



ANNOUNCEMENT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Province of British Columbia has recently passed various changes to the BC *Safety Standards Act*. The main focus of these changes provides owners and operators of regulated equipment the opportunity to use Alternative Safety Approaches (ASA) that are consistent with the objectives of the *Safety Standards Act* in place of complying with the prescriptive requirements in the regulations. The changes enable the Minister to make regulations with respect to these alternative approaches. The Province will start drafting these regulations at the beginning of September 2010. Initially, the applicability of this new approach may be restricted to the bioenergy sector; however, as the *Act* applies to all sectors regulated under it, other sectors may be able to choose this option over time.

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development and the BC Safety Authority are seeking input from all stakeholders who might be impacted by these changes. As a result, the BC Safety Authority will be hosting a series of stakeholder engagement sessions during July and August seeking your input, views, comments and suggestions on the ASA approach. The BC Safety Authority will be holding several executive briefing sessions of approximately one to one-and-a-half hours during the period of July 15 to August 6, 2010. In addition to these executive briefings, during that same period the Authority will host a series of three-hour (half-day) information sessions, which will provide further details on the overall ASA concept as well as outline in broad terms:

- How an owner/operator might apply to register for an alternative safety approach,
- The activities an owner/operator would need to undertake to ensure that consistency with the objectives of the Safety Standards Act is being achieved under an Alternative Safety Approach,
- The document (typically referred to as a Safety Management Plan or SMP) an owner/operator would need to submit to the Authority to demonstrate consistency with the objectives of the Act and subsidiary regulations are being met, and
- The process(es) the Authority may implement to review, accept, or cancel an SMP submitted by an owner/operator.

The BC Safety Authority will be seeking your input at both the executive and three-hour sessions. The goal of the sessions is to find a best fit of the needs of stakeholders and the regulator for the purposes of developing regulations and policies. As an executive we hope you will be able to set aside an hour during the period of July 15-August 6 to attend one of the executive sessions. It is our intent to hold the executive sessions early in the morning or during lunch hour to better afford you the opportunity to attend.

Further we hope you will pass the fact that we are holding a series of three-hour sessions to others in your organization and that they will be able to fit one of those sessions into their schedule.

The schedule and locations are presented below. We will be posting further information on these sessions on the BC Safety Authority website at www.safetyauthority.ca/se_asa

ALTERNATIVE SAFETY APPROACHES CONSULTATION MEETING SCHEDULE: JULY/AUGUST 2010		
Date	Location	Meeting
August 3 Tuesday	Prince George UNBC Room 7-172 Bentley Centre 3333 University Way	Executive breakfast and information session: 7:30am-8:30am Broad consultation meeting: 9:00am-12:00pm
August 5 Thursday	Nanaimo Coast Bastion Inn Malaspina Room 11 Bastion Street	Executive lunch and information session: 11:30am-12:30pm Broad consultation meeting: 1:00pm-4:00pm
August 6 Friday	Kelowna Delta Grand Cascade Room 1310 Water Street	Executive lunch and information session: 11:30am-12:30pm Broad consultation meeting: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Primer to consultation sessions: Discussion paper

Appended to this announcement is a primer to assist you and your staff in preparing for the consultation sessions.

If you are unable to attend any of the consultation sessions, we encourage you to read the primer on the website (see Discussion Paper) and would appreciate your written comments on Alternative Safety Approaches. Please use the feedback form located at www.safetyauthority.ca/se_asa.