



Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association

Founded 1922

UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, AND WORKING IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

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BULLETIN No. 1.

PROGRESS TO 31st OCTOBER, 1924.

1. SECTIONAL COMMITTEES.

- (a) **Cement.**—The Cement Sectional Committee has completed its work of drafting the Specification for Portland Cement. The draft was submitted to the 6th Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 14th and 15th October, and with one (non-technical) amendment was approved and referred to the Publications Committee for the necessary action regarding its issue as an Australian Tentative Standard Specification.
- (b) **Locomotive.**—The Interim Locomotive Sectional Committee has had under consideration 20 draft specifications for Railway Rolling Stock Material. Of these, eleven have been drafted by sub-committees and, subject to the approval of the Sectional Committee, will be submitted to the Main Committee, for consideration, with a view to publication. The eleven specifications are for:—
Spring Steel for Laminated Springs
Laminated Springs
Spring Steel for Volute and Helical Springs
Volute and Helical Springs
Steel Castings
Steel Plates, Angles, etc., and Rivets
Copper Plates
Copper Rods
Copper Boiler Flue Tubes
Brass Boiler Flue Tubes
Copper Tubes for Steam Pipes.
- (c) **Structural Steel.**—A draft specification and lists of rolled steel sections were submitted to the Executive Committee. Subsequent slight amendments were made and approved by the Executive Committee, and the specification has been considered by the Publications Committee and is now ready for publication.
The latest (1924) edition of the British Standard Specification for rolled steel sections has been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Australian Specification for Structural Steel.
- (d) **Tramway Rails and Fishplates.**—The work of the Tramway Rails and Fishplates Sectional Committee is complete but for the design of a rolled guard rail, for which a sub-committee was appointed. Owing to some difficulty in co-ordinating the requirements of the tramway systems in different States, no finality has yet been reached in this matter. The question is now under consideration.

- (e) **Electrical.**—The Electrical Sectional Committee has completed a comprehensive organisation to deal with the large number of draft specifications submitted to it.

The Sydney Section has 17 sub-committees, with the same organisation as the corresponding committee of the British Engineering Standards Association. Each sub-committee meets once a fortnight.

The Melbourne Section has 5 sub-committees dealing with the same range of subjects as the Sydney Section, since the two Sections must work in collaboration. There are 68 specifications under consideration, and of these several will be finalised in a few weeks, and the drafts submitted for approval as Australian Tentative Standard Specifications.

An important decision regarding Electrical Frequencies has been practically finalised, and will no doubt be published without delay as a preliminary to its inclusion in a tentative standard specification. This decision is as follows:—

“That the Standard Frequency for alternating current supply shall be 50 cycles, provided that a frequency of 25 cycles may be used for special industries for which the advantages of the lower frequency are such as obviously to out-weigh other considerations.”

The comprehensive nature of this Committee's operations and the activity with which the sectional and sub-committees are undertaking their work should result in a large number of urgently-needed specifications being available for issue at an early date.

- (f) **Power Survey.**—The Power Survey Sectional Committee has established an extensive organisation. An Advisory Committee has been appointed in each State. Nine Commonwealth panels deal respectively with—

- (1) Coals and Lignites
- (2) Oil
- (3) Water Power
- (4) Timber
- (5) Special Fuels
- (6) Prospective Power Demands
- (7) National Needs
- (8) Transmission and Distribution
- (9) Research.

In each State similar panels will be appointed. Secretarial assistance is being authorised, and on the finalisation of these and other preliminary arrangements the Committee will commence operations on an extensive scale.

- (g) **Pipes and Pipe Fittings.**—The Pipes and Pipe Fittings Sectional Committee has been engaged in the collection of data for its preliminary deliberations. A considerable amount of work has been done in this connection, and the first meeting of the Committee will be held at an early date.
- (h) **Paints and Paint Oils, Varnishes and Enamels.**—The Sectional Committees appointed for the consideration of these materials have not yet met, owing to the delay in the appointment of Chairmen. At the meeting of the Executive Committee on the 14th and 15th October, Professor Eastaugh, of Sydney University, was appointed Chairman to both these Committees, which will now be able to assume their duties.

2. SUBJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO STANDARDISATION.

- (a) **Railway Rails and Fishplates.**—At one of the early meetings of the Executive Committee a decision was made to appoint a Sectional Committee to deal with Railway Rails and Fishplates, but action was subsequently deferred.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee a request was made by letter from the Inter-State Conference of Railway Com-

missioners for the standardisation of these products, and nominations for representation of the Railway Departments of the States were submitted.

It was decided to constitute a Sectional Committee with the following representation:—

The Inter-State Conference of	
Railway Commissioners	6 representatives
The Bureau of Steel Manufacturers ..	3 representatives
Associated Chambers of Commerce ..	1 representative

It was further decided that Sir Thomas Lyle be invited to accept Chairmanship of this Committee, and that the Committee should meet in Melbourne.

- (b) **Leather Belting.**—On receipt of a recommendation for the consideration of the Standardisation of Leather Belting, a report dealing with the question was prepared by the Honorary Technical Secretary and submitted to the Executive Committee at its last meeting. The Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report, that a conference be convened to consider the desirability of standardising Leather and other forms of Belt and Rope drives.

