



Cyril Ainsworth
Director

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS



The Bureau of Industrial Standards is a recent Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry, having been organized December 8, 1924. It was created to carry out the provisions of the general law (Administrative Code) approved June 7, 1923, which reorganized the Government of the Commonwealth.

This law placed upon the Department of Labor and Industry the duty of developing the rules and regulations necessary for the proper enforcement of laws entrusted to the Department, and for prescribing means, methods, and practices for the protection of the lives and health of workers. The creation of the Bureau of Industrial Standards provided the necessary machinery for the proper fulfillment of this obligation.

The Bureau is divided into two sections, the Research Section, and the Hygiene and Sanitation Section.

The Research Section has charge of the development of all rules and regulations except those relating to occupational diseases, and general health and sanitation.

The necessity for the development of the rules is determined in several ways: First, the Accident Investigation Section of the Bureau of Inspection may determine the necessity for the preparation of certain rules through the investigation of a group of accidents. Such investigation definitely determines the cause and establishes the means of preventing a recurrence. Data thus secured when translated into a regulation furnishes all plants having the hazard with information on which to take steps to eliminate it. Second, information from the Bureau of Inspection through its general inspection work. The inspectors of that Bureau who are constantly visiting establishments under the jurisdiction of the Department are in a position to recommend very definite methods for eliminating hazards. Third, the general accident statistics prepared monthly by the Bureau of Statistics. Fourth, the general work of safety organizations, Departments of Labor and Industry of other states, of trade associations and individual establishments. All of these are being studied in order to secure new information on methods of eliminating accidents.

After the necessity for a rule or a group of rules has been determined, the procedure of development may take either one of two courses. The first is through the use of a national code or group of regulations, and the second through investigation by the Research Section, and reference to an advisory committee appointed from the Pennsylvania industries which will be affected by the rules when promulgated.

The national regulations prepared under the procedure of the American Standards Association have been used by the Department of Labor and Industry for several years. The work of the American