

## PRODUCT GROUP ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### 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 Z87 committee is now working on draft F of the revision, and the product group will meet in June to review the draft. Publication of the revised standard is expected this year. The group will develop an ISEA Use and Selection Guide to accompany the revised standard.



### EMERGENCY EYEWASH AND SHOWER GROUP

A revision subcommittee met in February to continue revision of 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.



Public review and consensus approval balloting has been completed on the new ANSI/ISEA 113 *American National Standard for Fixed and Portable Decontamination Shower Units*. The group is working on resolving the issues that accompanied two negative ballots. Publication of the standard is expected this year.

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Z359.1-1992 (R1999): *Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components* (Included as a historical document).

There are currently two draft standards being balloted by 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 ballot closes April 30, 2008. 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.

The A10.32 subcommittee is working on the revision of ANSI A10.32-2004 *Fall Protection Systems for Construction and Demolition Operations*. The proposed revision will reference the portions of the Z359 standard that address the design, manufacture and testing of fall protection equipment. The A10.32 revision will cite procedures, training and prevention through design criteria that is specific to the construction industry.

### 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. This subcommittee is reviewing a final draft standard, with comments due May 15, 2008. Staff expects to commence internal ISEA approval by simultaneous product group/company principal ballot by the end of May, with publication of a final 2008 edition at the end of 3Q 2008.



### 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.



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### 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 has informed ISEA it intends to publish a proposed regulation in early/mid May and hold a public hearing in June in Chicago. They will have a more concrete schedule in the next two weeks.



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 continues to work on a 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.



### 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 will meet on June 3, 2008 in Minneapolis 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, revision of the chemical detection guide for first responders and the development of a biological detection guide as a companion to the chemical detection guide.



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.

### PERSONAL HYDRATION SYSTEMS

A new draft standard, ANSI/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 ANSI/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. The updated draft will be distributed to the Group for an initial review in early May.



An international version of the standard was published this year as ISO 16602.

A new draft standard, ANSI/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 had been peer-reviewed for comment. The Group is waiting for work in the ASTM Human Factors Subcommittee to be completed for incorporation into the proposed ANSI/ISEA document before moving forward.

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

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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 2008 revision of the ANSI/ISEA 110-2003 *American National Standard for Air-Purifying Respiratory Protective Escape Devices* is completing internal ISEA balloting. Consensus and public review will begin in May.



### RESPIRATORY PROTECTION GROUP

*New Standard for N95/Surgical Masks.*

Considering the increased use and heightened awareness for the need for respiratory protective devices in health-care environments, ISEA believes that a standard should be developed for performance, selection and use of filtering facepiece N95/surgical masks. ISEA members and staff met with FDA staff in February to discuss this project, and plan additional meetings in May to begin the process.



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.

**NFPA.** Near the end of the February meeting of the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee (TCC) a motion was passed to “initiate Committee work to develop a product standard for filtering facepiece respirators for use by emergency responders for infectious disease control.” This standard would likely be assigned to the technical committee that is responsible for NFPA 1981 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. This committee is also working to develop a Wildland Fire Fighting Respiratory Protection Standard, and a draft is anticipated in July 2008.

**NIOSH.** NIOSH is seeking comments on the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Workers (HCW) Action Plan. ISEA is preparing comments to submit by the June 1 deadline.

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.

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.

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.

