



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF **LIVE STEAMERS**

AALS Web Site

www.aals.asn.au

Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE BOILER SAFETY COMMITTEE

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AMBSC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2010-2011

January, 2011

Your AMBSC executive has not been idle throughout the last year. The proposed Duplex code has been before the NSW WorkCover authorities for several months to date and has generally been well received. They have requested only a few changes to the text. These small changes have been dealt with and we are only awaiting the final signature for the code to be exempted from the relevant boiler legislation and added to the list of AMBSC codes. The WorkCover authorities appreciated the covering documents from the three metallurgists that were consulted on the project, as they showed that a professional approach had been made in the formulation of the proposal. Without the dedicated efforts of Les Irwin, this project would never have reached this stage and I am sure the coming years will fully vindicate his belief in this proposal.

There has been a Duplex boiler built and tested in New Zealand and after 48 steamings has passed all of its visual and crack tests with flying colours. A full report will be sent to all boiler inspectors and clubs when the proposal has been signed off with the NSW WorkCover authorities.

The Steel Code revision is not yet complete as a decision has been made after consultation with various experienced steel boiler builders to simplify the code in some areas that have proved to be impractical. This includes the removal of thermic siphons and elliptical openings. If thermic siphons are fitted, it makes it extremely difficult to roll the fire tubes and the benefit of such devices is regarded to be not worth the effort in boilers of our size. Elliptical openings are a feature that has rarely, if ever, been used and since there are now readily available means of looking inside a boiler without a large opening, it was decided they could be removed from the code.

The other suggested change was that girder stays be removed from Briggs-type boilers in favour of rod stays as they can inhibit the circulation of water over the firebox crown. The removal of these stays would have the benefit of less weld heat-affected areas on the firebox crown sheet.

Any changes to the Copper Code will mainly be confined to the staying of the firebox area and the removal of the cross stays. A drawing of these proposed stay changes will be sent when the Duplex Code has been signed off by NSW WorkCover. It was hoped that this report would have been sent well before this, however, the wheels of government revolve slowly, so it has taken longer than anticipated.

A good deal of correspondence has been had with two UK firms that would like to import professionally built boilers into Australia and it is likely that a satisfactory outcome will result.

There are still some clubs advocating that the AMBSC be totally separated from the AALS. I, as Chairman, am firmly against this proposal as I have found the support of the AALS executive has been invaluable during the past two years. To be able to access the opinions of the Board has been of great benefit to me personally and they have never interfered in the workings or policies of the AMBSC in any way.

Adrian Cox has, for personal reasons, resigned as AMBSC Secretary and our thanks and gratitude are extended to him for what can be at times a thankless and tiresome position.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Potter, Chairman, AMBSC.