

PRODUCT GROUP ACTIVITIES UPDATE

ISEA has published the first ANSI standard for decontamination showers. ANSI/ISEA 113-2008, *American National Standard for Fixed and Portable Decontamination Shower Units*, was developed to meet the needs of the emergency response and health care communities. It provides manufacturers, users, and specifiers with a consistent set of design guidance in the form of minimum performance requirements and testing procedures for decontamination showers. The standard is available from ISEA for \$24 a copy. For more information, contact [Cristine Fargo](#), ISEA Manager of Standards Programs.



The **Emergency Eyewash and Shower Group** is continuing to work on the revision to ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2004 *Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment* and develop a companion use and selection guide. Staff anticipates that the revision may be completed earlier than the required 2009 timeframe given that the majority of the work is completed. The group also submitted comments to the American Society of Sanitary Engineering on its proposed standard for temperature-actuated mixing valves for emergency equipment. ISEA is concerned that the standard would allow water delivery at unsafe temperatures.

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION GROUP

ISEA is the secretariat for the ANSI Z87 Committee, which is preparing a revision to ANSI Z87.1-2003 *American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection Devices*. The draft revision was made available for public comment on June 20, and the review period will run until August 4. Review copies of the draft are available from ISEA for \$45. The Z87 committee meets in September to review comments, and publication of the revised standard is expected this year. The group will develop an ISEA Use and Selection Guide to accompany the revised standard.



Two draft standards are currently in development in the Z359 Committee: ANSI/ASSE Z359.6-200X *Specifications and Design Requirements for Active Fall-protection Systems* and ANSI/ASSE Z359.12-200X *Connecting Components for Personal Fall Arrest Systems*. The Z359 committee has begun drafting a standard for third party certification criteria (Z359.7). ISEA will participate in this subcommittee and assist SEI, which is chairing the subcommittee.

The Fall Protection Group plans to update the ISEA *Fall Protection Use and Selection Guide* to make it application-based and include instructions on how to assemble components to make a complete fall protection system. The photographs and graphics will also be updated.

Members of the Fall Protection Group came to Washington on June 30 for a Fall Protection Industry Day. They met with Congressional staff, urging members of Congress to write a letter to the Secretary of Labor to ensure that OSHA keep to its announced schedule and publish a proposed rule on fall protection for general industry in September.

ISEA testified at a July 23 public hearing on OSHA's proposed rule for confined spaces in construction. The association's testimony recommended that falls be added to the list of physical hazards in confined spaces, and that mechanical retrieval equipment be used whenever a vertical retrieval is required.

FALL PROTECTION GROUP

Standards for fall protection are managed by the American Society of Safety Engineers. ISEA is officially represented on these committees, which met in April. ASSE is marketing the following standards as the Fall Protection Code:



ANSI/ASSE Z359.0-2007: *Definitions and Nomenclature Used for Fall Protection and Fall Arrest*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-2007: *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007: *Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.3-2007: *Safety Requirements for Positioning and Travel Restraint Systems*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.4-2007: *Safety Requirements for Assisted-Rescue and Self-Rescue Systems, Subsystems and Components*

ANSI/ASSE Z359.1-1992 (R1999): *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components* (Included as a historical document).

FIRST AID GROUP

ISEA established a revision subcommittee for ANSI/ISEA Z308.1-2003 *Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits*, which includes non-member manufacturers as well as ISEA members. Attention has been given to expansion of the required items, additional clarification on unitized vs. bulk kits, and providing more user information in the appendix. Internal ISEA review is complete, and the consensus review/public comment period will begin in August. Publication of a final 2008 edition is expected in November 2008.



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HAND PROTECTION GROUP

As part of its ongoing review of ANSI/ISEA 105-2005 *Hand Protection Selection Criteria*, the Hand Protection Group is evaluating changes to the ASTM cut resistance testing methods referenced in the standard. The Group is also evaluating the chemical degradation test in the standard, and considering an expanded round-robin test. The next revision of this standard is scheduled for publication in 2010.



