ASSE Government Affairs

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State of OSH in the U.S.

• Personnel
  • Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta (confirmed in April)
    • Acting OSHA head Loren Sweat (appointed in July)
    • Scott Mugno nominated for OSHA head in October; was voted through by Senate HELP in December but had to be renominated for new Congressional year and will likely be voted through by February
    • MSHA head David Zatezalo (confirmed in November)
  • Director of NIOSH John Howard has four years left on his six-year term.
State of OSH in the U.S.

• Direction of the Trump Administration
  • Huge emphasis on reducing regulatory burden and decreasing the size of the federal government
  • In 2017, Exec Order mandated that for each new regulation, two must be scrapped (2-for-1) but the relevant metric is cost; i.e. a new regulation with a regulatory burden of $50,000 can only move forward if other regulation(s) with a regulatory burden of $100,000 are eliminated. In December the White House announced the policy would be changed to 3-for-1 in 2018.
  • In 2017 budget squabbles consumed a huge amount of time and energy for OSHA, NIOSH (originally slated to receive a 40% cut), and the CSB (originally slated for elimination).

State of OSH in the U.S.

• Direction of OSHA
  • OSHA has 40 fewer inspectors now than when Trump took office, a decrease of 4% of OSHA’s total federal workforce.
  • Less enforcement, more compliance assistance and outreach
    • The Safe & Sound Campaign (to promote value of SHMS guidelines) will be major focus this year. Think of it as a soft I2P2, the best OSHA can do to move toward risk-based approach.
    • Also working on guidance documents on: role and value of OSH professionals, leading indicators, sustainability, safety culture, and a scalable maturation model for SHMS (how to get from not having a system to a fully realized system)
  • In 2016 there were 5,190 workplace fatalities, an increase of 2%
    • 40% were attributed to transportation, 17% to workplace violence, 16% to slips/trips/falls
State of OSH

• Regulations
  • Court challenges to silica have failed
  • Beryllium stands for general industry, but shipyard and construction provisions will likely be revoked
  • Electronic recordkeeping still stands (albeit with multiple delays, technological glitches) but “OSHA intends to issue a proposal to reconsider, revise, or remove provisions” sometime in 2018
  • The proposed standard on workplace violence was moved off the agenda to long-term action

ASSE GA

• Spent much of 2017 on prioritization
  • OSHA Reform Blueprint outlines policy priorities for next 3-5 years
    • Focus on a risk-based approach and finding solutions to the primary causes of workplace fatalities.
  • GA Task Force prioritized stakeholders (ASSE members, OSHA, NIOSH) and focused GA activities on:
    • Influence regulations and legislation in development
    • Provide analysis of regulations and legislation with a focus on impact to OSH pros
    • Develop ASSE GA positions and communicate to stakeholders
  • GAC updated SOG and is reviewing/updating additional materials:
    • RACI and workflow chart
    • All current GA position statements
ASSE GA 2018 Goals

• Focus on Grassroots Advocacy
  • Developing toolkit to empower local leaders (Chapter, PS, CIG)
  • Each GAC member assigned to liaise with one of the regions
    • Will require additional funding
• Focus on communications
  • Increase communications to members/balance with email overload
  • Review/update all website materials to prior to launch
• Focus on relationships
  • ASSE GA’s strength is investing in long-term partnerships and coalitions built on shared expertise and trust.
    • Safe & Sound with OSHA, TWH initiatives with NIOSH

Practice Specialty GA Chairs: Technical Experts

• Each of you represents a pool of experts in your Practice Specialty. Your experience and knowledge can be a huge value to policymakers as well as Society.
  • Drafting comments on proposed rulemaking or guidance
  • Representing ASSE at stakeholder meetings, SBA panels, other RFI opportunities
  • Sharing information upstream
Practice Specialty GA Chairs: Network Hubs

• Each of you represents a pool of experts in your Practice Specialty. Your experience and knowledge can be a huge value to policymakers as well as Society.
  • Sharing information downstream
  • Helping GAC build toolkit for grassroots advocacy
  • Connecting members to resources
  • Building relationships

Questions for you

• This is GA PS Chair is a new role and both Society/ASSE GA have gone through some big organizational changes in the past few years. We’re in a time of transition and improvement. How can we best set you up for success?
Specific Issue We Will Cover Today

- The role of ASSE and ANSI in standards development
- For updates and information, join the ANSI/ASSE OSH Standards Information Center: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2772916/profile
- Monitor the ANSI Standards Action which is uploaded weekly to the ANSI/ASSE OSH Standards Information Center
- If there are ANSI/ASSE Standards that pertain to your industry, ASSE would like to hear your comments.
- Solicit comments from other PS members and submit them to ASSE. Let others know when a standard is open for comments.
- How can my organization or myself participate in the development of ANSI/ASSE standards?
- How does the Society participate with other standards developing organizations such as NFPA, U.L., ASME, etc…
- A quick word on cutting edge standards issues
ASSE Standards Program

- As secretariat for almost 120 standards, projects, and technical reports. ASSE organizes the committees that develop and maintain the standard(s), ensures that the process of revision is timely and in accordance with ANSI procedures, and publishes the final product of the consensus process. The Society does not write the standards.

Role of ASSE in Standards

- ASSE manages the process

- Committee representatives many times are not ASSE members or OSH Professionals

- ASSE works to show the procedures are met and consensus is reached
ASSE Standards Secretariats

- A10 - Construction and Demolition Operations
- A1264 – Floors and Walkways
- Z9 - Ventilation
- Z15 - Motor Vehicle Operations
- Z10 - OHSMS
- Z117 – Confined Spaces
- Z244 – Lockout/Tagout

Secretariats Continued

- Z359 – Fall Arrest/Fall Protection
- Z490/Z390 – SH&E Training and H2S Training
- Z590 – The Safety Professional
- ISO TC262 – Risk Management/Assessment
- ISO PC283 – OHSMS [Proposed ISO 45001]
ASSE Standards Development Process

- Consensus to launch a standard
- Approval by the committee and ASSE
- Notification of the standard being launched
- Announcement in appropriate media
- Public review
- Mandatory response
- Opportunity for appeal
- Examples – A10.40

ANSI Standards – Who Cares???

- How are these standards used?
- Are these standards used only for litigants?
- How are such standards used by OSHA and other regulatory agencies?
- Why should OSH Professionals be interested and hopefully participate on committees?
How Do I Get Involved

- Notice of committee openings
- Social Media
- Application process
- Approval by the Standards Development Committee
- Notification to the impacted organization
- Duties and responsibilities
- Updates and Reports to ASSE
- Ability to comment

The Finale - Comments and Questions

- Any future questions?

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