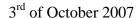
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RE: Lifespan steam boilers and thermal oil heaters

Dear Mr Kuan

We refer to our conversation and we hereby state the following about lifetime of boilers and heaters.

We can say that the typical lifespan of an oilfired or gasfired boiler is 25 to 30 years. Lifetime of a boiler or a heater is mainly depending on the tube lifetime, which can be affected by many factors.

Generally we can say the following, based on our experiences:

- o That proper maintenance and operation of the boiler is the key to achieve a boiler lifetime of more than 30 years;
- o Good and consistent water treatment is essential
- o The boiler is fired at max. 100% of the design capacity.
- o Boilers being in continuous operation (more than 7800 hours per year) have a higher lifetime comparing to boilers being frequently stopped.

Vyncke is in the business of boilers for more than 90 years and currently still services oilfired and gasfired boilers in Belgium which are 25 and up to 40 years old.

A thermal oil heater is considered to have a longer life than steam boilers, because they are not making use of water as medium, hence there is no need for careful water treatment. The synthetic oil has even a greasing effect on every part in contact with the oil. It is only because Vyncke only started manufacturing thermal oil heaters for the board industry in early 1990, that we cannot mention references currently operating since older than 1993.

Would you need more specific information about our boiler references, please feel free to ask for it.

Best regards,

Jef Mestdagh General Manager SEA-Pacific Vyncke Energietechniek NV

