BRANZ
BUILDING ON KNOWLEnGC

19 May 2003

Dear Sir

The Future of Joint AS/NZS Standards

Recently we received the enclosed note from the Construction Industry Council which indicates that the continued production of joint Australia/New Zealand standards is in jeopardy.

Joint standards now cover a considerable number of product types, testing methods and operations within New Zealand's building industry.

After reading the message would you please make your formal considerations known to either myself at BRANZ or directly to the CIC Chairman, John Pfahlert, by 10 June so that appropriate action can be taken when the SNZ and AS CEO's and Chairs meet mid-June. A listing of current joint AS/NZS standards is enclosed for your reference.

Yours sincerely

Graham Rowe
General Manager
Business Information Services

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL
64 4 496 6550

CIC

13 May 2003

To: Members - NZ Construction Industry

Council

Subject: Future of Joint Austraila/NZ Standards

Members will be aware that for some years Standards NZ has had in place a Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement with Standards Australia over the development of joint standards.

At a recent meeting between the chairs and CEO's of the 2 organisations, Standards Australia verbally indicated that they did not wish to renew the agreement. The implication of this is that no further joint standards would be able to developed between Australia and New Zealand.

The NZCIC. and previously the CLG. has had a policy that in the first instance we support the adoption in New Zealand of international standards where they are appropriate. As a second preference we support the development and adoption of joint Australia/NZ standards. Finally, we develop our own SNZ standards only where neither of the other courses of action is available or appropriate.

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Standards Australia has signalled they do not wish to pursue the development of joint standards in future. To date they have not provided any reasons for this, although reasons are being sought.

If Standards NZ and Industry wish to preserve the development of joint standards with Australia then they need to get a clear signal from users of joint standards that they value their existence. If industry supports the continued development of joint standards then SNZ will be in a position to open a dialogue with SAI and the NZ government to bring pressure to bear to reverse the decision by the Standards Council of Australia.

SNZ and SAI CEO's and Chairs are meeting in Sydney in mid June to further discuss this issue.

By 10 June it would be useful if members of NZCIC could consult their own members and seek formal views on the implications of not having a process to develop joint standards between Australia and New Zealand.

Alternatives appear to include NZ moving to adopt other international standards, and/or expanding the development of NZ standards.

Examples of specific circumstances where the adoption of a joint standard has been of benefit to NZ businesses exporting to Australia would be helpful in our advocacy with Australia.

This is a critically important issue that requires our immediate attention. If possible I would like to get your preliminary views at the CIC meeting in Auckland on 22 May.

Please ring me to discuss If necessary on 04 496 3275. I'm happy to discuss this directly with your members if required.

Regards
Jam'
Chair
Member **- Joint Building Standards Sector Board**

Bruce Goldsworthy

To: **Craig Bodmin**
Subject: **FUTURE OF JOINT AUSTRALIAN / NZ STANDARDS**

Hi Craig,

I **was aware** of this "development" having received several letters from Branz for affected Trade Groups today. We will obviously oppose any suggestion that this occur.

Most of the Joint Standards, have been developed through the co-operation of Industry on both sides of the Tasman and in most cases have a strong commercial case in their favour. Experience would suggest that the joint standards have contributed to greater trade integration in the markets.

I have spoken to Branz today and they seem to think that this is being driven by Standards Aust. They are a Limited Liability Co. part of which is due to list on the Australian Stock Exchange (The publications Div'n.) and maybe they see the Joint Standards as a constraint *to* their future trading ????

From where I sit there is no rhyme nor reason for such a move when in almost every other area we are trying to get the two markets more aligned. Gov't Ministers are meeting with their Australian counterparts more often, the TTMRA is currently under review and it seemed to me that the Aunt. Productivity Commissioner, *charged with* the Review was clearly of a view that *the* Agreement should be strengthened and widened.

I have a meeting of the NZ Plywood Mnfrs. next week and they will discuss it. I expect *that* their view will pretty much reflect the opinion of NZ Mnfrs. It seems *crazy* when the two markets are becoming *so* integrated that we should be faced with the possibility of *a* different standard for the same product in the 2 countries.

I would be interested *in* your thoughts on the matter and how it might affext your company.

Regards, Bruce Goldsworthy