- (c) **Bore-Casing.**—The question of standardisation of Bore-casing was discussed by the Main Committee last year, but action was deferred pending the holding of an Inter-State Conference on Artesian Water, at which the matter would come under consideration.

The Conference was held during October, 1924, but no advice has yet been received as to what action is to be taken.

- (d) **Coal Mining Requisites.**—The Newcastle Organising Committee recently appointed a sub-committee to report on materials used in mining, for which there was need of Standardisation. A comprehensive report is being prepared for presentation for the consideration of the Main Committee, and is now nearing completion.

An enquiry recently received by this Association from the B.E.S.A., as to the existence of standards for mining equipment in this country, for the information of a Sectional Committee of the British Association dealing with the matter, is a further indication of the need for Standardisation in this class of material.

- (e) **Pedestals and Bearings.**—A report prepared by a sub-committee of the Newcastle Organising Committee on the need for Standardisation of Pedestals and Bearings, has been submitted for the consideration of the next meeting of the Main Committee.

- (f) **Hose Fittings and Bibcocks.**—A report dealing with these products has been prepared by a sub-committee of the N.S.W. State Organising Committee, and is submitted for the consideration of the Main Committee and for reference to the Pipes and Pipe Fittings Sectional Committee.

3. STANDING COMMITTEES.

- (a) **Regulations and By-laws Committee.**—The draft Regulations of the Association and By-laws governing the control of Sectional Committees have been adopted with necessary amendments, and the printing is now well in hand. Copies will be distributed in due course.

- (b) **Publications Committee.**—The draft Specification for Structural Steel has been prepared for publication, and a standard form of publication for all specifications issued by the Association has been adopted.

In this connection the following resolution of the Executive Committee, passed at its last meeting, is quoted for the information and guidance of all Committees:—

“On the recommendation of the Hon. Technical Secretary, it was decided that all references, in official publications and correspondence, to the Specifications of this Association be qualified where applicable by the words ‘Australian Standard’ or ‘Australian Tentative Standard,’ as the case may be.”

The object is to make the term “Australian Standard Specification” familiar, and to encourage the adoption of a uniform method of reference.

(c) **Library.**—Proposals are under consideration for a more complete development of the Association's Library, and the Committee has been authorised to incur expenditure up to £200.

(d) **Propaganda Committee.**—

(i.) *N.S.W. State Organising Committee.*—An approved scheme of propaganda is in operation, including circular letters, addresses, and personal canvassing by members of the Committee. Publicity has been maintained in the daily and technical press.

A report on Hose Fittings and Bibcocks has been prepared and forwarded for consideration by the Main Committee. (See Section 2.)

A report on the need for Standardisation in sizes of Sawm Timber is in course of preparation.

(ii.) *Newcastle Organising Committee.*—Reports from this Committee indicate considerable activity in the matter of preparation of reports, regarding subjects for Standardisation. These cover Pedestals and Bearings and Coal Mine Requisites. (See Section 2.)

A recommendation has been submitted by this Committee regarding the Standardisation of Cast Iron and Steel Pipes for Water and Sewerage, and also Cast Iron and Steel Pipes for Gas.

(iii.) *Victorian State Organising Committee.*—The work of this Committee has been largely in abeyance, pending the appointment of a Secretary. Individual members have, however, been engaged in maintaining propaganda work and other activities. A Secretary has now been appointed, and this fact, coupled with the advantage of the Association having secured more spacious office accommodation, will admit of the work of the Committee being prosecuted more actively.

(iv.) *South Australian State Organising Committee.*—The South Australian representatives of the Association, assisted by Mr. James Coghlan, have recently established an Organising Committee in that State on an active basis. A Secretary having now been appointed, the Committee intend commencing their activities immediately.

(v.) *Queensland, Tasmanian, and Western Australian State Organising Committees.*—No reports have been received since the issue of the last progress report.

4. GENERAL.

(a) **Report of the progress of the Association to 30th June, 1924:**—This report, now in course of preparation, is nearing completion. It will be printed and distributed amongst members of the Association, Officers of those Government Departments and private organisations that are interested in the question of Standardisation, and kindred Associations in other countries. The report will be, to a large extent, a historical record of the early years of the Association, and will be of considerable service in the propaganda campaign.

(b) **Half-yearly Progress Report.**—The practice in vogue in kindred Associations of issuing a Half-yearly Progress Report of the matters under consideration for Standardisation has been adopted. The standard form has been used with such amendments as it requires in order to conform to the constitution of this Association.

The report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1924, is now being prepared for distribution.

(c) **Headquarters' Office.**—The expansion of the activities of the Association, which has necessitated an extension of the Headquarters' Staff, has resulted in such an encroachment on the office space of the I.E. Aust., in whose offices the Association has hitherto been accommodated, that it has been found necessary to secure larger offices.

A suite of offices in Macleay House, 16 College Street, Sydney, has been secured jointly by this Association, the I.E. Aust., Headquarters, and the I.E. Aust., Sydney Division. The offices will satisfactorily meet the requirements of the Association's work.