

Hi Warwick,

I know I'm a day late but I have only just purchased my AME and seen your request for input.

Frankly, after decades in the live steam hobby, I'm convinced the average member/ club and committee, have little interest in anything to do with OHS, Codes etc. They just want to "play trains". I'm not surprised that Competent Person's are meeting stiff resistance in compliance with AALS Codes.

Having CP's as also being members of the club does not work, because they are a member. Its as simple as that. In SA, after the Spin Dragon collapse at the Royal show, clubs had to comply with the directions of the Govt appointed engineer, or else they did not achieve certification to continue operating. Its a matter of authority and another member is seen not to possess that right to such authority. ie the CP is just another unwelcome opinion.

Now to answer some of your questions, purely as an individual. I am not representing either of the clubs I'm a member of.

(1) In my experience. the average member or committee has little knowledge of any statutes or regulations.

(2) When it comes to keeping records and documentation, there needs to be a conviction and recognition of benefits that can flow from such systems. This would require a considerable change in present "culture" and "ways of thinking". Education and training are necessary, but difficult to deliver given the hobby is spread over a vast area.

The next three questions are unknown to me.

(6) The average member respects AMBSC Inspectors, as they stop boilers from going "bang" but do not stop members from "playing trains"! There's that conviction concept again.

(7) Clubs need to be encouraged to include in their Rules, the Reasons and Rules relating to CP's

There needs to be clear national guide lines, for CP's to work to. This would prevent personal opinion clouding the issue. Thus everyone knows where they stand.

There needs to be a clear conviction conveyed down to the lowest ranks that failure to comply, may well result in loss of "freedom" to play trains.

There needs to be a clear conviction in all members, that the COP is right for their own situation.

Well I have said enough.

Regards Peter Hoye. Gawler SA.