ANSI/ASSE A10 Update – Construction and Demolition Standards

Just a fast update in regard to a number of ANSI/ASSE A10 related inquiries we have received in the last thirty days. Most of you know the drill, but the ANSI/ASSE A10 Standards are the voluntary national consensus standards addressing construction and demolition operations.

We are not sure what the driver is, but we have had numerous inquiries asking for an update on what is the most current version of the ANSI/ASSE A10.4 Standard: “Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators on Construction and Demolition Sites”. There is a 2016 version, and the document was approved by ANSI during January 2016. The prior version is from 2007 and there some significant differences between the past version and what was released in 2016. Most of the inquiries relate to regulatory issues so you should be aware there is a new version of the standard and hopefully have interest.

The scope of the standard is: This standard applies to the design, construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alterations and repair of hoists and elevators that 1) are not an integral part of buildings, 2) are installed inside or outside buildings or structures during construction, alteration, demolition or operations and 3) are used to raise and lower workers and other personnel connected with or related to the structure. These personnel hoists and employee elevators may also be used for transporting materials under specific circumstances defined in this standard.

If interested the site for the ANSI/ASSE A10.4 standard is:


2. The other big question addresses A10.11 (personnel nets) and A10.37 (debris nets). The A10 ASC met last week and accomplished a great deal. But, of interest is the committee voted to reaffirm A10.11 with some minor editorial changes (removal of debris from the title) and to bring back the A10.37 via an affirmation of the past standard. We continue to get a number of inquiries from regulatory agencies on the net standards so an FYI that you will see both of these documents out with new dates in the relatively near future.

The scopes are:
A10.11: This standard establishes safety requirements for the selection, installation, and use of personnel nets during construction, repair, and demolition operations.

http://www.asse.org/ansiasse-a1011-2010-safety-requirements-for-personnel-debris-nets/

A10.37: This standard establishes safety requirements for the design, selection, installation, and use of debris net systems during construction, demolition operations and for the temporary containment of debris from deteriorating structures.

3. We do not have a release date yet but the A10.43 (Confined Spaces in Construction) is at ANSI now awaiting approval. In addition, the A10.48 (Construction/Demolition of Towers) is at ANSI also awaiting approval. You will see more about how to order these standards after they are approved and published.

A10.43: This standard sets forth the minimum elements and activities of a program that defines the duties and responsibilities of construction and demolition employers to be followed while entering, exiting and working in confined spaces at normal atmospheric pressure.

Exception: This standard does not pertain to underground mining, tunneling, caisson work or other similar tasks that have established national consensus standards.

A10.48: This standard establishes minimum criteria for safe work practices and training for personnel performing work on communication structures including antenna and antenna supporting structures, broadcast and other similar structures supporting communication related equipment.

This standard does not address specific work practices or personnel training requirements involving crane applications which are covered explicitly within other ANSI and OSHA standards and regulations. At a minimum, all construction activities on communication structures involving cranes shall include direct communication with the Crane Company and/or operator to establish rigging plan requirements and key designated personnel to ensure individual roles and responsibilities are fully understood. At a minimum, designated key personnel, where applicable, shall include the crane operator, signal person, spotter, and qualified rigger(s) responsible for attaching and detaching the lifted loads from the crane’s hook. The language in the standard regarding personnel riding the load line on a Base Mounted Hoist is specific to this standard and does not apply to any other industry or standard.
Of interest in regard to ANSI/ASSE A10.48 there are several regulatory issues taking place that are of interest.

The recent OSHA guidance: Inspection Procedures for Accessing Communication Towers Directive:


"This directive provides general enforcement guidance and procedures for use by field personnel during inspections involving hazards associated with using a hoist to take employees to or from workstations on communication towers. This directive applies to all work activities on communication towers that involve the use of a personnel hoist.” It references several ANSI standards. ANSI/ASSE A10.48 is not referenced at this time since it is not yet an American National Standard.

Tree trimming has returned to the returning to federal regulatory agenda (addressing the need to use hook vs. basket to place tree workers in difficult to reach areas is a very sensitive issue but tackled already by several states). Please note however that the tree trimming industry's crane usage was completely exempted from the scope of the new federal crane standard.

Many variances and such related to wind turbines are up for review in other regulatory agencies (with the initial boom many things were rushed). The two largest issues relate to elevators/personnel hoists which are sometimes very unique in the turbines as well as the inherent confined space issues. These also affect those regulators who inspect them (resulting in their own exposure) in the different regulatory disciplines.

For more information on A10 please visit the overall ANSI/ASSE A10 site at:

http://www.asse.org/departments/standards/construction__demolition_standards_a10/