ANSI/ASSE A10.3-2013 – BACKGROUND MATERIALS

ASSE, as secretariat of the A10 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) for Construction and Demolitions has continued to receive a number of inquiries related to the ANSI/ASSE A10.3-2013 American National Standard titled: Safety Requirements for Powder Actuated Fastening Systems for Construction and Demolition Operations.

Due to these inquiries for information about the standard we have put together what we could a “guide” for those with an interest. The following information below should hopefully be of assistance:

Title: Safety Requirements for Powder Actuated Fastening Systems for Construction and Demolition Operations.

Prior Versions:
A10.3-2013 (Current Version)
A10.3-2006
A10.3-1985
A10.3-1977
A10.3-1966

1.1 Scope. This standard provides safety requirements for low-velocity powder-actuated fastening tools that propel studs, pins, fasteners or other objects for the purpose of affixing them, by penetration, to hard structural material (such as concrete, masonry or steel).

This standard does not apply to devices designed for attaching objects to soft construction materials (such as wood, plaster, tar and dry wallboard) or very hard or brittle construction materials (such as cast iron, glazed tile, hardened steel, glass block, natural rock, hollow tile and most brick).

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable safety for person and property by establishing requirements for design, construction, operation, service and storage of powder-actuated fastening tools, fasteners and powder loads. Existing powder-actuated fastening tools and accessory equipment meeting the mechanical criteria of previous versions of this
ANSI/ASSE A10.3 standard need not be modified to conform to this version unless such modification is required by the regulatory agency having jurisdiction.

1.3 Modifications and Exemptions. In cases of practical difficulty and unnecessary hardship, the regulating body having jurisdiction may make exceptions to the literal requirements of this standard, but only when it is clearly evident that equivalent protection is thereby assured.

ANSI/ASSE A10.3 Standard Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>SECTION ........................................................................ PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>General ........................................................................ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1 Scope ...................................................................... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2 Purpose .................................................................... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3 Modifications and Exemptions ................................ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Related American National Standards and Other References ...... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Definitions .................................................................... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Requirements ................................................................... 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1 General .................................................................... 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.2 Tool Selection ...................................................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Powder Loads .................................................................. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.1 Identification of Cased Powder Loads .......................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.2 Identification of Caseless Powder Loads ...................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.3 Limitations of Use of Powder Loads .............................. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.4 Identification of Powder Load Packages ....................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Fasteners ...................................................................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Operation ...................................................................... 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Limitations of Use ........................................................ 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Maintenance and Storage ............................................... 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Authorized Instructor .................................................... 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Qualified Operator – Training Method I ............................ 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Qualified Operator – Training Method II ............................ 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 - Powder Load Identification for Low-Velocity Tools

Figure 1 - Sample Authorized Instructor’s Card
Figure 2 - Sample Qualified Operator’s Card

Links and information related to the A10.3 American National Standard

- ASSE Info on Standards Development Process
- Official Memorandum of Understanding Between OSHA & ANSI
- Office of Management & Budget Circular OMB-A119
- Position Statement on Consensus Standards
- Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?
- What’s the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?

1. **1979 – 07/25/1979 - Interpretation on the use of power activated fasteners being driven into ductile cast iron ingot molds.**
   29 CFR 1926.302(e)(7) July 25, 1979 Mr. Robert L. Zink Attorney for SISCO, Inc. One Cummings Point Road Stamford, Connecticut 06904 Dear Mr. Zink: This is in reference to our letter dated May 2, 1979...
   Category: Standard Interpretations Score: 22

2. **1982 - 03/02/1982 - Fasteners used in tools shall be only those specifically manufactured for use in such tools.**
   March 2, 1982 Mr. Jack Moore Jack Moore Associates, Inc. 429 Boston Turnpike Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545 Dear Mr. Moore, This is in response to your letter of December 11, 1981, requesting clarif...  
   Category: Standard Interpretations Score: 13

3. **1995 - 09/05/1995 - Statement of compliance from OSHA for a pole-mounted powder actuated tool.**  
   September 5, 1995 Mr. Martin Schofield, P.E. Director of Product Safety & Liability Hilti, Inc. 5400 South 122nd East Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74121 Dear Mr. Schofield: This letter is in response to yo...  
   Category: Standard Interpretations Score: 13

   DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Parts 1901, 1902, 1910, 1915, 1926, 1928, 1950 and 1951 Miscellaneous Minor and Technical Amendments AGENCY: Occupational Safe...  
   Category: Federal Registers Score: 9

5. **1910.243 - Guarding of portable powered tools.**
   1910.243(a)Portable powered tool - 1910.243(a)(1)Portable circular saws. 1910.243(a)(1)(i)All portable, power-driven circular saws having a blade diameter greater than 2 in. shall be equipped with gu...  
   Category: Regulations (Standards - 29 CFR) Score: 4

6. **1910.6 - Incorporation by reference.**
   1910.6(a) 1910.6(a)(1) The standards of agencies of the U.S. Government, and organizations which are not agencies of the U.S. Government which are incorporated by reference in this part, have the sam...  
   Category: Regulations (Standards - 29 CFR) Score: 4
7. **1926.302 - Power-operated hand tools.**
   
   1926.302(a) Electric power-operated tools. 1926.302(a)(1) Electric power operated tools shall either be of the approved double-insulated type or grounded in accordance with Subpart K of this part. 1926...
   
   
   Category: Regulations (Standards - 29 CFR)  Score: 4

8. **1975 - 09/02/1975 - When magazine-fed tools are inspected, the tool is not considered loaded until the magazine feeds the tool.**
   
   September 2, 1975 MEMORANDUM FOR: EDWARD E. ESTKOWSKI ATTENTION: HAROLD I. WHITE Subject: Request for Interpretation - 1926.302(e), Powder Operated Handtools This is in response to your memorandum of...
   
   
   Category: Standard Interpretations  Score: 4

   
   DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington State Standards; Notice of Approval I. Background Part 1953 of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, prescribes procedures under Section 18 of the Occupational Safety ...  
   
   
   Category: Federal Registers  Score: 4

10. **OSHA Publication - Selected Construction Regulations for the Home Building Industry**
    
    Selected Construction Regulations for the Home Building Industry U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration 1997 Material contained in this publication is in the public do...
    
    [http://www.osha.gov/Publications/Homebuilders/Homebuilders.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/Homebuilders/Homebuilders.html)
    
    Category: Other OSHA Information  Score: 4

11. **Training Requirements in OSHA Construction Industry Standards and Training Guidelines**
    
    Training Requirements in OSHA Construction Industry Standards and Training Guidelines - OSHA Document...  
    
    
    Category: Technical Information  Score: 4

Below are some additional examples of State and Federal recognition:

- (PDF) [LIST OF REFERENCED NATIONAL STANDARDS ANSI A10.3](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13603)
  
  Power Actuated Fastening Systems-Safety Requirements, as Modified ... the specific model(s) of powder actuated tool(s) for which training ...  
  

  - Portable Power Tools - Power Actuated Fastening Systems- WAC 296-807-150  
    
    ... responsibility: Make sure powder actuated fastening systems are used safely ... instructor qualifications of ANSI A10.3-1995, Safety Requirements for Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems ...  
    

  - Compressed Air Tools (PDF) [Compressed Air Tools](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13603)
    
    ... the instructor qualifications of. ANSI A10.3-1995, Safety Requirements for Powder-Actuated Fastening ... American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard, ANSI A10.3-1995, Safety ...
    
    lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/.../PDFs/PPT-150PowdActuatFast.pdf