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Abstract: It is a well known theorem that a 3-manifold M with a Heegaard diagram  $(V; J_1, \dots, J_n)$  is a homotopy 3-sphere if and only if there exists an embedding of V in  $S^3$  so that  $J_1, \dots, J_n$  bound n pairwise disjoint surfaces  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  in  $W = \overline{S^3 - V}$ . We may assume  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  are incompressible in W. But in general, we cannot assume that they are boundary incompressible, since boundary compressions may yield surfaces with more than one boundary component. We describe a version of above theorem in which the involved surfaces are incompressible and boundary incompressible in the corresponding manifold.