ..... | 76 |
| Figure 5. 15: Discard the water from the drain nozzle after 60 minutes .....            | 77 |
| Figure 5. 16: Pressure gauge decreasing after the water has been discarded .....        | 77 |

## LIST OF TABLES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Table 5. 1: Circumference seam 1 welding result ..... | 68 |
| Table 5. 2: Circumferences seam 2 welding result..... | 71 |
| Table 5. 3: Nozzle welding result.....                | 73 |
| Table 5. 4: Shows the hydrostatic test result .....   | 75 |

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

(Refer to APPENDIX)



# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

This project was to implement the Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) process and procedures that associated with Pressure Vessel. A pressure vessel was a closed, rigid container designed to hold gases or liquids at a pressure different from the ambient pressure. The main intention of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) is to perform the systematic way of specifying procedures involving each level of design, material, fabrication, testing and inspection. Quality Assurance (QA) was define as a systematic set of activities necessary to provide adequate confidence that requirements are properly established and products or services conform to specified requirement. Quality Control (QC) was defined as a process by which product quality was compared with applicable standards, and the action taken when nonconformance is detected.

This collaboration project was held with the company that produces pressure vessel commercially used. Akra Engineering Sdn. Bhd. was a very well known company especially in services such as plant operation & maintenance services, fabrication of storage tanks, industrial steel structures & minor offshore steel structures, enhanced oil recovery system, including other related engineering services.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Pressure vessels used in refineries, chemical processing plants, and water treatment systems of boilers operate over a broad range of pressures, temperatures and experience a variety of operating environments. Shell, head and attachments are some of the components that commonly fail. These situations occur during the improper quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) implementation regarding of:

- i. Pre-fabrication documentation: Design error and lack of welding specification.
- ii. Material: Lack of material identification and verification.
- iii. Improper fabrication practice: Marking and cutting, fit-up and weld-up process.
- iv. Inspection and testing: lack of inspection and faulty inspection.

This report consists of the pressure vessel fabrication which as result through documentation, fabrication and inspection related with quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) operation. This investigation was carried out by using American Society of Mechanical Engineers VIII (ASME VIII) code.

## 1.3 Objective

The main objectives of this report to be achieved are:

- i. Preparation of pre-fabrication documentation of pressure vessel.
- ii. Fabrication of pressure vessel according to American Society of Mechanical Engineers VIII (ASME VIII) code.
- iii. Inspection and testing of developed pressure vessel.

## **1.4 Scope**

These project scopes are limited to:

- i. Utilize the current quality system at AKRA Engineering Sdn.Bhd
- ii. Fabricate a pressure vessel through several process such as material receiving inspection, marking and cutting, fit-up and weld-up process; that complies with ASME specification.
- iii. Inspection and testing using Dye penetrate inspection and hydrostatic test.

## **1.5 Project summary**

The expected output in this project is to have the information on process that has been made. This information is to verify any problem that occurred on quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) process related to pressure vessel fabrication, so the precaution to avoid the crisis will be implementing. Quality assurance (QA) will establish and evaluates the processes to produce the products while quality control (QC) will verify if the product meets pre-defined standards.

This project investigation will exactly implement the quality processes in fabrication of pressure vessel at Akra Engineering Sdn. Bhd. Throughout this project, a lot of knowledge and experiences will be gained regarding of quality process and procedure including documentation, fabrication also inspection and testing.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the literature of material, code, failed, test, safety, inspection and also welding of pressure vessel are included.

#### 2.2 Project Selection

This project was in collaboration with AKRA Engineering Sdn. Bhd. This company is located at Senawang, Negeri Sembilan. AKRA Engineering has been involved in Engineering Project construction and commissioning such tanks, pressure vessels, steel structures detail design, fabrication also supplied in related with fabrication field.



Figure 2. 1 : AKRA Engineering Sdn. Bhd

Title of this project was “Critical Quality (QA) and Quality control (QC) Process Procedure in Pressure Vessel Fabrication”, where this project are made in term of to implement quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) process in manufacturing pressure vessel and also to fabricate an air receiver of pressure vessel comply with American Society of Mechanical Engineers VIII (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Division 1).

### 2.3 Pressure Vessel

Pressure vessel was a rigid container designed to hold gases or liquids at a pressure different from the ambient pressure. Type of pressure vessel are gas cylinder, unified pressure vessels, boilers, valves, pipe work and some miscellaneous.



**Figure 2. 2 : Pressure vessel**

Pressure vessels are used in a variety of applications. These include the industry and the private sector. They appear in these sectors respectively as industrial compressed air receivers and domestic hot water storage tanks. Other examples of pressure vessels are diving cylinder, recompression chamber, distillation towers, autoclaves, oil refineries, petrochemical plants, nuclear reactor vessel, habitat of a space ship, habitat of a submarine, pneumatic reservoir, hydraulic reservoir under pressure, rail vehicle airbrake reservoir, road vehicle airbrake reservoir and storage vessels for liquefied gases such as ammonia, chlorine, propane, butane and LPG.