HEARING PROTECTION GROUP

The EPA is still working at revising the regulation for the Labeling of Hearing Protection Devices, 40 CFR Part 211, Subpart B. The agency informed ISEA it intends to publish a proposed regulation and hold a public hearing this year. Meanwhile, there is an effort in Congress to get report language urging OSHA to update its general industry hearing protection rules when EPA completes its labeling regulation.



ISEA sent a letter Assistant Secretary of Labor Ed Foulke, requesting a change to the regulation for occupational noise exposure (29 CFR 1910.95) including unifying the OSHA PEL and action level to 85 dBA and adopting the 3 dBA exchange rate. The response from Mr. Foulke indicated that OSHA does not intend to open the Noise Act for revision. The Hearing Protection Group plans to inform OSHA that EPA is about to alter the tool OSHA uses to require compliance with its noise exposure regulations, and suggest that when EPA completes its action, OSHA should change its regulation to be consistent with the EPA. It is also considering working with Capitol Hill to bring Congressional pressure on OSHA to move forward with updated noise regulations.

HEAD PROTECTION GROUP

The Group has completed a draft 2008 revision to ANSI/ISEA Z89.1-2003 *American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection*. Considerable focus is being given to the adoption of optional criteria for helmets, including temperature extremes, high-visibility and reverse donning. Inter-laboratory testing on product samples was performed to develop criteria for high visibility, and a second round of testing is being performed. Consensus review will begin after ISEA approval in August.



HIGH VISIBILITY PRODUCTS GROUP

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has ruled that public safety vests that meet the requirements of ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 *Standard for Public Safety Vests* will comply with Federal Regulation 23 CFR 634. The clarification, in the form of a letter of interpretation from the FHWA associate administrator for operations, states that FHWA will permit public safety workers on, or adjacent to federal aid roads to wear high visibility garments that meet ANSI/ISEA 207-2006. The regulation



already specifies garments that meet ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 *Standard for High Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear*. This regulation goes into effect on November 24, 2008.

The 2008 revision of the FHWA Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) references both ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 and ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 (as an option to 107 for public safety workers).

A construction safety coordinator for the State of California has petitioned the state's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to require the use of ANSI/ISEA 107-compliant high visibility apparel. This would align California Construction Safety Orders with Federal Highway Administration regulations.

The High Visibility Products Group met in June to continue revising ANSI/ISEA 107-2004.

INSTRUMENTS GROUP

The Instruments Group has been working on a revision to the ISEA Statement on Verification of Calibration of Portable Gas Monitors. The group is still seeking consensus on several issues, including the definition of bump test, calibration check and use of gases for verification. ISEA has applied for membership on the Instrument Society of America committee S12 on Electrical Equipment for Hazardous Locations.



The two ISEA instrument standards, ANSI/ISEA 102 *Standard for Gas Detector Tubes - Short Term Type for Toxic Gases and Vapors in Working Environments* and ANSI/ISEA 104 *Standard for Air Sampling Devices--Diffusive Type for Toxic Gases and Vapors in Working Environments* were issued in 1998 and reaffirmed in 2003. Both will be circulated for reaffirmation in 2008.

ISEA testified at a July 23 public hearing on OSHA's proposed rule for confined spaces in construction, urging the agency to require continuous monitoring rather than periodic monitoring in confined spaces.

PERSONAL HYDRATION SYSTEMS

A new draft standard, ISEA 114 *Standard for Personal Hydration Systems* is currently out for ballot to the product group and company principals of the three members that manufacture personal hydration systems. Publication of this new standard is expected in 2008.

PROTECTIVE APPAREL GROUP

Consensus balloting and public review of the draft ISEA 103 *Standard for Classification and Performance Requirements for Chemical Protective Clothing* was completed, and staff has been working with the Product Group leadership to update the draft standard to address comments received. The bases for most of the negative comments related to lack of certification, lack of criteria for one category and the lack of a labeling schematic. Given that substantive changes to the document are being recommended, the updated draft will be circulated for internal ISEA approval, prior to a second round of consensus and public review. Staff expects this to begin in mid-August. An international version of the standard was published this year as ISO 16602.



