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February 2, 1981

Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill on boiler and pressure vessel safety standards (AS 18.60). The bill would adapt the Alaska Statutes to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and make some alterations in the procedure of qualification for boiler and pressure vessel safety inspectors. A section-by-section description is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,

S/SSH

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

Attachment

SECTION-BY-SECTION DESCRIPTION

Section 1 exempts from inspection requirements pressure vessels of five cubic feet or less in places of public assembly and those having an inside diameter of six inches or less. Unfired pressure vessels and hot water supply boilers or domestic water heaters will also be exempted from the inspection requirements where their BTU capacities and water temperature do not exceed the limits specified by the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

Sections 2 and 3 require that both deputy inspectors, who are employed by the Department of Labor, and special inspectors, who are employed by owner-users or insurance companies and certified by the state, pass a national examination. The bill also specifies that companies authorized by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to insure against certain types of losses may employ special inspectors.

Section 4 requires inspectors to use reporting forms adopted by the Department of Labor rather than by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for certification inspection. It also specifies the kind of dangerous condition which a special inspector must report to the department.

Section 5 specifies that the examination for both special and deputy inspectors will be the standard National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessels Inspectors examination.

Section 6 spells out grounds for revocation or suspension of a state commission for either a special or deputy inspector. "Untrustworthiness" is removed as a ground for suspension or revocation. "Incompetence" remains. Conviction of specified crimes -- bribery and perjury -- in connection with official duties is inserted as a ground for revocation or suspension, and falsification is expanded and clarified to permit the penalty only for intentional falsification of any material matter in connection with an inspection report or an administrative or judicial proceeding. Substituting "intentional" for "wilful" in AS 18.60.200(a)(3) is intended to conform this terminology to that in the new criminal code.

Section 7 specifies the types of internal and external examination required for specific types of boilers, depending upon construction. The period of time within which certificates of inspection are required is also clarified.

Section 8 requires that each inspection be made by a deputy or special inspector.

Section 9 changes the recipient of fees from the deputy inspector to the Department of Labor. The section also repeals time limits on the validity of the inspection certificates; those limits are unnecessary because of the amendments to AS 18.60.320.

Section 10 requires any company authorized by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to insure boilers or unfired pressure vessels to notify the Department of Labor each time it discontinues the insurance for a boiler or pressure vessel in Alaska. Reinspection is then required only if the insurance was terminated because of a condition dangerous to life or property.

Section 11 requires the owner or user of the boiler or unfired pressure vessel inspected by a deputy inspector to pay the inspection fee to the department rather than to the deputy inspector.

Sections 12 and 13 change the definitions of boilers covered by second and third class boiler operators' licenses to clarify the maximum capacity for the steam boiler and the maximum heat output for the high temperature or high pressure water boiler.