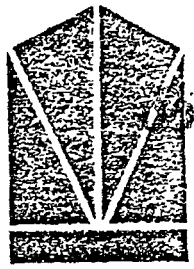
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SHIPBUILDERS COUNCIL OF AMERICA

1730 K STREET N. W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • 202|338-7722

September 27, 1968

To: SHIPYARD MEMBERS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Subject: Walsh-Healey Act, Revised Health and Safety Standards

Enclosed is a copy of revised Health and Safety Standards for Federal Supply Contracts under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the press release issued by Labor Secretary Wirtz at the time of publication of the proposals in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The revised standards parallel the regulations published in the FEDERAL REGISTER July 10, 1968 applicable to contracts covered by the Service Contract Act of 1965.

This continuing effort within the Department of Labor to adopt uniform regulations covering all Federal statutes which include safety features was predicted at a meeting of the Council's Safety Committee with Bureau of Labor Standards staff last July. It was disclosed at that time that the Walsh-Healey regulations were up for review to make them correspond more closely to the new Service Contract Act regulations.

The proposed revised Walsh-Healey Health and Safety Standards deal with such matters as occupational noise exposure; radiation exposure; exposure to harmful gases; vapor fumes; dusts and mists; materials handling; safety guards on machines; compressed gases; welding; traffic safety; and record keeping.

Our reaction is that these revised rules should receive most careful scrutiny by shipyard staff to ensure that this opportunity for review by industry will not be lost. For instance, in one obscure paragraph on the last page it should be noted that Section 50-207.74, covering safety practices for welding

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and cutting containers which have held combustibles, requires that the work be in strict accordance with the rules and procedures embodied in American Welding Society Pamphlet A-6.0-65, edition of 1965. Does this mean application of these rules to welding in ship construction and repair?

According to the notice, a hearing has been scheduled on the proposed revision for November 6 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 216B of the Labor Department Building in Washington, D.C. To assure proper Council participation and preparation for this hearing, we would greatly appreciate any prompt comment you may have on the pending revision so that a position paper can be drafted by the Safety Committee for submission by the Council.

Ed Hood

Edwin M. Hood
President