

OSHA issues Walking-Working Surfaces, Personal Protective Equipment standards update

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a final rule updating its general industry Walking-Working Surfaces standards specific to slip, trip, and fall hazards. The rule also includes a new section under the general industry Personal Protective Equipment standards that establishes employer requirements for using personal fall protection systems. The final rule also increases consistency between general and construction industries, which is designed to help employers and workers who work in both industries.

OSHA estimates that the final standard will prevent 29 fatalities and more than 5842 injuries annually. The rule became effective January 17, 2017, and affects about 112 million workers at 7 million work sites.

The final rule’s most significant update is allowing employers to select the fall protection system that works best for them, choosing from a range of accepted options, including personal fall protection systems. OSHA has permitted the use of personal fall protection systems in construction since 1994, and the final rule adopts similar requirements for general industry. Other changes include allowing employers to use rope descent systems up to 300 ft (100 m) above a lower level, prohibiting the use of body belts as part of a personal fall arrest system, and requiring worker training on personal fall protection systems and fall equipment.

—Source: U.S. Department of Labor

New ASTM standard supports recycling fresh concrete

A new ASTM International standard is designed to help manufacturing plants better recycle returned fresh concrete, supporting the growth in sustainable construction practices. The new standard ASTM C1798, *Specification for Returned Fresh Concrete for Use in a New Batch of Ready-Mixed Concrete*, was developed by ASTM’s committee on concrete (C09) and covers process, verification, and record-keeping procedures for such recycling.

“Quite simply, this standard recognizes unused concrete in a fresh state as a potential ingredient for a new concrete batch,” says ASTM member Rich Szecsy, president of the Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association. “In other words, recycled fresh concrete can be treated as a raw-material component just like water, aggregates, and cement.”

Szecsy says that prior to this, manufacturers had some options for repurposing or recycling fresh concrete, but such material was most often disposed of in a landfill. The new standard should help lower the environmental impact of construction.

“Because of this new standard, the industry can participate in a more sustainable construction practice in which millions of cubic yards of concrete can now be recycled in a way that is safe for end users and provides a more conscious approach to environmental stewardship,” Szecsy says.

—ASTM International

2017 BIBM Congress to be in Madrid

The international precast concrete industry will meet May 17–19, 2017, in Madrid, Spain, for the 22nd BIBM (European Federation for Precast Concrete) Congress.

The congress, organized in cooperation with the International Prestressed Hollowcore Association, takes place every three years and covers current challenges, new concepts, and future visions. The accompanying trade exhibition showcases solutions for the planning, design, production, and installation of modern precast concrete structures.

In 2014, the BIBM Congress was held in Istanbul, Turkey, and attracted nearly 600 participants and 70 exhibitors from around the world.

—Source: European Federation for Precast Concrete

Pankow Foundation releases steel-fiber-reinforced concrete coupling beam research

“Evaluation of Seismic Behavior of Coupling Beams with Various Types of Steel Fiber Reinforced Concrete” is the result of the Charles Pankow Foundation–funded study Linking Concrete Tensile Performance and Seismic Response of Fiber Reinforced Concrete Coupling Beams. Ángel L. Pérez-Irizarry and Gustavo J. Parra-Montesinos, the primary investigators, are the authors of the paper.

The research was performed to evaluate various types of fiber-reinforced concretes “for use in earthquake-resistant coupling beams in order to simplify reinforcement detailing by reducing reliance on diagonal and transverse reinforcement required for adequate seismic performance.”

To access the paper, go to <http://www.pankowfoundation.org/grants.cfm>.

—Source: Charles Pankow Foundation

Morgan named president of ASTM International



Katharine Morgan

Katharine Morgan has been named president of ASTM International. Morgan will lead a team that supports thousands of members, customers, partners, and other stakeholders worldwide. She succeeds James A. Thomas, who served in the role for 25 years.

A 33-year veteran of ASTM

International, Morgan served as executive vice president for the past two years. Before that, she was vice president of ASTM International’s Technical Committee Operations, leading a 50-member team that supports the volunteer work of ASTM International’s 30,000 members worldwide.

Morgan is a member of the American National Standards Institute’s Board of Directors, the Council of Engineering and Scientific Executives, the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization, the Society for Standards Professionals, and the American Society of Association Executives and is a former member of the Standards Council of Canada’s Standards Development Organization Advisory Committee.

Morgan holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., and a master’s degree in business administration from Widener University in Chester, Pa.

—Source: ASTM International

OSHA issues recommended practices for construction safety, health programs

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued *Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs in Construction* to help industry employers develop proactive programs to keep their workplaces safe. The recommendations may be particularly helpful to small and medium-sized contractors who don’t have safety and health specialists on staff.

OSHA says that safety and health programs encourage finding and fixing workplace hazards before they cause injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Recommendations include training workers on how to identify and control hazards, inspecting the jobsite with workers to identify problems with equipment and materials, and developing responses to possible emergency scenarios in advance. The recommended practices for a safety and health program are flexible and can be adjusted to fit small and large construction companies handling short-term or multiyear projects.

These recommendations are advisory only and do not create any new legal obligations or alter existing obligations. They are available at https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/docs/8524_OSHA_Construction_Guidelines_R4.pdf.

—Source: U.S. Department of Labor 

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Events

For the most current information on events, visit <http://www.pci.org/events>.

ASCE CI Summit Anaheim, Calif.	March 2-5, 2017
11th High Performance Concrete and Second Concrete Innovation Conference Clarion Hotel The Edge, Tromsø, Norway	March 6-8, 2017
ACI Spring Convention Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center, Detroit, Mich.	March 26-30, 2017
SEI Structures Congress Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colo.	April 6-8, 2017
AIA Convention Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.	April 27-29, 2017
2017 PTI Convention Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Ga.	April 30-May 3, 2017
BIBM Congress 2017 Madrid Marriott Auditorium Hotel & Conference Center, Madrid, Spain	May 17-19, 2017
IPI Conference & Expo Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, La.	May 21-24, 2017
International Bridge Conference Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Md.	June 4-8, 2017
fib Symposium 2017: High Tech Concrete: Where Technology and Engineering Meet Maastricht Exhibition and Conference Centre, Maastricht, Netherlands	June 12-16, 2017
ICC Annual Conference Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio	September 10-12, 2017
AASHTO 2017 Annual Meeting Sheraton Grand Phoenix, Phoenix, Ariz.	September 25-28, 2017
Third International Symposium on Ultra-High Performance Fibre-Reinforced Concrete The Corum, Montpellier, France	October 2-4, 2017
ASCE 2017 Convention New Orleans, La.	October 8-11, 2017
ACI Fall Convention Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, Calif.	October 15-19, 2017
ASBI Annual Convention New York Marriott Marquis, New York, N.Y.	October 24-25, 2017
Greenbuild Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Boston, Mass.	November 8-10, 2017
DBIA Conference Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pa.	November 8-10, 2017