

PRESSURE VESSELS, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

2916. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (OS&H) that require pressure vessels to be design verified to ensure compliance with AS1200 – Pressure Equipment and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware that since January 2003 the revised version of AS1200 allows the use of a number of overseas standards, including American and European standards;
- (b) is the Minister aware that the predominate overseas standard is the ‘American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section VIII (ASME BPV-VIII);
- (c) is the Minister aware that because manufactures in Western Australia are required to manufacture to AS1200/AS1210 by OS&H regulations, they have become uncompetitive;
- (d) has the Minister been approached by the Minister for State Development regarding these regulations;
- (e) if so, when;
- (f) what action has the Minister undertaken to assist manufactures in relation to a review of the OS&H regulations;
- (g) if no action has been undertaken, why not;
- (h) will the Minister now commit to an urgent review of the relevant OS&H regulations;
- (i) if not, why not; and
- (j) if yes, when does the Minister expect any changes to come into force?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a)-(j) The adoption of the updated Australian Standard on 10th January 2003 was supported by the tripartite Occupational Safety and Health Commission in the interests of advancing safety and health. The concern that the adoption of this updated Standard unfairly impinged on Western Australian industry was raised by the Minister for State Development in December 2003.

The Directors’ General of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and the Department of Industry and Resources have discussed the situation and agreed that the problem is a contractual business one rather than an occupational safety and health matter. Consequently the Department of Industry and Resources is working with stakeholders to progress a resolution as expeditiously as possible. It needs to be understood that as the particular Australian Standard has been adopted by other jurisdictions, the ramifications of change would extend beyond Western Australia’s jurisdictional boundary.