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A new draft standard, ISEA 201 *Standard for Insulating Apparel Used in Cold Work Environments*, is nearing completion by the group. The standard provides a tool for rating insulative properties of garments using a *Clo* value in seven performance categories and temperature. The ANSI/ISEA 201 standard will require that a certified garment will retain its identified insulative properties over a known period of its useful lifetime including cleaning procedures. The document is being peer-reviewed for comment. Garments certified to ISEA 201 may comply with other standards addressing additional hazards such as low visibility/struck by, heat and flame, arc, etc. The existence of competing hazards may greatly affect the choices of materials for the ensemble.

The chairman of the Protective Apparel Group is leading an effort to develop a standard that will specify requirements for testing, categorizing and labeling clothing designed for use over thermally and/or electric arc flash protective clothing. The standard will be a product performance document that allows for relative comparison of products and seeks to ensure that predicted injury is not exacerbated by the use of such a product.

The Protective Apparel Group reaffirmed ANSI/ISEA 101 *Limited Use and Disposable Garments – Size and Labeling Requirements* with the understanding that it will begin work on a revision to update the sizing charts to accommodate changing workforce demographics.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE ESCAPE DEVICES (RPED) GROUP

The consensus and public review period for the 2008 revision of the ANSI/ISEA 110-2003 *American National Standard for Air-Purifying Respiratory Protective Escape Devices* ended in late June. The Group met in late July to resolve issues raised in the public review.



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION GROUP

New Standard for N95/Surgical Masks. Considering the increased use and heightened awareness for the need for respiratory protective devices in healthcare environments, ISEA believes that a standard should be developed for performance, selection and use of filtering facepiece N95/surgical masks. ISEA members and staff have met with FDA staff to discuss this project, and the agency has pledged its support.



The standard would establish performance criteria and testing for a surgical respirator. Currently a single unified standard for a respirator and surgical mask does not exist. The standard would reference other government, voluntary and international standards, and could also include criteria for a meaningful fluid resistance test, method for evaluating fit, method for evaluating antimicrobial claims, biocompatibility, and guidelines on cleaning, disinfecting, and instructions for use.

NIOSH. On June 1, ISEA submitted comments to NIOSH on the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Workers (HCW) Action Plan.

NIOSH has informed ISEA that it plans to issue Notices of

Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on a closed-circuit escape respirator module, Total Inward Leakage (TIL), and the quality assurance module. The director of the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technologies Lab and the chief of the Technology Evaluation Branch met with the Respiratory Protection Group on April 24 to discuss testing and approval issues. NIOSH will hold a public meeting on August 20 for all stakeholders interested in new requirements for closed-circuit escape respirators.

In March, ISEA submitted comments to NIOSH on Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Standard – Concept Paper dated December 21, 2007. A public meeting and the next version of the concept paper are anticipated in July 2008 in preparation of an NRPM.

OSHA. ISEA submitted comments on OSHA's proposed Guidance on Workplace Stockpiling of Respirators and Facemasks for Pandemic Influenza. Cal/OSHA is expected to act on a petition to lower the assigned protection factor (APF) for filtering facepiece respirators to 5 or less. Currently, Cal/OSHA enforces 2006 federal OSHA revision to the APF table, which assigns an APF of 10 to these respirators. Activity on the California project is expected to resume in September.

HHS. ISEA commented on the HHS draft guidance for use and stockpiling of respirators and facemasks by the general public and families, in case of a flu pandemic. ISEA stressed the need to use respirators, not surgical masks, for personal protection.

For more information on ISEA Product Group or standards programs, contact ISEA at 703-525-1695.

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ISEA has published a brochure titled *Safety Equipment Standards - Your Keys to Business Success* that explains how standards are developed and used, and why it's important for safety equipment manufacturers to participate in development of standards. Contact ISEA for a copy.

The ISEA Global Standards Database has been completed, and will be available on line as soon as the contractor fixes remaining issues with the search function. Look for an announcement at www.safetysafetyequipment.org.

