U.S. Federal Register Update: November 22 – November 26, 2021

The U.S. Federal Register Update contains summaries of entries in the U.S. Federal Register that may be of particular interest to the standards and conformity assessment community. This update is provided on a weekly basis by ANSI as a service to its members as part of the Institute’s e-newsletter, What’s New?

Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Battery Chargers
Published 11/23/2021
Reference ANSI, AHAM, IEC, IEE, NEMA
The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) proposes to amend the test procedures for battery chargers to improve test procedure representativeness. The proposal would: Establish a new appendix Y1 that would expand coverage of inductive wireless battery chargers and establish associated definitions and test provisions; establish a new test procedure approach that relies on separate metrics for active mode, stand-by, and off-mode (consequently removing the battery charger usage profiles and unit energy consumption calculation); and update the wall adapter selection criteria. DOE also proposes changes to appendix Y to reorganize two subsections, to clarify symbology and references, to correct an incorrect cross reference and section title, to update the list of battery chemistries, and to terminate an existing test procedure waiver because the covered subject models have been discontinued. DOE further proposes to mirror these changes in the newly proposed appendix Y1. DOE is seeking comment from interested parties on the proposals. DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this proposal no later than January 24, 2022. See section V, “Public Participation,” for details. DOE will hold a webinar on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. See section V, “Public Participation,” for webinar registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants. If no participants register for the webinar, it will be cancelled.

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment
Published 11/23/2021
Reference ANSI, AHAM, CSA
The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended (“EPCA”), prescribes energy conservation standards for various consumer products, including direct heating equipment (“DHE”). EPCA also requires the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) to periodically determine whether more-stringent, amended standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified, and would result in significant energy savings. After carefully considering the available market and technical information for these products, DOE has concluded in this document that the technology options, product cost, and energy use have not changed significantly, and that the market for DHE (i.e., number of models available and annual shipments) has decreased since DOE’s prior determination that the energy conservation standards do not need to be amended. As such, DOE has determined that amended energy conservation standards are not warranted. The effective date of this final determination is December 23, 2021.

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel Project in Virginia Beach, Virginia
Published 11/24/2021
Reference ANSI
In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the Chesapeake Tunnel Joint Venture (CTJV) to incidentally harass, by Level A and Level B harassment only, marine mammals during construction activities associated with the Parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel Project (PTST) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This authorization is effective for one year from the date of issuance.

Magnesium Metal From the People's Republic of China: Continuation of Antidumping Duty Order
Published 11/26/2021
Reference ASTM
As a result of the determinations by the Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the International Trade Commission (ITC) that revocation of the antidumping duty (AD) order on magnesium metal from the People’s Republic of China (China) would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, Commerce is publishing a notice of continuation of this AD order. Applicable November 26, 2021.
Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Analysis of Exoskeleton-Use for Enhancing Human Performance Data Collection

Published 11/23/2021
Reference ASTM, NIST

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register on September 14, 2021, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Medical Devices; General and Plastic Surgery Devices; Reclassification of Blood Lancets

Published 11/22/2021
Reference ISO

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) is issuing a final order to reclassify three types of blood lancets used to puncture skin to obtain a drop of blood for diagnostic purposes from class I (general controls) exempt from premarket notification into class II (special controls) and subject to premarket notification, specifically, single use only blood lancets with an integral sharps injury prevention feature, single use only blood lancets without an integral sharps injury prevention feature, and multiple use blood lancets for single patient use only. FDA is designating special controls for these three types of blood lancets based on the determination that general controls only are not sufficient and there is sufficient information to establish special controls to provide a reasonable assurance of their safety and effectiveness. FDA is also reclassifying a fourth type of blood lancet, multiple use blood lancets for multiple patient use, from class I (general controls) exempt from premarket notification into class III (premarket approval). FDA is reclassifying these four types of blood lancets on its own initiative based on new information. This order is effective November 22, 2021. See further discussion in section VI, Implementation Strategy.

Study To Advance a More Productive Tech Economy

Published 11/22/2021
Reference NIST

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking information about the public and private sector marketplace trends, supply chain risks, legislative, policy, and the future investment needs of eight emerging technology areas, including: Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things in Manufacturing, Quantum Computing, Blockchain Technology, New and Advanced Materials, Unmanned Delivery Services, Internet of Things, and Three-dimensional Printing. This Request for Information (RFI) is seeking comments to help identify, understand, refine, and guide the development of the current and future state of technology in the eight emerging technology areas named above. The information will inform a final report that will be submitted to Congress. Comments in response to this notice must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on January 31, 2022. Submissions received after that date may not be considered.

Computer-Security Incident Notification Requirements for Banking Organizations and Their Bank Service Providers

Published 11/23/2021
Reference NIST

The OCC, Board, and FDIC are issuing a final rule that requires a banking organization to notify its primary Federal regulator of any “computer-security incident” that rises to the level of a “notification incident,” as soon as possible and no later than 36 hours after the banking organization determines that a notification incident has occurred. The final rule also requires a bank service provider to notify each affected banking organization customer as soon as possible when the bank service provider determines that it has experienced a computer-security incident that has caused, or is reasonably likely to cause, a material service disruption or degradation for four or more hours. Effective date: April 1, 2022; Compliance date: May 1, 2022.

