U.S. Federal Register Update: April 27 – May 1, 2020

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?

21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program
Published 5/1/2020
Reference ANSI, ASTM, IEC, ISO, NIST
This final rule implements certain provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act, including Conditions and Maintenance of Certification requirements for health information technology (health IT) developers under the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Program), the voluntary certification of health IT for use by pediatric health care providers, and reasonable and necessary activities that do not constitute information blocking. The implementation of these provisions will advance interoperability and support the access, exchange, and use of electronic health information. The rule also finalizes certain modifications to the 2015 Edition health IT certification criteria and Program in additional ways to advance interoperability, enhance health IT certification, and reduce burden and costs. This final rule is effective on June 30, 2020.

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Fluorescent Lamps and Incandescent Reflector Lamps
Published 5/1/2020
Reference ANSI, NEMA
The U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) is initiating an effort to determine whether to amend the current energy conservation standards for general service fluorescent lamps (“GSFLs”) and incandescent reflector lamps (“IRLs”). Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, DOE must review these standards at least once every six years and publish either a notice of proposed rulemaking (“NOPR”) to propose new standards for GSFLs and/or IRLs or a notice of determination that the existing standards do not need to be amended. This request for information (“RFI”) solicits information from the public to help DOE determine whether amended standards for GSFLs and IRLs would result in significant energy savings and whether such standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified. DOE welcomes written comments from the public on any subject within the scope of this document (including those topics not specifically raised), as well as the submission of data and other relevant information. Written comments and information will be accepted on or before June 1, 2020.

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Interoperability and Patient Access for Medicare Advantage Organization and Medicaid Managed Care Plans, State Medicaid Agencies, CHIP Agencies and CHIP Managed Care Entities, Issuers of Qualified Health Plans on the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, and Health Care Providers
Published 5/1/2020
Reference ANSI, NIST
This final rule is intended to move the health care ecosystem in the direction of interoperability, and to signal our commitment to the vision set out in the 21st Century Cures Act and Executive Order 13813 to improve the quality and accessibility of information that Americans need to make informed health care decisions, including data about health care prices and outcomes, while minimizing reporting burdens on affected health care providers and payers. These regulations are effective on June 30, 2020.

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors
Published 4/30/2020
Reference ANSI, AHAM, CSA, IEC, IEEE, NEMA
The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended, prescribes energy conservation standards for various consumer products and certain commercial and industrial equipment, including small electric motors. EPCA also requires the Secretary of Energy to periodically determine whether more-stringent, amended standards would be technologically feasible and cost effective, and would result in significant conservation of energy. In this document, DOE has tentatively determined that more stringent small electric motors standards would not be cost effective, and, thus, is not proposing to amend its energy conservation standards for this equipment. DOE requests comment on this proposed determination and associated analyses and results. DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this notification of proposed determination before, but no later than June 29, 2020. See section VII, “Public Participation,” for details.
Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Crowley Kotzebue Dock Upgrade Project in Kotzebue, Alaska

Published 4/29/2020

Reference ANSI

NMFS has received a request from Crowley Fuels, LLC for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Crowley Kotzebue Dock Upgrade in Kotzebue, Alaska. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on a possible one-year renewal that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in Request for Public Comments at the end of this notice. 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 May 29, 2020.

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Alameda Marina Shoreline Improvement Project

Published 4/29/2020

Reference ANSI

NMFS has received a request from Pacific Shops, Inc. (Pacific Shops) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Alameda Marina Shoreline Improvement Project in Alameda, CA over two years. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue two incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on possible one-year renewals that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in Request for Public Comments at the end of this notice. 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 May 29, 2020.

The Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks

Published 4/30/2020

Reference ANSI, ASTM, NEMA, SAE

EPA and NHTSA, on behalf of the Department of Transportation, are issuing final rules to amend and establish carbon dioxide and fuel economy standards. Specifically, EPA is amending carbon dioxide standards for model years 2021 and later, and NHTSA is amending fuel economy standards for model year 2021 and setting new fuel economy standards for model years 2022-2026. The standards set by this action apply to passenger cars and light trucks, and will continue our nation's progress toward energy independence and carbon dioxide reduction, while recognizing the realities of the marketplace and consumers' interest in purchasing vehicles that meet all of their diverse needs. These final rules represent the second part of the Administration's action related to the August 24, 2018 proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule. These final rules follow the agencies' actions, taken September 19, 2019, to ensure One National Program for automobile fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions standards, by finalizing regulatory text related to preemption under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act and withdrawing a waiver previously provided to California under the Clean Air Act. This final rule is effective on June 29, 2020.

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Aerial Lifts Standard

Published 4/29/2020

Reference ANSI

The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited. The OMB will consider all written comments that agency receives on or before May 29, 2020.

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3

Published 4/28/2020

Reference ANSI

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an exemption in response to an April 13, 2020, request from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), as supplemented by letter dated April 16, 2020. The exemption grants the licensee's request for a temporary exemption for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3 (Indian Point 2 and 3) from the
requirements with respect to extending the completion time for annual fire brigade physical examinations by 90 days for 15 fire brigade members. The exemption was issued on April 22, 2020.

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request; Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment Pilot Program

Published 4/28/2020
Reference IEC, ISO
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a proposed collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Fax written comments on the collection of information by May 28, 2020.

Sunshine Act Meeting; Public Hearing: The VVSG 2.0 Requirements Hearing 2: Implementation of the VVSG at the State and Local Level

Published 4/30/2020
Reference NIST
EAC Commissioners will hold a virtual hearing to discuss the proposed Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0 Requirements as submitted by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). This second hearing will focus on how state and local election offices utilize the VVSG program, and how the VVSG program supports state and local efforts. The hearing will also include a discussion on the questions around accessibility and security regarding the VVSG program, including how to balance the issues at hand while ensuring accessibility and security. Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern.