

Memorandum

To : All Standards Board Members

Date: July 25, 2008

From : **Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board**
Hans Boersma, Senior Engineer – Standards Board

Subject : Air Compressors

Unless otherwise directed, no further action will be taken by the Board staff regarding OSHSB Petition File No. 466.

In Petition File No. 466, Mr. Perry Kelley, Design Engineer for Owens-Illinois, petitioned the Board in 2005 to amend Section 3518 and update the pressure relieving device (PRD) requirement in Section 3518(a). The Petitioner reasoned that centrifugal (radial) air compressors incapable of exceeding the maximum allowable working pressure of the system should be exempted from the PRD requirement. On July 21, 2005 the Board granted the petition to the extend that Board staff convene an advisory committee and consider the Petitioner's recommendation.

Board staff convened an advisory committee on June 27, 2008, in Sacramento, CA. No consensus was reached to go forward with the proposal. The Advisory Committee found insufficient data regarding the effect of the proposal on the safety of workers that would support the proposal. The committee concluded that existing language of Section 3518 provides a known safety factor in contrast to what was proposed by Mr. Kelley, and therefore the proposal left too many unanswered questions regarding the effect of the proposal on the safety of workers. The committee did not agree that amendment of Section 3518 was necessary.

Based on the opinion of the advisory committee not to go forward with the proposed amendment of Section 3518, staff recommends no further action be taken on Petition OSHSB File No. 466.

cc: Marley Hart, Executive Officer, OSHSB
Len Welsh, Chief, DOSH
Larry McCune, Principal Engineer, DOSH Research & Standards Safety Unit
Michael Manieri, Principal Engineer, OSHSB