U.S. Federal Register Update: July 22 – July 26, 2019

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 Clothes Dryers
Published 7/23/2019
Reference ANSI, AHAM, IEC
The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) proposes to amend the test procedures for clothes dryers to provide additional direction in response to questions from manufacturers and test laboratories. DOE also proposes amendments to specify rounding requirements for all reported values; apply consistent use of nomenclature and correct typographical errors; and remove obsolete sections of the test procedures, including appendix D. DOE also seeks feedback from interested parties on issues such as consumer usage patterns and “connected” clothes dryer features. As part of this proposal, DOE is announcing a public meeting to solicit comments and data on its proposal. DOE also welcomes comment on changes to the test procedure to ensure that the test procedure measures the energy use of the clothes dryer during a representative average use cycle or period of use, and is not unduly burdensome to conduct. Comments and information regarding this notice of proposed rulemaking (“NOPR”) will be accepted no later than September 23, 2019. See section V, “Public Participation,” for details. DOE will hold a public meeting on this proposed test procedure if one is requested by August 6, 2019.

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Site Characterization Surveys of Lease Areas OCS-A 0486, OCS-A 0487, and OCS-A 0500
Published 7/26/2019
Reference ANSI
NMFS has received an application from Orsted Wind Power LLC (Orsted) for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to high-resolution geophysical (HRG) survey investigations associated with marine site characterization activities off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the areas of Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) currently being leased by the Applicant’s affiliates Deepwater Wind New England, LLC and Bay State Wind LLC, respectively. These are identified as OCS-A 0486, OCS-A 0487, and OCS-A 0500 (collectively referred to as the Lease Areas). Orsted is also proposing to conduct marine site characterization surveys along one or more export cable route corridors (ECRs) originating from the Lease Areas and landing along the shoreline at locations from New York to Massachusetts, between Raritan Bay (part of the New York Bight) to Falmouth, Massachusetts (see Figure 1). Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to Orsted to incidentally take, by Level B harassment only, small numbers of marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision. Comments and information must be received no later than August 26, 2019.

Certain Steel Racks and Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination
Published 7/24/2019
Reference ANSI, ASSP, CSA
The Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of certain steel racks and parts thereof (steel racks) from the People's Republic of China (China). Applicable July 24, 2019.

Certain Steel Racks and Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value
Published 7/24/2019
Reference ANSI, ASSP, CSA
The Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that imports of certain steel racks and parts thereof (steel racks) 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). Applicable July 24, 2019.

Published 7/26/2019
Reference ANSI, ASHRAE
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing this notice of data availability (“NODA”) regarding national energy savings estimates in past DOE energy conservation standards rulemakings. These data will help inform DOE’s decision-making process as it considers whether to establish a significant energy savings threshold for setting energy conservation standards for consumer products and commercial and industrial equipment. DOE is seeking comment on these data. Written comments and information are requested and will be accepted on or before August 9, 2019.

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Marine Geophysical Surveys in the Northeast Pacific Ocean
Published 7/22/2019
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 Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO) to incidentally harass, by Level A and Level B harassment, marine mammals during seismic activities associated with a marine geophysical survey in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. This Authorization is effective from July 10, 2019 through July 9, 2020.

Modification to the List of Appropriate NRTL Program Test Standards
Published 7/25/2019
Reference ANSI
In this notice, OSHA announces the final decision to add a new test standard to the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) Program’s list of appropriate test standards. The actions contained in this notice will become effective on July 25, 2019.

Revisions to Safety Standard for Full-Size Baby Cribs
Published 7/23/2019
Reference ASTM
In December 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) published a consumer product safety standard for full-size baby cribs (FS cribs). The standard incorporated by reference the applicable ASTM voluntary standard. ASTM has since published several revisions to the voluntary standard for FS cribs. We are publishing this direct final rule, revising the CPSC’s mandatory standard for FS cribs to incorporate by reference the most recent version of the applicable ASTM standard. The rule is effective on October 28, 2019, unless we receive significant adverse comment by August 22, 2019. If we receive timely significant adverse comments, we 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 October 28, 2019.

Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act
Published 7/26/2019
Reference ASTM
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing amendments to the General Provisions to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). The proposed amendments implement the plain language reading of the “major source” and “area source” definitions of section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and provide that a major source can reclassify to area source status at any time by limiting its potential to emit (PTE) hazardous air pollutants (HAP) to below the
major source thresholds of 10 tons per year (tpy) of any single HAP or 25 tpy of any combination of HAP. The EPA is proposing that PTE HAP limits must meet the proposed effectiveness criteria of being legally and practicably enforceable. The proposal also clarifies the requirements that apply to sources choosing to reclassify to area source status after the first substantive compliance date of an applicable NESHAP standard. The EPA is proposing electronic notification when a source reclassifies. We are also proposing to revise provisions in specific NESHAP standards that specify the applicability of General Provisions requirements to account for the regulatory provisions we are proposing to add through this rule. Comments must be received on or before September 24, 2019.

Northern Natural Gas Company: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for The Proposed Bushton to Clifton A-Line Replacement Project
Published 7/22/2019
Reference ISO
The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Bushton to Clifton A-line Abandonment Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in Clay, Cloud, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Ottawa, and Rice counties in Kansas. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.