



## **BOILER SAFETY INTERPRETATION/TECHNICAL LETTER BSI20**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Authorized Inspection Companies

**FROM:** Fred P. Barton, Director/Chief Inspector  
Boiler Safety Compliance Program

**SUBJECT:** Overdue Inspections

**DATE:** September 11, 2003

Last March 31, 2003 we sent to each inspection company a list of their overdue inspections through April 30, 2002. The 3500 listed overdue inspections were more than a year overdue. To date, the 3500 overdue inspections listing has only been reduced to 1400. The feedback we received on this mailing was: the data was misleading because reports had already been sent in making objects inactive; recommending certificates be issued; or the companies no longer inspected the object. Of these remaining objects, 68 (5%) are now candidates to receive citations for operating high-pressure boilers without certificates.

Over the last eighteen (18) months Boiler Safety has had a backlog of processing inspection reports. The backlog has been eliminated. Once again, our computer records are current, and they contain more technical and administrative information than before 2002.

The number of overdue inspections now exceeds 5,000 and represents 8% of all objects registered in the Commonwealth. We are highly confident that all objects reported inactive are taken into account as well as all acceptable reports submitted. We estimate 50% of the 5,000 overdue objects have been replaced or made inactive but are unreported. The remaining 2,500 objects need certificate inspections. It is a fact of life that competition for inspection service is fierce, resulting in some inspection companies ceasing certificate inspection as soon as the contract (policy) expires. The prominence of the reinsurance marketplace confuses owners/users of objects and is a major factor that allows for inspections to become overdue.

Our goal is to reduce the 5,000 objects overdue for inspection to zero. Each inspection company is expected to fulfill its obligation to provide timely certificate inspection service to owners/users in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Code provides for a 60-day grace period to allow for inspections after the expiration date and to obtain a renewal certificate without penalty.

To better utilize the 60-day grace period for its original purpose, Boiler Safety will publish a listing of all overdue inspections immediately after the grace period ends. Periodically, we will send out to all inspection companies a list of all overdue inspections that remain uninspected 60 days after the expiration date.

We will also send the “delinquent” letters to owners/users reminding them of their responsibilities within 30 days before the expiration date.

The new listing and notification process will begin on November 1, 2003.

If you would like to meet to discuss overdue inspections or any other issue, please let me know as soon as you can.

FPB/fs

pc: American Insurance Association