U.S. Federal Register Update: January 10 – January 14, 2022

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?

QAI Laboratories, Ltd. Applications for Expansion of Recognition
Published 1/13/2022
Reference ANSI, ASME, UL
In this notice, OSHA announces the final decision to expand the scope of recognition for QAI Laboratories, Ltd. (QAI) as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). The expansion of the scope of recognition becomes effective on January 13, 2021.

Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards
Published 1/12/2022
Reference ANSI, ASHRAE, ASTM, IEC, NFPA, UL
This final rule amends the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (the Construction and Safety Standards) by adopting recommendations made to HUD by the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC), as modified by HUD. The National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (the Act) requires HUD to publish in the proposed revised Construction and Safety Standards submitted by the MHCC. The MHCC prepared and submitted to HUD its third group of recommendations to improve various aspects of the Construction and Safety Standards. HUD reviewed those recommendations and adopted some of them after making editorial revisions and some additions. This final rule further revises the Construction and Safety Standards based on HUD’s review and incorporation of certain public comments. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 15, 2021. The incorporation by reference of certain other publications listed in the rule was approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of August 11, 1987.

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Refractory Products Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review
Published 1/14/2022
Reference ANSI, ASME, ASTM
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing amendments to address the results of the residual risk and technology review (RTR) that the EPA is required to conduct in accordance with the Clean Air Act (CAA) with regard to the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Refractory Products Manufacturing. The EPA is proposing to find the risks due to emissions of air toxics from this source category under the current standards to be acceptable and that the standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health. We are proposing no revisions to the existing numerical emission limits based on these analyses; however, we are proposing new provisions for certain hazardous air pollutants (HAP). The EPA is also proposing to amend provisions addressing emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM) and provisions addressing emissions during periods of scheduled maintenance; to amend provisions regarding electronic reporting of performance test results; and to make miscellaneous clarifying and technical corrections. Comments must be received on or before March 1, 2021. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), comments on the information collection provisions are best assured of consideration if the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) receives a copy of your comments on or before February 16, 2021. If anyone contacts us requesting a public hearing on or before January 19, 2021, we will hold a virtual public hearing. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for information on requesting and registering for a public hearing.

Energy Conservation Program: Notification of Petition for Waiver of Air Innovations From the Department of Energy Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers Test Procedure and Notification of Grant of Interim Waiver
Published 1/12/2022
Reference ASHRAE
This document announces receipt of and publishes a petition for waiver and interim waiver from Air Innovations, which seeks a waiver for specified walk-in cooler refrigeration system basic models from the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) test procedure used to determine the efficiency and energy consumption of walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers. DOE also gives notice of an Interim Waiver Order that requires Air Innovations to test and rate the specified walk-in cooler
refrigeration system basic models in accordance with the alternate test procedure set forth in the Interim Waiver Order, which modifies the alternate test procedure suggested by Air Innovations. DOE solicits comments, data, and information concerning Air Innovations' petition, its suggested alternate test procedure, and the alternate test procedure specified in the Interim Waiver Order so as to inform DOE's final decision on Air Innovations' waiver request. The Interim Waiver Order is effective on January 12, 2021. Written comments and information will be accepted on or before February 11, 2021.

Pipeline Safety: Gas Pipeline Regulatory Reform
Published 1/11/2022
Reference ASME, ASTM, IEC, NFPA
PHMSA is amending the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations to ease regulatory burdens on the construction, maintenance, and operation of gas transmission, distribution, and gathering pipeline systems without adversely affecting safety. The amendments in this rule are based on rulemaking petitions from stakeholders, and DOT and PHMSA initiatives to identify appropriate areas where regulations might be repealed, replaced, or modified, and PHMSA's review of public comments. PHMSA also, as of the effective date of this final rule, withdraws the March 29, 2019 “Exercise of Enforcement Discretion Regarding Farm Taps” and the unpublished October 27, 2015 letter to the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America announcing a stay of enforcement pertaining to certain pressure vessels. This rule is effective March 12, 2021.

