



STANDARDS
Australia

11 August 2017

Rosemary Carlin
Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK, VIC 3006

Dear Coroner

RE: Coronial Investigation of Karen LEE
Court Ref: COR 2012 005122

We refer to our letter dated 27 March 2015 (enclosed for ease of reference) and provide the following update.

Standards Australia's actions following receipt of the Coroner's findings

The relevant technical committees for recreational and occupational diving are Technical Committee CS-083 *Recreational Underwater Diving* and SF-017 *Occupational Diving*.

On 25 May 2015 Standards Australia convened an industry forum to:

- seek more involvement from industry in connection with the development of standards relating to diving;
- discuss the possibility of adopting the ISO standards that are listed above as Australian Standards, to replace the AS 4005 series; and
- discuss the possible revision of AS/NZS 2299.3.

Members of Committees SF-017 and CS-083 participated in the forum. The forum participants discussed the possible adoption of the ISO standards listed above and agreed that they would be a suitable replacement for the AS 4005 series and while Standards Australia continued to work with stakeholders to progress this no project proposal was received.

Standards Australia also recently sought the views of SF-017, the committee responsible for AS/NZS 2299.3:2003 in relation to the currency of AS/NZS 2299.3:2003 and what steps should be taken in light of the Coroner's findings.

Committee SF-017 met on 20 and 21 March 2017 and resolved to withdraw AS/NZS 2293.3-2003. SF-017 were of the view that there are other more appropriate technical documents that are widely used for recreational industry diving and snorkelling operations.

Next steps

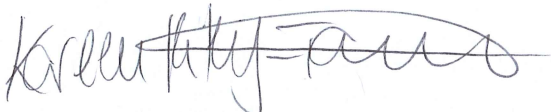
Unfortunately to date Standards Australia has not received any project proposals for the adoption of the ISO standards listed above or for the revision of AS/NZS 2299.3:2003.

As indicated in previous correspondence, Standards Australia does not initiate standards development projects by its own inclination. Rather, a project to prepare a new or revise an existing Standard can only result from a request by external stakeholders, such as government, industry or trade association, professional body, consumer organisation or an individual, through our Project Proposal process.

While there does not appear to be broad support from relevant stakeholder groups for the adoption of the above listed ISO standards or a revision of AS/NZS 2299.3:2003 at this time, Standards Australia remains ready to engage with relevant stakeholders and work with them should we receive a proposal.

Should you have any additional questions, my contact details are 02 9237 6047 or Kareen.Riley-Takos@standards.org.au.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kareen Riley-Takos', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kareen Riley-Takos
General Manager Operations

27 March 2015

Rosemary Carlin
Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK, VIC 3006



Dear Coroner

RE: Coronial Investigation of Karen LEE
Court Ref: COR 2012 005122

I am writing in response to your letter dated 30 January 2015 which attached the Finding Into Death Without Inquest in this matter dated 5 January 2015.

Standards Australia Limited (**Standards Australia**) provides the following information in response to Recommendations 1 and 2.

Recommendation 1

That consideration be given by Standards Australia and relevant stakeholders to amending the Australian Standards so as to require periodic assessment of qualified SCUBA divers in key techniques including, but not limited to, buoyancy control.

Recommendation 2

That consideration be given by Standards Australia and relevant stakeholders to amending the Australian Standards so as to require Dive Charter operators to ensure divers carry a SMB [surface marker buoy] and are instructed to use it properly.

Background

1. In 2014, Standards Australia sought project proposals from stakeholders regarding the proposed revision of AS/NZS 2299.3 *Occupational diving operations – Recreational industry diving and snorkelling operations* and standards from the AS 4005 series, *Training and certification of recreational divers*.
2. On 31 March 2014, the following standards were published by the International Organisation for Standardization (**ISO**):
 - a. ISO 24801-1:2014 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers – Part 1: Level 1 – Supervised diver*;
 - b. ISO 24801-2:2014 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers – Part 2: Level 2 – Autonomous diver*;

- c. ISO 24801-3:2014 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for the training of recreational scuba divers – Part 3: Level 3 – Dive leader*;
- d. ISO 24802-1:2014 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for the training of scuba instructors – Part 1: Level 1*;
- e. ISO 24802-2:2014 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for the training of scuba instructors – Part 2: Level 2*;

which complement an existing ISO standard, ISO 24803:2007 *Recreational diving services – Requirements for recreational scuba diving service providers*.

3. In August 2014, Standards Australia received a draft, incomplete project proposal from The South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (**SPUMS**) proposing the revision of AS 4005.1, however that proposal was not finalised or submitted to Standards Australia for formal consideration.
4. In September 2014, Standards Australia wrote to Technical Committee CS-083 regarding the possible withdrawal of the AS 4005 series. Based on the responses received by Standards Australia from Technical Committee CS-083 and other communications with stakeholders, it was determined that:
 - a. the following standards would be withdrawn:
 - i. AS 4005.1 SUPP 1-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving - Medical form for prospective recreational SCUBA divers*;
 - ii. AS 4005.1 SUPP 2-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving - Statement of health for recreational diving*;
 - iii. AS 4005.1-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - Minimum entry-level SCUBA diving*;
 - iv. AS 4005.2-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - Recreational SCUBA dive supervisor*;
 - v. AS 4005.3-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - Assistant SCUBA instructor*;
 - vi. AS 4005.4-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - SCUBA instructor*; and
 - vii. AS 4005.5-2000 *Training and certification of recreational divers - SCUBA instructor trainer*; and
 - b. AS/NZS 2299.3 *Occupational diving operations – Recreational industry diving and snorkelling operations* would be considered for revision.
5. The withdrawal of the AS 4005 series took effect from 13 February 2015

Proposed further activities

6. Standards Australia proposes to undertake the following activities in response to the Coroner's recommendations:
 - a. Standards Australia is planning to convene an Industry Forum to:
 - i. seek more involvement from industry in connection with the development of standards relating to diving;
 - ii. discuss the possibility of adopting the ISO standards that are listed in this letter above as Australian Standards, to replace the AS 4005 series; and
 - iii. discuss the possible revision of AS/NZS 2299.3.

That Industry Forum is scheduled to take place on Monday 25 May 2015.

- b. After the Industry Forum takes place, Standards Australia intends to call upon the relevant technical committee involved in the development of:
- any proposed adoption of ISO standards for diving; and
 - any revision of AS/NZS 2299.3;
- to consider including within one or more of those Australian Standards:
- a requirement for periodic assessment of qualified SCUBA divers in key techniques including, but not limited to, buoyancy control; and
 - a requirement for Dive Charter operators to ensure divers carry a surface marker buoy (SMB) and are instructed to use it properly.
7. Details of the processes by which Australian Standards are developed are set out in Standards Australia's standardization guides, which are available online at http://www.standards.org.au/StandardsDevelopment/Developing_Standards/Pages/Standardisation-Guides.aspx. Any queries in relation to this matter and the standards development process may be directed to Alison Scotland at 02 9237 6088 and alison.scotland@standards.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Kareen Riley-Takos
General Manager, Standards Development