STATE OF OREGON **MAY 2, 2003**

BUILDING CODES DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL LICENSED BOILER BUSINESSES
ALL DEPUTY AND SPECIAL INSPECTORS

FROM: F RAY ANDRUS
CHIEF BOILER INSPECTOR

RE: JURISDICTIONAL ENFORCEMENT OF ASME CODE SECTION 1, PART PG-60

The minimum safety standards for construction of power boilers installed in the State of Oregon is ASME Code Section I. The National Board Inspection Code, NB 23, is adopted for inspections and repairs of all pressure equipment subject to the Oregon Boiler Law.

The cited ASME Code Sections requires that all power boilers, except forced flow steam generators with no fixed water line, and high temperature water boilers of the forced circulation type, be equipped with at least one water gage glass. This section also describes Code requirements for gage glass and water column inlet, outlet and drain piping, and associated valve arrangements.

Owners and operators of power boilers, and some service technicians, believe that the water gage glass is of minor importance to the boiler. A common belief is that if the low water cut off is working correctly, the gage glass may be shut off to prevent leaks from the packing glands. Deputy Inspectors have discovered several instances of missing drain piping or valves for gage glasses, broken or missing glass, and leaking packing glands.

The gage glass is mandated on power boilers to ensure that the proper water level is visible and maintained. This is much more important now since Section I has discontinued the requirement for gage cocks on water columns.

All Deputy and Special inspectors, and licensed boiler maintenance persons are required to ensure that steam boiler gauge glasses and associated piping are in proper operating condition, or are promptly repaired if found to be faulty during inspection. The boiler owner must understand the important role the gauge glass plays in safe boiler operation, and must be familiar with proper gauge glass blow down procedures.