

During the 2010 legislative session a new law was passed which will strive to enhance the safety of boiler and pressure vessels operating in Maryland. The new law mandates that an owner of a boiler or pressure vessel operating in Maryland contract with an Authorized Inspection Agency (AIA) to perform the required annual or bi-annual safety inspection. **This new law will take effect October 1, 2010.**

Currently, State law requires that periodic safety inspections be performed on all boiler and pressure vessels operating in Maryland and that each boiler or pressure vessel be issued a valid certificate of inspection. If the boiler or pressure vessel is insured, then the insurer is required to perform the required safety inspection. If the boiler or pressure vessel is not insured, the owner had to schedule with the State to ensure the inspection was completed.

Effective October 1, 2010, State inspectors are no longer available to perform periodic safety inspections on boiler or pressure vessels. The owner of the boiler or pressure vessel **must hire** an Authorized Inspection Agency to perform the required periodic safety inspection. If the boiler or pressure vessel is insured the owner will have the insurer perform the required safety inspection. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the required inspections are performed and a valid certificate of inspection issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

Authorized Inspection Agencies and special inspectors employed by these agencies must be authorized by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry before they can perform safety inspections in Maryland. To become an Authorized Inspection Agency or special inspector approved to conduct periodic safety inspections one must possess and maintain a Maryland Commission issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. A list of Authorized Inspection Agencies will soon be available on our web site at www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/

To assist owners in complying with the new Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Law, the Safety Inspection Unit will send a notice to owners approximately 90 days before the inspection is due, alerting them that the periodic safety inspection and re-registration of the boiler or pressure vessel is coming due. Periodic re-registration of boiler and pressure vessels will coincide with the periodic safety inspection of the boiler or pressure vessel. Failure on the part of the owner to ensure that the periodic safety inspection is performed on the boiler or pressure vessel within the allotted timeframe is a violation of the law and subject to penalty.