



NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS Information on Proposed Changes within the Boiler Safety System

The need to modernize the regulatory framework and make changes to certain components of the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation has been raised by various stakeholders in the boiler safety system.

The following three specific areas are presently being pursued:

1. Introduction of Safety Management Plans into the *Safety Standards Act*;
2. Elimination of prescribed staffing requirements for low pressure thermal fluid plants that are equipped with modern safety systems and devices; and
3. Elimination of prescribed requirements for BC Safety Authority boiler safety officers.

Safety Management Plans

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development of the Province of British Columbia and the BC Safety Authority are proposing to modernize the regulatory framework by introducing Safety Management Plans into the *Safety Standards Act*.

Implications and reasons:

- Safety Management Plans have the capability to keep pace with evolving technology and offer an effective and efficient alternative to prescriptive regulations. Safety Management Plans are enforceable; failure to follow a Safety Management Plan may result in serious enforcement action.
- Safety Management Plans focus on the entire safety system of an organization rather than just the equipment itself.

Elimination of prescribed staffing requirements for low pressure thermal fluid plants equipped with modern safety systems and devices

The BC Safety Authority has recommended to the Province of British Columbia that section 6 d) of the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation be amended.

Implications and reasons:

- This will eliminate prescribed staffing requirements for low pressure thermal fluid plants that are equipped with modern safety systems and devices.
- Technological changes in the field of programmable controllers and safety-related software have immeasurably improved plant control and monitoring

systems, thereby decreasing the necessity for full-time supervision of plant operations.

Elimination of prescribed requirements for BC Safety Authority boiler safety officers

The BC Safety Authority has recommended to the Province of British Columbia that section 65 of the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation be repealed.

Implications and reasons:

- This will eliminate prescribed requirements for BC Safety Authority boiler safety officers.
- It is envisioned that the introduction of Safety Management Plans and a more flexible safety system will require multiple qualifications and diverse skill sets.

Consultation

The window of opportunity for moving these changes forward has been guided by the government's legislative assembly's timetable. Keeping to these tight timelines necessitated a preliminary information gathering and feedback process with key industry leaders, professional associations, and some clients in the boiler safety system.

Once the requested changes to the Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel and Refrigeration Safety Regulation have been approved and the proposal for Safety Management Plans is moving forward, the BC Safety Authority, with the assistance of its Boiler Technology Committee, will commence a more thorough consultation process. The consultation will focus on how best to implement the existing requested changes and to have a broader dialogue on the modernization of the boiler safety system.

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact:

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