## 2.4 Project Execution Flow for Fabricator

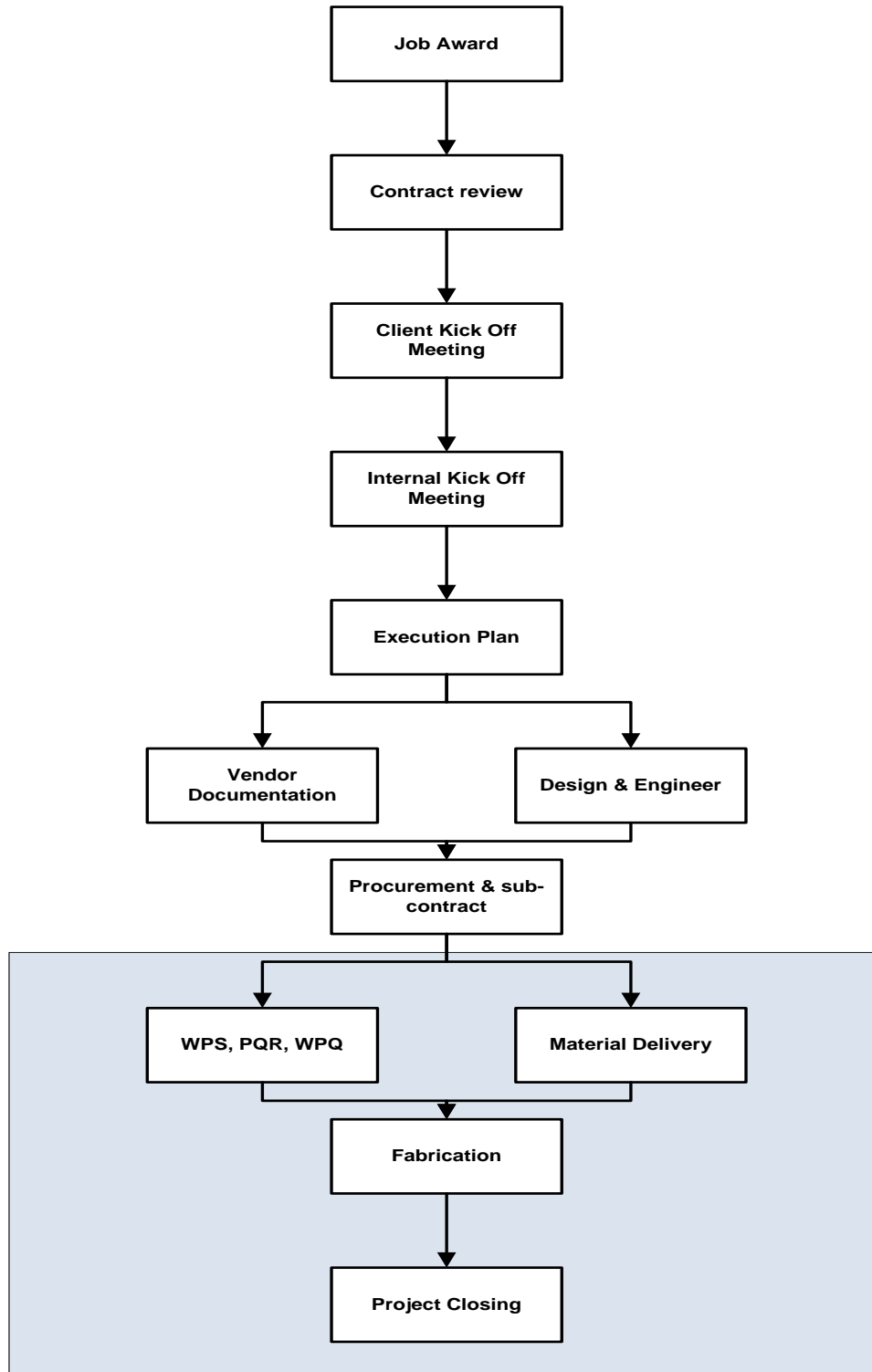
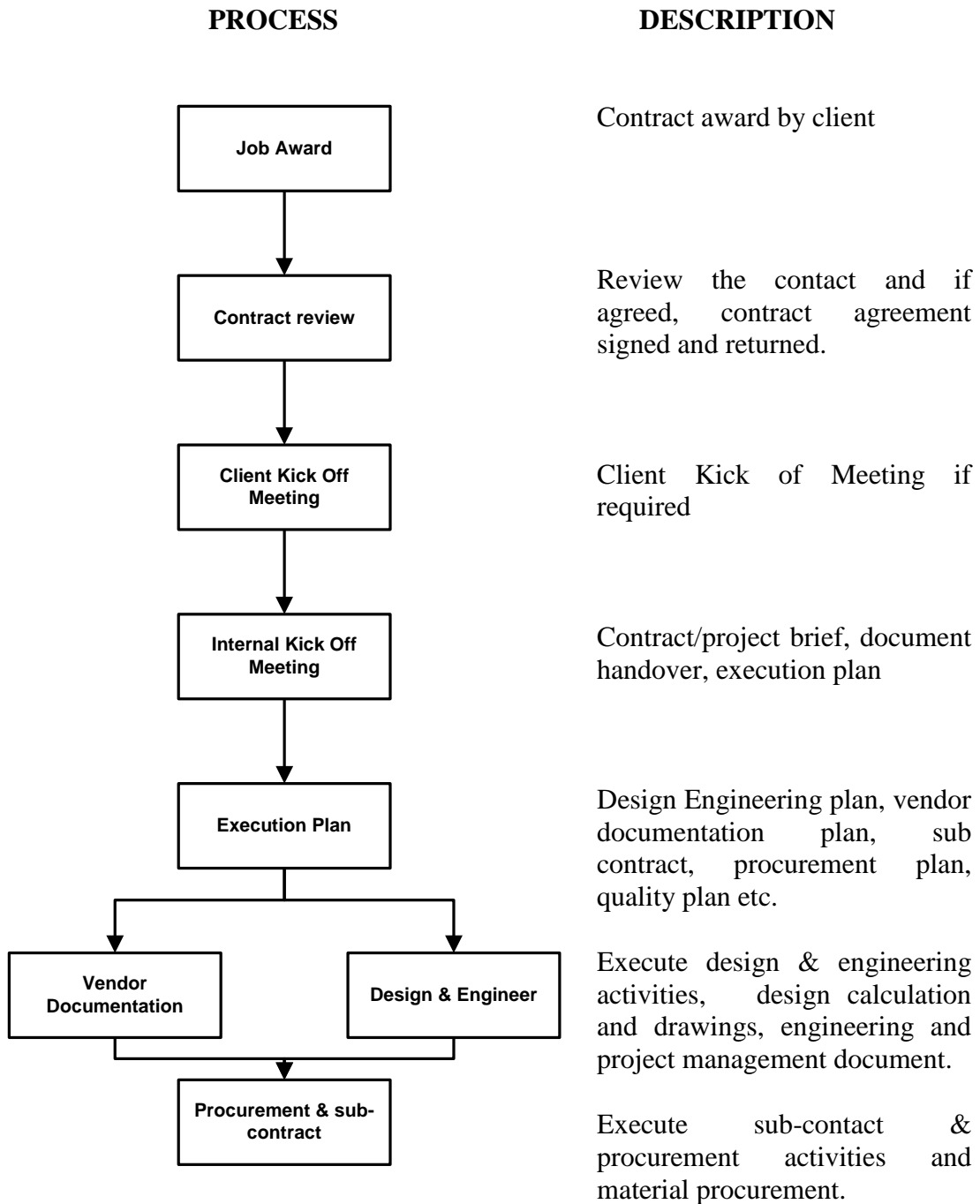


