

DOL announces proposed rule to clarify PPE standard for construction industry workers

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced a notice of proposed rulemaking to clarify the personal protective equipment (PPE) standard (available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/07/20/2023-15285/personal-protective-equipment-in-construction>) for the construction industry.

The current standard does not state clearly that PPE must fit each affected employee properly, which the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) general industry and maritime standards do. The proposed change would clarify that PPE must fit each employee properly to protect them from occupational hazards.

The failure of standard-sized PPE to protect physically smaller construction workers properly, as well as problems with access to properly fitting PPE, have long been safety and health concerns in the construction industry, especially for some women. The proposed rule clarifies the existing requirement, and OSHA says that it does not expect the change to increase employers' costs or compliance burdens. The proposed revision would align the language in OSHA's PPE standard for construction with standards for general industry and maritime.

"If personal protective equipment does not fit properly, an employee may be unprotected or dangerously exposed to hazards and face tragic consequences," says Doug Parker, assistant secretary for Occupational Safety and Health. To submit comments and hearing requests online, use the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/> and reference docket OSHA-2019-0003. Comments and hearing requests must be submitted by September 18, 2023.

For more information about PPE in construction, visit <https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment/construction>.

—Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Pankow Foundation releases report on large high-strength headed reinforcing bars

The Charles Pankow Foundation in partnership with PCI, the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Foundation, and the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Foundation has announced that the new research report *Development of Large High-Strength Headed Reinforcing Bars* is available for free download.

This research was conducted at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and led by David Darwin, principal investigator. This research expands the available data on the anchorage strength of high-strength headed reinforcing bars to include the largest sizes permitted in *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-19)* and *Commentary (ACI 318R-19)* and use those results to verify the applicability of the currently proposed design criteria. Headed reinforcement is permitted under the provisions of ACI 318. Those provisions, however, limit the bar size to no. 11 (36M) and smaller. The study includes headed bars in concrete with nominal compressive strengths ranging from 5000 to 16,000 psi (34 to 110 MPa) to produce stresses in the bars at anchorage failure ranging from 55 to 148 ksi (380 to 1020 MPa). Bar spacing ranges from 3 to 10 bar diameters. Heads with bearing areas and multiple configurations matching those permitted in practice are tested. A limited number of tests are also to be performed on large hooked bars to determine whether the relationship developed in previous tests, which indicated that headed bar anchorage length equals about 80% of that for hooked bars, is appropriate for the largest bars.

BarSplice Products, Headed Reinforcement Corp., nVent LENTON, Commercial Metals Co., and Nucor Corp. also contributed financial and material donations as well as technical support to this project.

The final report is available at <https://www.pankowfoundation.org/our-work/research-grants/concrete/high-strength-rebar/05-18-development-of-large-high-strength-headed-reinforcing-bars/>.

—Pankow Foundation

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Event details are subject to change.

CACRCS 2022 Parma, Italy	September 12-15, 2023
Greenbuild Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.	September 26-29, 2023
PTI 2023 Committee Days Cancun, Mexico	October 3-6, 2023
ACI Concrete Convention Boston Convention Center and Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Mass.	October 29- November 2, 2023
AASHTO Annual Meeting J. W. Marriott Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Ind.	November 12-16, 2023
ASBI 35th Annual Convention Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa, Tucson, Ariz.	November 5-8, 2023
World of Concrete Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.	January 22-25, 2024
ACI Concrete Convention Hyatt Regency New Orleans, New Orleans, La.	March 24-28, 2024
PTI Convention Indianapolis, Ind.	April 14-17, 2024
ACI/RILEM International Conference on Cementitious Materials and Alternative Binders for Sustainable Concrete Toulouse, France	June 23-26, 2024
fib International Conference on Concrete Sustainability Guimarães, Portugal	September 11-13, 2024
PTI 2024 Committee Days Cancun, Mexico	October 1-4, 2024
ASBI 36th Annual Convention Loews Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Ga.	October 20-23, 2024
ACI Concrete Convention Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Philadelphia, Pa.	November 3-7, 2024
fib Symposium 2024 Christchurch, New Zealand	November 11-13, 2024
ACI Concrete Convention Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada	March 30-April 3, 2025
PTI Convention Phoenix, Ariz.	May 4-7, 2025
fib Symposium 2025 Antibes, France	June 16-18, 2025
PTI 2025 Committee Days Cancun, Mexico	September 30- October 3, 2025
ACI Concrete Convention Hilton Baltimore & Marriott Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Md.	October 26-30, 2025
fib Congress 2026 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	March 27-April 3, 2026