U.S. Federal Register Update: March 26 – March 30, 2018

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?

Revise and Streamline VA Acquisition Regulation-Parts 811 and 832
Published 3/26/2018
Reference ANSI
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to amend and update its VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) in phased increments to revise or remove any policy superseded by changes in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), to remove any procedural guidance internal to VA into the VA Acquisition Manual (VAAM), and to incorporate any new agency specific regulations or policies. These changes seek to streamline and align the VAAR with the FAR and remove outdated and duplicative requirements and reduce burden on contractors. The VAAM incorporates portions of the removed VAAR as well as other internal agency acquisition policy. VA will rewrite certain parts of the VAAR and VAAM, and as VAAR parts are rewritten, we’ll publish them in the Federal Register. VA will combine related topics, as appropriate. In particular, this rulemaking revises VAAR Parts 811—Describing Agency Needs and Part 832—Contract Financing, as well as affected parts 801—Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation System, 852—Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses, and 870—Special Procurement Controls. Comments must be received on or before May 25, 2018 to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Combined Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations
Published 3/27/2018
Reference ANSI, ASME
Pursuant to Section 189a. (2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. The Act requires the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, and grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license or combined license, as applicable, upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, from February 27, 2018, to March 12, 2018. The last biweekly notice was published on March 13, 2018. Comments must be filed by April 26, 2018. A request for a hearing must be filed by May 29, 2018.

Stainless Steel Flanges From People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value
Published 3/28/2018
Reference ASME, ASTM
The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that stainless steel flanges from People's Republic of China (China) are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) during the period of investigation (POI) January 1, 2017, through June 30, 2017. Applicable March 28, 2018.

Stainless Steel Flanges From India: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures
Published 3/28/2018
Reference ASME, ASTM
The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that stainless steel flanges from India are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) during the period of investigation (POI) July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. Applicable March 28, 2018.
Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Revisions to Volatile Organic Compound Rules

Published 3/30/2018
Reference ASTM

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve revised rules submitted by the State of Michigan as State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions. The main revision specifies volatile organic compound (VOC) limits for cutback and emulsified asphalts as well as the test methods for determining the VOC content of these products. Michigan also moved the adoption by reference citations from Part 6. Emission Limitations and Prohibitions—Existing Sources of Volatile Organic Emissions to Part 9. Emission Limitations and Prohibitions—Miscellaneous and updated references to federal test methods in several of its Part 6 rules. Comments must be received on or before April 30, 2018.

Carton-Closing Staples From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value

Published 3/28/2018
Reference ASTM

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that carton-closing staples from the People's Republic of China (China) are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The final dumping margin of sales at LTFV is shown in the “Final Determination” section of this notice. Applicable March 28, 2018.

National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) Energy Sector Asset Management

Published 3/26/2018
Reference IEC, ISO

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) invites organizations to provide products and technical expertise to support and demonstrate security platforms for the Energy Sector Asset Management Project. This notice is the initial step for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) in collaborating with technology companies to address cybersecurity challenges identified under the Energy Sector Asset Management use case. Participation in the use case is open to all interested organizations. Interested parties must contact NIST to request a letter of interest template to be completed and submitted to NIST. Letters of interest will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Collaborative activities will commence as soon as enough completed and signed letters of interest have been returned to address all the necessary components and capabilities, but no earlier than April 25, 2018.

Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization; Wyoming Interstate Company, LLC

Published 3/30/2018
Reference ISO

Take notice that on March 15, 2018, Wyoming Interstate Company, L.L.C. (WIC), Post Office Box 1087, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80944, filed a prior notice request pursuant to sections 157.205, 157.208(b), and 157.210 of the Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act for authorization to increase the available horsepower (hp) at its existing WIC Cheyenne Compressor Station located at the Cheyenne Hub in Weld County, Colorado. Specifically, WIC seeks to reclassify one natural gas-fired 2,700 ISO-rated hp compressor unit that currently serves as a spare unit to mainline service. The proposed modification will allow an additional 220,000 dekatherm per day of capacity from its receipt at the Flying Hawk Interconnect. The project will allow additional volumes to be received at a reduced delivery pressure and boost the pressure of those volumes into the high pressure pool at the Cheyenne Hub, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing may also be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Automation in the Railroad Industry

Published 3/29/2018
Reference SAE

This request for information notice replaces the version published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2018 (83 FR 12646), to make technical corrections to the prior version. FRA requests information and comment on the future of automation in the railroad industry. FRA is interested in hearing from industry stakeholders, the public, local and State governments, and any other interested parties on the potential benefits, costs, risks, and challenges to implementing automated railroad operations. FRA also seeks comment on how the agency can best support the railroad industry’s development and implementation of new and emerging technologies in automation that could lead to safety improvements or increased
efficiencies in railroad operations. Comments and information responsive to this request should be received by May 7, 2018.

Request for Information on Regulatory Challenges to Safely Transporting Hazardous Materials by Surface Modes in an Automated Vehicle Environment; Correction
Published 3/29/2018
Reference SAE
This request for information notice replaces the version published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2018 (83 FR 12529), to make technical corrections to the prior version. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requests information on matters related to the development and potential use of automated technologies for surface modes (i.e., highway and rail) in hazardous materials transportation. In anticipation of the development, testing, and integration of Automated Driving Systems in surface transportation, PHMSA is issuing this request for information on the factors the Agency should consider to ensure continued safe transportation of hazardous materials without impeding emerging surface transportation technologies. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 7, 2018. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Request for Comments Concerning Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) Which May Be a Barrier to the Safe Testing and Deployment of Automated Driving Systems-Equipped Commercial Motor Vehicles on Public Roads
Published 3/26/2018
Reference SAE
FMCSA requests public comments on existing Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) that may need to be updated, modified, or eliminated to facilitate the safe introduction of automated driving systems (ADS) equipped commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) onto our Nation’s roadways. To assist in this undertaking, FMCSA commissioned the U.S. Department of Transportation’s John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe) to conduct a preliminary review of the FMCSRs to identify regulations that may relate to the development and safe introduction of ADS. The Agency requests comments on this report, including whether any of FMCSA’s current safety regulations may hinder the testing and safe integration of ADS-equipped CMVs. Further, FMCSA requests comment on certain specific regulatory requirements that are likely to be affected by an increased integration of ADS-equipped CMVs. However, the Agency is not seeking comments on its financial responsibility requirements because they are not directly related to CMV technologies and because future insurance requirements will depend in part on the evolution of State tort law with respect to liability for the operation of ADS-equipped vehicles. In addition, to support FMCSA’s effort to understand future impacts on the FMCSR’s, FMCSA requests information, including from companies engaged in the design, development, testing, and integration of ADS-equipped CMVs into the fleet. Specifically, the Agency requests information about: The scenarios and environments where entities expect that ADS will soon be tested and integrated into CMVs operating on public roads or in interstate commerce; the operational design domains (ODD) in which these systems are being operated or would be tested and eventually deployed; and, measures they believe are required to ensure the protection of any proprietary or confidential business information they intend to share with the Agency. Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 10, 2018.

Airworthiness Directives; Honda Aircraft Company LLC
Published 3/29/2018
Reference SAE
We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Honda Aircraft Company LLC Model HA-420 airplanes. This AD requires incorporating a temporary revision into the airplane flight manual and replacing faulty power brake valves upon condition. This AD was prompted by reports of unannunciated asymmetric braking during ground operations and landing deceleration. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products. This AD is effective April 13, 2018.