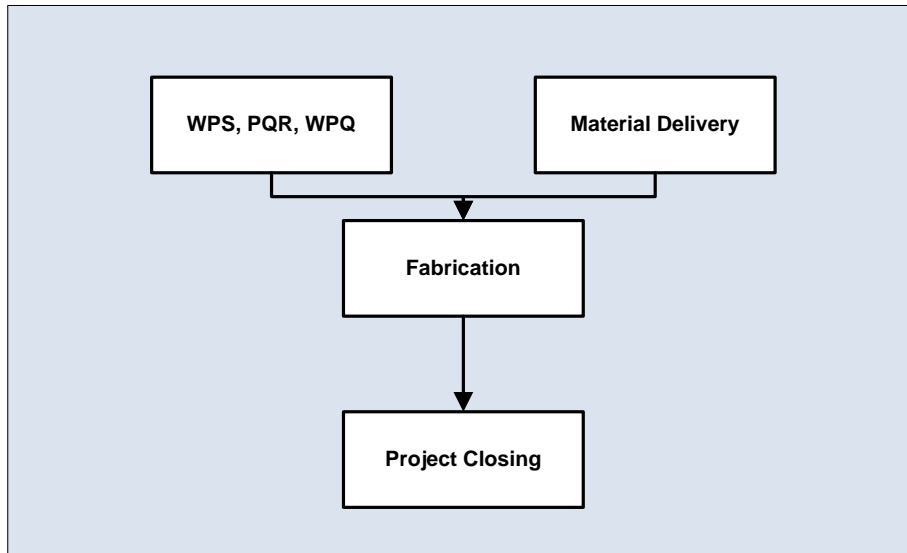
Figure 2. 3: Project Execution Flow Process

## 2.5 General Overview of Project Execution Process:

From the flow chart, we can see the overall process of making the pressure vessel. As we go through the flow chart:



## 2.6 Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) parts



**Figure 2. 4: Parts of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC)**

The task of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) process starts from the part that has been highlight as above. Initially, all the documentation for the project should be prepare such as Welding Procedure Specification (WPS), Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) and Welder Performance Qualification (WPQ), and also all the checklist and report for the project. This is the part of quality assurance (QA).

When it goes down to fabrication part, Quality Control (QC) Inspector was responsible to construct all the inspection and testing for example dimensional check, fit-up, visual inspection and other. As the close out of the project, Manufacturer's Data Report (MDR) should be arranging. It is a compilation of all the documentation for the project for instance drawing, welding procedure specification (WPS) and design calculation.