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

Published 11/26/2021
Reference NIST

In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the HHS is establishing a new system of records to be maintained by HHS’s HRSA, 09-15-0093, “Provider Support Records.” The new system of records will include payment-related records containing information about any sole proprietor health care providers (including health care-
practitioners and suppliers) who applied for payments or reimbursements, received a payment, attested to a payment, reported on the use of a payment, or otherwise participated in one of HRSA’s provider support programs, and about patients identified in certain claims records submitted to HRSA for payment by entity providers and sole proprietor providers. The records are used to support the health care population and administer the programs. The new system of records is applicable November 26, 2021, subject to a 30-day period in which to comment on the routine uses. Submit any comments by December 27, 2021.

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request
Published 11/23/2021
Reference NIST
The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) invites comment on a proposal to extend for three years, without revision, the Procurement Solicitation Package (FR 1400; OMB No. 7100-0180). Comments must be submitted on or before January 24, 2022.

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records
Published 11/23/2021
Reference NIST
Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to establish a new system of records entitled VA Emergency Alerting and Accountability System (VA EAAS). The purpose is to document the enterprise-wide system used for alerting and accountability purposes. The system is a method to send rapid, reliable, and widespread notifications and collect the safety status of all VA employees, contractors, and affiliates in times of an emergency. The method provides situational leadership awareness of all personnel safety status, safety notifications to employees and provide actionable intelligence to leadership through data analysis and compilation. Comments on this new system of records must be received no later than 30 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the new system of records will become effective a minimum of 30 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any changes to the notice are necessary.

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records
Published 11/26/2021
Reference NIST
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA), Office of Mission Support (OMS) is giving notice that it proposes to modify a system of records pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974. The Federal Retirement Benefits Calculator is being modified to update the categories of records in the system, collect leave data and change the name of the system to Federal Human Resource Navigator (FedHR Navigator). The purpose of the FedHR Navigator system is to integrate employees benefits and retirement information into one central database. The application allows EPA employees to access personnel and benefits related information that will be used by EPA employees to calculate their retirement benefits. All exemptions and provisions included in the previously published Federal Retirement Benefits Calculator system of record notice will transfer to the modified system of record notice for FedHR Navigator. Persons wishing to comment on this system of records notice must do so by December 27, 2021. New routine uses for this modified system of records will be effective December 27, 2021.

The NCUA Staff Draft 2022-2023 Budget Justification
Published 11/24/2021
Reference NIST
The NCUA’s draft, “detailed business-type budget” is being made available for public review as required by federal statute. The proposed resources will finance the agency’s annual operations and capital projects, both of which are necessary for the agency to accomplish its mission. The briefing schedule and comment instructions are included in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section. Requests to deliver a statement at the budget briefing must be received on or before November 30, 2021. Written statements and presentations for those scheduled to appear at the budget briefing must be received on or before 5 p.m. Eastern, December 3, 2021. Written comments without public presentation at the budget briefing may be submitted by December 9, 2021.
Anthropomorphic Test Devices; Q3s 3-Year-Old Child Side Impact Test Dummy; Incorporation by Reference
Published 11/22/2021
Reference SAE
This document responds to a petition for reconsideration from Humanetics Innovative Solutions Inc. (HIS) concerning a November 3, 2020 final rule that amended NHTSA’s regulation on anthropomorphic test devices to add design and performance specifications for a test dummy representing a 3-year-old child, called the “Q3s” test dummy. The Q3s is an instrumented dummy that can assess the performance of child restraint systems in protecting small children in side impacts. The petitioner asks for corrections to hole dimensions and tolerances in a few of the drawings of parts in the dummy torso, because they are in error. This final rule grants the petition and revises the drawing package, parts list, and procedures manual for assembling and inspecting the Q3s. The effective date of this final rule is: December 22, 2021. The incorporation by reference of the publications listed in the rule has been approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of December 22, 2021.

Buy America Request for Information
Published 11/24/2021
Reference SAE
Reshaping the United States transportation system with electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is an important part of the solution to the climate crisis. EV charger manufacturing, assembly, installation, and maintenance all have the potential to not only support policies on sustainability and climate, but also to create good-paying, union jobs in the United States. This RFI is intended to gather information on shifting manufacturing and assembly processes to the United States considering the bold investment planned in EV charging. DOT and DOE (the Agencies) are interested in hearing from the public, including stakeholders (such as State and local agencies, the EV charger manufacturing industry, component suppliers, labor unions, related associations, and transportation advocates), on the availability of EV chargers manufactured and assembled in the United States, including whether they comply with applicable Buy America requirements. Comments must be received on or before January 10, 2022.