



22 January 2019

The Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
Southbank 3006

**Court Ref: COR 2015 6555**

Dear Registrar

**Investigation into the death of Anthony Francis Carnevale**

Thank you for a copy of the findings and recommendations of Coroner Paresa Antoniadis Spanos into the tragic death of Anthony Carnevale.

Standards Australia acknowledges the tragic circumstances in which Mr Carnevale lost his life. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

We note in the findings that Coroner Spanos made the following comments in relation to Standards Australia:

*Public safety would be significantly enhanced by amendment of the relevant Australian Standards (including but not limited to AS 1596 'Storage and Handling of LPG gas'; AS2030 series 'The approval, fitting, inspection, testing and maintenance of cylinders for the transport of compressed gases'; AS 2473 parts 1 and 2 'Valves for compressed gas cylinders') so as to mandate the use of safety valves that will minimise the risk that a cylinder will be left inadvertently opened or partially opened, particularly during transportation from one place to another*

**Standards Australia**

By way of background, Standards Australia is Australia's leading independent, non-governmental standards organisation. We are also Australia's representatives of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Standards Australia is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Our members include the Commonwealth government, State and Territory governments and representatives of industry sectors and community interests such as the Australian Industry Group, Australian Retailers Association, Engineers Australia, and Master Plumbers Australia.

In addition to our members, we work with many hundreds of stakeholder organisations and many thousands of expert volunteers to develop standards. Organisations involved in our process include various industry associations, professional and community based organisations, government departments and regulatory agencies with an interest in the setting of standards in Australia.

Standards Australia publishes voluntary standards. We have no role in the regulation or enforcement of rules related to the documents that we develop and adopt. However, State and Commonwealth governments often refer to standards in their legislation. When this happens, these standards can become mandatory.

Equally, we do not certify or accredit compliance with standards. Rather, Standards Australia's principal function is to form technical committees made up of stakeholders from government, business, industry, community, academia and consumers. Our role is to facilitate a consensus based process through which these committees develop standards where there is a demonstrated need and in the public interest.

### **Standards development process**

Standards Australia does not initiate standards development projects without stakeholder support. Rather, a project to prepare a new standard, revise an existing one or propose participation internationally at the ISO or the IEC, can only commence with the support of external stakeholders, such as government, industry or trade association, professional body, consumer organisation or an individual, through our project proposal process.

Once received, a proposal is reviewed to ensure it has met the key criteria including a net benefit case and stakeholder consultation and support.

Following approval of a proposal, it is assigned to a technical committee. Standards Australia reviews the constitution of all technical committees before commencing any new project work. Standards Australia then holds a kick-off meeting with the technical committee to introduce the project. The committee then commences the drafting of the standard.

As part of the standards development process, committee drafts are available to the public for comment for nine weeks. This stage ensures that the broader community has an opportunity to review the content and direction of the document prior to its completion. All comments from the public are considered in detail by the technical committee and, if necessary, further drafting is undertaken. Prior to publication, the committee votes on the final draft. For the standard to be published, consensus must be reached in accordance with our standardisation guides.

### **Project to introduce a new LPG leisure cylinder valve and appliance connection**

In August 2018, Standards Australia received an initial project proposal aimed at introducing new requirements for gas cylinder valves and connections to appliances by proposing amendments to the following Australian standards:

1. AS 2473.2:2015 Valves for compressed gas cylinders - Outlet connections (threaded) and stem (inlet) threads;
2. AS 4627:2017 Quick-connect devices for gas;
3. AS/NZS 1596:2014 The storage and handling of LP Gas;
4. AS/NZS 5601.1:2013 Gas installations - General installations;
5. AS/NZS 5601.2:2013 Gas installations - LP Gas installations in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes;
6. AS/NZS 5263.0:2017 Gas appliances - General requirements; and
7. AS/NZS 5263.1.7:2017 Gas appliances Domestic outdoor gas barbecues.

As noted above, Standards Australia approves projects based on certain key criteria. While the proposal demonstrated strong net benefit and a clear need with a well-defined scope of work, Standards Australia required evidence of stakeholder consultation and support.

On 2 October 2018, Standards Australia facilitated the Safe + Connect Forum in order to establish stakeholder support for the proposed project, determine the forward plan for the amendment of the relevant standards and confirm the scope of the proposed amendments. The Forum allowed the proposal proponents an opportunity to familiarise stakeholders with the proposed changes and seek evidence of support from relevant interest groups across industry, regulators, consumers and retailers. The Forum participants agreed that they supported the project proposal and endorsed that it be submitted to Standards Australia for consideration.

A final project proposal was submitted to Standards Australia in November 2018. In December 2018, Standards Australia approved the project, which encompasses 7 individual projects across 5 Technical Committees. At this stage, we anticipate that each project will be commenced by the relevant committee by March 2019, with the proposed amendments for each standard submitted for public comment in 2019. We are hopeful that these amendments will be published in 2019, subject to public comment and assuming the relevant committees agree to publication through consensus.

### **Effect of proposed changes to standards**

The proponent for the proposal has informed us that the proposed changes to the standards identified above aim to deliver an orderly transition to a new LPG cylinder valve and appliance connection that suits Australian conditions and that aims to address the safety concerns discussed in the Coroner's Findings.

It is important to note that once the amended standards are published, then it is a matter for the relevant government departments responsible for gas energy and appliances to reference the standards in relevant State or Territory legislation to make compliance mandatory. We are informed by the various State and Territory regulators that the new valves will be mandatory on new cylinders sold from January 2020, with provision for a 10 year transition period for existing cylinders.

### **Response to the Coroner's Findings**

After receiving the Coroner's Findings, Standards Australia sought the views of Technical Committees AG-001, AG-006, AG-013, ME-002 and ME-015, being the committees responsible for the development of gas related standards.

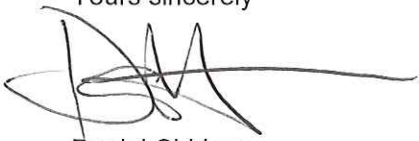
In particular, Standards Australia asked the committees whether standards identified by the Coroner but not covered by the current amendment projects require review and amendment in light of the Coroner's Findings. In response, certain stakeholders indicated that the current project is aimed at leisure LPG cylinders being those most likely to be used by consumers and members of the general public. In addition, the additional standards identified by the Coroner relate to acetylene and non-refillable cylinders for compressed gas and therefore are not relevant to the valve change for LPG cylinders. Other stakeholders expressed the view that while the conversion should apply to all cylinders, efforts should be directed at leisure cylinders in the first instance.

In order to progress this enquiry further, Standards Australia will request each of the maintenance committees listed above to include an agenda item at their next meeting to consider whether there is a need and stakeholder support for the amendment of the additional standards identified by the Coroner.

Standards Australia will keep the Coroner's Court of Victoria informed of developments.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel welcome to contact me on 02 9237 6041 or [daniel.chidgey@standards.org.au](mailto:daniel.chidgey@standards.org.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Chidgey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Chidgey  
Head of Stakeholder Engagement