Control of Air Pollution From Airplanes and Airplane Engines: GHG Emission Standards and Test Procedures
Published 1/11/2022
Reference ASTM, SAE
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adopting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards applicable to certain classes of engines used by certain civil subsonic jet airplanes with a maximum takeoff mass greater than 5,700 kilograms and by certain civil larger subsonic propeller-driven airplanes with turboprop engines having a maximum takeoff mass greater than 8,618 kilograms. These standards are equivalent to the airplane carbon dioxide (CO2) standards adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2017 and apply to both new type design airplanes and in-production airplanes. The standards in this rule reflect U.S. efforts to secure the highest practicable degree of international uniformity in aviation regulations and standards. The standards also meet the EPA’s obligation under section 231 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to adopt GHG standards for certain classes of airplanes as a result of the 2016 “Finding That Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Aircraft Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably Be Anticipated To Endanger Public Health and Welfare” (hereinafter “2016 Findings”)—for six well-mixed GHGs emitted by certain classes of airplane engines. Airplane engines emit only two of the six well-mixed GHGs, CO2 and nitrous oxide (N2O). Accordingly, EPA is adopting the fuel-efficiency-based metric established by ICAO, which will control both the GHGs emitted by airplane engines, CO2 and N2O. This final rule is effective on January 11, 2021. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this regulation is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of January 11, 2021.

Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Safety of Modern Vehicles
Published 1/12/2022
Reference IEEE, ISO, NIST, SAE
NHTSA invites public comment on the Agency's updated draft cybersecurity best practices document titled Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Safety of Modern Vehicles. In 2016, NHTSA issued its first edition, Cybersecurity Best Practices for Modern Vehicles, which described NHTSA's nonbinding guidance to the automotive industry for improving vehicle cybersecurity. With this document, NHTSA is docketing and soliciting public feedback on a draft update based on the knowledge gained through prior comments, continued research, motor vehicle cybersecurity issues discovered by researchers, and related industry activities over the past four years. To emphasize NHTSA's safety mission, recommendations in the document focus on cybersecurity best practices that have safety implications for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment. Written comments are due no later than March 15, 2021.

Hazardous Materials: Notice of Applications for New Special Permits
Published 1/12/2022
Reference ISO
In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the application described herein. Each mode of transportation for which a particular special permit is requested is indicated by a number in the “Nature of Application” portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor
vehicle, 2 — Rail freight, 3 — Cargo vessel, 4 — Cargo aircraft only, 5 — Passenger-carrying aircraft. Comments must be received on or before February 11, 2021.

Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Plants During Decommissioning
Published 1/12/2022
Reference NFPA
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.191, “Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Plants During Decommissioning.” Revision 1 of RG 1.191 addresses new information identified since Revision 0 of this guide was issued. The guidance in Revision 0 of the RG does not include guidance for plants that have transitioned to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805, “Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants,” 2001 Edition. Revision 1 to RG 1.191 is available on January 12, 2021.

Economic Growth Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act: Implementation of National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE)
Published 1/13/2022
Reference NFPA
This rule proposes a new approach to defining and assessing housing quality: The National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE). This proposed rule is part of a broader effort across HUD to revise the way HUD-assisted housing is inspected and evaluated. The purpose of NSPIRE is to reduce regulatory burden and improve HUD oversight through the alignment and consolidation of the inspection regulations used to evaluate HUD housing across multiple programs, which are currently evaluating housing quality through differing standards, protocols, and frequencies. The goal of this alignment and consolidation is to create a unified assessment of housing quality. In advancement of HUD’s mission to create quality affordable housing and strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities, this rule would establish the method HUD will use for the implementation of specific NSPIRE standards, scoring, and processes through Federal Register notices. Additionally, the proposed rule seeks to apply a “safe, habitable dwellings” standard; reduce the categories of current inspectable areas for physical condition standards for covered housing programs from five to three; implement a new annual self-inspection and reporting requirement for certain HUD housing; establish an administrative process for the treatment of health and safety deficiencies; and incorporate provisions of the Economic Growth and Recovery, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act that will reduce administrative burden on small rural PHAs. Comment Due Date: March 15, 2021.

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Membership Application
Published 1/14/2022
Reference NIST
The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB. To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before March 15, 2021.

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Protocol for Access to Tissue Specimen Samples From the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank
Published 1/13/2022
Reference NIST
The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB. To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before March 15, 2021.
The OCC, Board, and FDIC (together, the agencies) invite comment on a notice of proposed rulemaking (proposed rule or proposal) that would require a banking organization to provide its primary federal regulator with prompt notification of any “computer-security incident” that rises to the level of a “notification incident.” The proposed rule would require such notification upon the occurrence of a notification incident as soon as possible and no later than 36 hours after the banking organization believes in good faith that the incident occurred. This notification requirement is intended to serve as an early alert to a banking organization’s primary federal regulator and is not intended to provide an assessment of the incident. Moreover, a bank service provider would be required to notify at least two individuals at affected banking organization customers immediately after the bank service provider experiences a computer-security incident that it believes in good faith could disrupt, degrade, or impair services provided for four or more hours. Comments must be received by April 12, 2021.