

Standards Australia Limited  
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5 April 2016

Ms Jane Thompson  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Economics References Committee  
P.O. Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Thompson

**RE: Inquiry into the future of Australia's steel industry – Supplementary submission**

In our submission of 19 February 2016, we referred to current project work which was underway which would be of relevance to this Inquiry. We are writing to update the Committee on the progress of this work.

**Work program related to steel related standards**

On 1 December 2015, Standards Australia published a statement regarding:

- The process undertaken to finalise the projects and the outcomes of each project;
- Standards Australia's continued support for the development of steel standards in Australia.

A copy of that statement is attached to this submission.

**Conclusion of work program 5 April 2016**

Today, Standards Australia published six documents in the steel sector. Standards Australia communicated this by way of public statement, which is attached. The documents published today are:

- AS/NZS 1163, Cold-formed structural steel hollow sections
- AS/NZS 3678, Structural steel—Hot-rolled plates, floorplates and slabs
- AS/NZS 3679.1, Structural steel, Part 1: Hot-rolled bars and sections
- AS/NZS 3679.2, Structural steel, Part 2: Welded I sections
- TS 102:2016 Structural steel – Limits on elements added
- TS 103: 2016 Structural steel welding – Limits on boron in parent materials

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### Technical specifications regarding mineral additions

In December 2015, Standards Australia received two proposals to undertake work to develop Australian Technical Specifications. The proposals were submitted by the Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia (BOSMA).

The first related to the development of a technical specification to limit the elements that can be intentionally added to the chemical composition of structural steel. The intent of this technical specification was to supplement:

- AS/NZS 1163:2016 *Cold-formed structural steel and hollow sections;*
- AS/NZS 3678:2016 *Structural steel – Hot-rolled plates, floorplates and slabs*
- AS/NZS 3679.1:2016 *Structural steel – Part 1: Hot-rolled bars and sections*

On 5 April 2016 Standards Australia published TS 102:2016 *Structural steel – Limits on elements added* as an Australian Technical Specification.

The New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is considering whether the document should be published as a joint Australian and New Zealand Technical Specification.

The second related to the development of a technical specification to supplement:

- AS/NZS 1554.1:2014 *Structural steel welding – Part 1: Welding of steel structures*
- AS/NZS 1554.5:2014 *Structural steel welding – Part 5: Welding of steel structures subject to high levels of fatigue loading*
- AS/NZS 1554.7:2014 *Structural steel welding – Part 7: Welding of sheet steel structures*

On 5 April 2016 Standards Australia published TS 103: 2016 *Structural steel welding – Limits on boron in parent materials* as an Australian Technical Specification.

Both Technical Specifications met the requirements of our Standardisation Guides with respect to the development and publication of lower consensus documents.

Whilst under our consensus rules, we were not able to publish this content as part of the relevant normative Australian Standards, we have expedited development of these technical specification to allow for their use:

- Contractually;
- in industry based schemes; or
- as mandated by government.

Standards Australia has communicated the publication of these documents today by public statement. A copy of the Statement is attached.

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**Public comment commenced: DR AS/NZS 5131 fabrication and erection of structural steelwork**

A period of public comment has commenced with respect to a proposed new joint Australian and New Zealand Standard regarding proposed minimum standards for:

- Steel fabrication including bolting and welding;
- Preparation of steel surfaces for corrosion protection;
- Corrosion protection comprising painting and galvanizing;
- Erection and modification.

The comment period is open until 25 May 2016. Standards Australia has communicated this to stakeholders by way of public statement.

We trust that this information is of use to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Mr Adam Stingemore  
General Manager, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Affairs  
Standards Australia



# STATEMENT



1 December 2015

## **Standards Australia concludes work program on steel related standards**

- Standards Australia has concluded a work program on steel structural standards
- Further proposals are being developed by Australian industry to develop further specifications with support from Standards Australia
- Standards Australia confirms its commitment to working with the industry sector

In 2012, Standards Australia commenced a work program for the revision of Australian Standards

- AS/NZS 1163, *Cold-formed structural steel hollow sections*
- AS/NZS 3678, *Structural steel—Hot-rolled plates, floorplates and slabs*
- AS/NZS 3679.1, *Structural steel, Part 1: Hot-rolled bars and sections*
- AS/NZS 3679.2, *Structural steel, Part 2: Welded I sections*

In 2015 the standards development process reached the balloting stage where organisations represented on the technical committee were required to submit a formal vote on behalf of their constituents.

An organisation representing a major sectoral interest group submitted negative votes on each draft. Standards Australia commenced a process of resolution and agreement was reached on three of the four projects.

A negative vote remained with respect to AS/NZS 1163:2009, *Cold-formed structural steel hollow sections*.

## **Process to finalise projects**

Standards Australia escalated the resolution of the issue through its technical governance process.

The finalisation of the project was ultimately determined by Standards Australia's Standards Development Committee – a committee of the Standards Australia board comprising representatives of industry, government and consumer and community interests.

The issue related to:

- the inclusion of boron in steel;
- its addition through the manufacturing process;
- the reporting of boron in steel through the supply chain

## Outcome

### Finalisation of project work

Standards Australia will now proceed to publish AS/NZS 1163, *Cold-formed structural steel hollow sections* with the following changes to the ballot draft.

The standard:

- will require the content of boron and other elements to be reported, but
- will not prohibit the intentional addition to steel of certain elements including Boron.

### Standards Australia restates support for the steel sector

Throughout this process, Standards Australia has maintained a dialogue with the steel sector at various levels.

Standards Australia acknowledges the significant issues the sector is facing and at each turn, has stated its commitment to working with all interests in the development of Australian Standards and other technical specifications. In doing so, Standards Australia has remained conscious of its governance processes, World Trade Organization protocols and other requirements.

In this regard, Standards Australia will continue to work with interests within the steel supply chain to develop *Technical Specifications* that address Boron and other elements in steel as supplements to the Australian Standards.

# STATEMENT



5 April 2016

## **Substantial work program completed in the steel sector**

Today Standards Australia has published six significant documents in the steel sector.

The documents are as follows:

- *AS/NZS 1163, Cold-formed structural steel hollow sections*
- *AS/NZS 3678, Structural steel—Hot-rolled plates, floorplates and slabs*
- *AS/NZS 3679.1, Structural steel, Part 1: Hot-rolled bars and sections*
- *AS/NZS 3679.2, Structural steel, Part 2: Welded I sections*
- *TS 102:2016 Structural steel – Limits on elements added*
- *TS 103: 2016 Structural steel welding – Limits on boron in parent materials*

This represents the conclusion of a work program that has seen technical experts come together to revise important documents for structural steel and welding.

Whilst this has been a challenging process to undertake, Standards Australia has committed substantial resources to the work and believes the sector is supported with a set of contemporary standards and technical specifications.

Building an understanding of how the technical specifications may be used to support the Australian Standards through their use in contract, industry based schemes and through regulation will be the next step for the sector.

ENDS.

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