

For Immediate Release

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REVISED SMOKE HOOD STANDARD IMPROVES TESTING CRITERIA, PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY TO MEET USER NEEDS

ARLINGTON, VA (June 2, 2009) – The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) has received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval for ANSI/ISEA 110-2009, *American National Standard for Air-Purifying Respiratory Protective Smoke Escape Devices*.

First published in 2003, this performance-oriented standard covers a type of personal protective equipment also referred to as a “smoke hood” or “RPED.” These hooded devices are intended for use by persons escaping from fire-generated products of combustion. They provide head, eye and respiratory protection from particulate matter, eye irritants, and toxic gases and vapors commonly produced by structural fire.

ANSI/ISEA 110-2009 was prepared by members of the ISEA RPED Group, in consultation with testing laboratories, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and NIOSH, and was reviewed by a consensus panel representing users, health and safety professionals and government representatives.

Noteworthy updates incorporated in this version reflect end-user needs, including the addition of an ocular leakage test to evaluate the presence of smoke in eye area and changes in sizing parameters based on current anthropomorphic studies to accommodate a greater variety of facial shapes.

“Given that these devices are used by the general public in a fire-evacuation situation, the standard developing committee found it particularly important to focus on areas that best benefit the wearer,” said ISEA president Dan Shipp. “Ensuring that the hood can adequately protect the eyes and respiratory tract to enable evacuation is a critical concern.”

Additionally, the revision updates test methodologies and procedures to provide criteria that will allow testing laboratories to generate reproducible results, while at the same time removing restrictive language that could impede the testing process. “Products meeting the ANSI/ISEA 110 standard are third-party certified. To validate that they are capable of providing consistent protection when laboratory tested, it is important that the testing criteria to which they are subjected are uniformly written and applied to eliminate any questionable results,” added Shipp.

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Copies of the standard are available from ISEA headquarters at 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 808, Arlington, VA 22209. The single-copy cost \$55. Discounted rates for bulk orders are offered. Download a faxable order form at www.safetysafetyequipment.org. For additional information, contact Cristine Fargo at ISEA, 703-525-1695.

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ISEA, based in Arlington, VA, is the trade association for safety and personal protective equipment. Established in 1933, ISEA supports its 80 member companies in manufacturing and marketing the highest-quality products to protect the safety and health of people who may be exposed to hazardous and potentially harmful environments while working on the job or at home. ISEA is accredited as a standards developing organization by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).