

# 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the API Standard 618

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## **Reliability and Economics of Compression Systems-Recent Trends in the Market of Reciprocating Compressors**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper will present the highlights of changes that will be found in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of API 618 which is expected to be published in late 2003 or early 2004. Approximately every 5 years the API Standards are revised in such a way that the latest field experiences and results of R&D projects are included to achieve more efficient, reliable and safe systems. For this purpose a task force group of the API Standard 618 was formed and has been working on the 5<sup>th</sup> edition since the end of 1999. Another important issue was that the new revision should finally be accepted by the ISO so that in the future it will become ISO 13707 and will become the world standard for reciprocating compressors for petroleum, chemical and gas industry services.

The paragraph handling Pulsation and Vibration control has had a major change. Three different design philosophies are used in the world on the area of pulsation and vibration control which lead finally to the same result: avoiding problems with vibration, performance, reliability and flow measurement errors. These different design philosophies are now accepted by the API committee and are included in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition. API RP 688 will be issued to give more clarification to this subject. This paper mainly discusses and highlights the most important changes in the area of pulsation and vibration control, both in API 618 and in RP 688. However, also the other main changes and improvements are summarised.