



# Issue Update

## Safety Standards Legislation Introduced

The Ministry of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services today introduced two pieces of legislation designed to streamline and modernize safety systems in British Columbia.

The Safety Standards Act sets out the framework for administering the safety system. It consolidates current legislation governing the regulation of work and products related to boilers and boiler systems, electrical equipment, elevating devices and passenger conveyors, gas systems and equipment, pressure vessels, pressure piping, refrigeration systems and equipment, ski lifts, and amusement rides.

The new Act is expected to increase flexibility and responsiveness. Technical requirements will now be found in the regulations, which are still being drafted and will be available for review in the coming months.

The Safety Authority Act establishes an independent safety authority which is supposed to provide a more efficient operating system for industry. The authority is scheduled to open its doors by April of 2004.

Despite this new authority, the provincial government will remain responsible for the following:

- Setting legislation and regulation.
- Adopting codes and standards by regulation.
- Managing relationships related to inter-provincial codes and standards.
- Overseeing local government participation in the safety system.
- Establishing fee-setting process and criteria.
- Overseeing the appeal system.
- Delegating administrative powers to the authority
- Monitoring results.

In developing this legislation government has consulted extensively with industry. It is the result of significant discussion with stakeholder groups beginning in 1995. Further consultation is expected during the development stage of the regulations.

For further information and updates visit the Ministry website at:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/mcaws/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcaws/)

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