



Appendix C: Public Statement

STATEMENT

December 2015 1

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.