U.S. Federal Register Update: March 29 – April 2, 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 Room Air Conditioners
Published 3/29/2021
Reference ANSI, AHAM, ASHRAE, IEC
On June 11, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (“NOPR”) to amend the test procedure for room air conditioners (“room ACs”). That proposed rulemaking serves as the basis for the final rule. Specifically, this final rule adopts the following updates to the test procedure for room ACs at appendix F: Incorporate by reference current versions of applicable industry standards; establish test provisions to measure energy use of variable-speed room ACs during a representative average use cycle; update definitions to define key terms and support provisions for testing variable-speed room ACs; and incorporate specifications and minor corrections to improve the test procedure repeatability, reproducibility, and overall readability. This final rule does not modify the test procedures for single-speed room ACs and does not affect the measured energy use for these models. The provisions established to measure energy use of variable-speed room ACs will improve the representativeness of the measured energy use of these models. The effective date of this rule is April 28, 2021.

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda
Published 3/31/2021
Reference ANSI, NIST
In this document, the Commission publishes its semiannual regulatory flexibility agenda. In addition, this document includes an agenda of regulatory actions that the Commission expects to be under development or review by the agency during the next year. This document meets the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 12866. The Commission welcomes comments on the agenda and on the individual agenda entries. Submit comments to the Division of the Secretariat on or before April 30, 2021.

Safety Standard for High Chairs
Published 4/2/2021
Reference ANSI, ASTM
In June 2018, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a consumer product safety standard for high chairs under section 104 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). The standard incorporated by reference the ASTM voluntary standard that was in effect for high chairs at the time. The CPSIA sets forth a process for updating mandatory standards for durable infant or toddler products that are based on a voluntary standard, when a voluntary standards organization revises the standard. In December 2020, ASTM published a revised voluntary standard for high chairs, and it notified the Commission of this revised standard in January 2021. This direct final rule updates the mandatory standard for high chairs to incorporate by reference ASTM’s 2020 version of the voluntary standard for high chairs. The rule is effective on July 3, 2021, unless CPSC receives a significant adverse comment by May 3, 2021. If CPSC receives such a comment, it will publish notification in the Federal Register, withdrawing this direct final rule before its effective date. The incorporation by reference of the publication listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of July 3, 2021.

Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project in Norfolk, Virginia
Published 4/2/2021
Reference ANSI
NMFS, upon request of the Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP), hereby issues regulations to govern the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to construction activities associated with the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project (HRBT) in Norfolk, Virginia, over the course of five years (2021-2026). These regulations, which allow for the issuance of Letters of Authorization (LOA) for the incidental take of marine mammals during the described activities and specified timeframes, prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat, as well as requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Effective from April 2, 2021 through April 1, 2026.
Export Administration Regulations: Implementation of Wassenaar Arrangement 2019 Plenary Decisions; Elimination of Reporting Requirements for Certain Encryption Items

Published 3/29/2021
Reference ANSI, ASTM, IEEE, ISO, SAE

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) maintains, as part of its Export Administration Regulations (EAR), the Commerce Control List (CCL), which identifies certain items subject to Department of Commerce jurisdiction. This final rule revises the CCL, as well as corresponding parts of the EAR, to implement changes to the Wassenaar Arrangement List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA List) that were decided upon by governments participating in the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (Wassenaar Arrangement, or WA) at the December 2019 WA Plenary meeting. The Wassenaar Arrangement advocates implementation of effective export controls on strategic items with the objective of improving regional and international security and stability. This rule harmonizes the CCL with the decisions reached at the 2019 Plenary meeting by revising Export Control Classification Numbers (ECCNs) controlled for national security reasons in each category of the CCL. This rule also makes associated changes to the EAR as well as corrections. This rule also makes changes to various provisions related to Category 5—Part 2 of the CCL in the EAR, including provisions on License Exception Encryption commodities, software, and technology (ENC). These changes, which include the elimination of reporting requirements for certain encryption items, are designed to reduce the regulatory burden for exporters while still fulfilling U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives. This rule is effective March 29, 2021.

Pure Magnesium From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Administrative Review; 2019-20

Published 4/2/2021
Reference ASTM

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) is conducting the administrative review of the antidumping duty (AD) order on pure magnesium from the People's Republic of China (China). The period of review (POR) is May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020. Commerce preliminarily determines that Tianjin Magnesium International Co., Ltd. and Tianjin Magnesium Metal Co., Ltd. (collectively, TMI/TMM) did not have any shipments during the POR. We invite interested parties to comment on these preliminary results. Applicable April 2, 2021.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Assistance to Private Sector Property Insurers, Notice of FY 2022 Arrangement

Published 4/1/2021
Reference IEC, ISO, NIST

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announces the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Assistance/Subsidy Arrangement for private property insurers interested in participating in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Write Your Own Program. Interested insurers must submit intent to subscribe or re-subscribe to the Arrangement by June 30, 2021.

Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration; Correction

Published 3/30/2021
Reference ISO

This document contains corrections to the final regulations (Treasury Decision 9944) that were published in the Federal Register on Friday, January 15, 2021. The final regulations provide guidance of the Internal Revenue Code. These corrections are effective on March 30, 2021 and are applicable on January 15, 2021.

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 3/29/2021
Reference 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 January 14, 2021 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.
Information Collection Requirement; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS); Assessing Contractor Implementation of Cybersecurity Requirements

Published 3/31/2021

Reference NIST

The Defense Acquisition Regulations System has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. **Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 30, 2021.**