ANSI/ASSE Z117.1-2016 – TECH BRIEF BACKGROUND MATERIALS

ASSE, as secretariat of the Z117 ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) for Confined Spaces has continued to receive a number of inquiries related to the ANSI/ASSE Z117.1-2016 American National Standard titled: Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces.

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

Title: ANSI/ASSE Z117.1-2016 Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces

Approval/Effective Date: August 12, 2016

1.1 Scope. This standard provides minimum safety requirements to be followed while entering, exiting and working in confined spaces at ambient atmospheric pressure.

1.2 Exceptions. This standard does not pertain to underground mining, tunneling, caisson work, intentionally inert confined spaces or other similar tasks that have established national consensus standards.

1.3 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum requirements and procedures for the safety and health of employees who work in, and in connection with, confined spaces.

E1.1 The scope of this standard does not address confined space design issues. Please see the Foreword of this standard for additional general information addressing confined space design.

E1.3 This standard is a performance standard and, as such, is not intended to replace existing specific standards and procedures, but rather to support those that meet the performance objectives defined in this standard. See Appendix B for a listing of other established national consensus standards pertaining to confined space.
Past Versions of the Standard:

- Z117.1-2009
- Z117.1-2009
- Z117.1-2003
- Z117.1-1995
- Z117.1-1989
- Z117.1-1977

The final version of the Z117.1-2016 Table of Contents from the approved standard:

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Links & Information

Links and information related to the Z117.1 American National Standard:

- There is an official memorandum of understanding between OSHA and ANSI. The link to the read the memorandum is at: http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=MOU&p_id=323

- The link below is to the Office of Management and Budget Circular OMB-A119, which explains how governmental agencies such as OSHA use voluntary national consensus standards: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a119/a119.html

- This article addresses how governmental agencies use national voluntary consensus standards such as Z117.1: https://www.ansi.org/news_publications/other_documents/safeguarding.aspx?menuid=7

- This a second article addressing how governmental agencies use national voluntary consensus standards such as Z117.1: http://www.asse.org/assets/1/7/Glen_Demby_Article_-_Use_of_Standards_in_the_Public_Sector1.pdf

***Recognition by OSHA:

- The links below address recognition of the Z117 ASC:

1. **Section 3 - III. Summary and Explanation of the Standard**
   III. Summary and Explanation of the Standard The following discussion, which tracks the final rule paragraph by paragraph, summarizes the significant substantive differences between this final rule a...
   Category: Regulations (Preambles to Final Rules)  Score: 20

2. **Section 1 - I. Background**
   I. Background Many workplaces contain spaces which are considered “confined” because their configurations hinder the activities of any employees who must enter, work in, and exit them. For example, e...
   Category: Regulations (Preambles to Final Rules)  Score: 10
3. **Safety and Health Topics: Confined Spaces - Additional Information**
   Confined Spaces Public Safety and Health Topic Page...
   http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/otherresources.html
   Category: Safety & Health Topics  Score: 5

4. **1993 - 10/08/1993 - Confined space standard for general industry.**
   October 8, 1993 Ms. Suey Howe Director, Federal Regulations Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. 1300 17th, 8th Floor Rosslyn, VA 22204 Dear Ms. Howe: This is in response to your April 8 l...
   Category: Standard Interpretations  Score: 4

5. **1993 - 12/03/1993 - General industry standards to construction activities.**
   December 3, 1993 Mr. Mark W. Monson Director of Training Chicagoland Construction Safety Council 4415 W Harrison Street, Suite 403 Hillside, IL 60162 Dear Mr. Monson: This is in response to your S...
   Category: Standard Interpretations  Score: 4

   January 27, 1994 Mr. Bruce Smith Training Manager Speed Shore Corporation P.O. Box 262591 Houston, Texas 77207 Dear Mr. Smith: This is in response to your April 8, 1993, letter requesting an interpre...
   Category: Standard Interpretations  Score: 4

7. **Confined Spaces**
   Confined Spaces - OSHA Document...
   Category: Technical Information  Score: 4

8. **Remediation Technology Health and Safety Hazards: Thermal Desorption**
   NONE...
   http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib_02_03_03_tsds9.html
   Category: Technical Information  Score: 4

9. **Section 4 - IV. References**
   Category: Regulations (Preambles to Final Rules)  Score: 4

There are usually numerous question addressing the newly revised ANSI/ASSE Z117.1 Standard (Confined Spaces) and how it has been used before in the past related to OSHA and the General Duty Clause. We know this standard is used by OSH Professionals on a consistent basis, and this is always a common question. The matrix below is a collection of examples that should interest you. It is important to note these are Federal OSHA examples. The standard is used and
recognized by a wide variety of public and private sector organizations and companies at the international, national, state, and local levels.

- Other Examples
  The links below are decisions from the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, which cites/references the Z117.1 Standard.


  The file below includes examples of recognition by the U.S. Department of Energy over several decades.

  DOE Recognition of Z117.doc

  The link below is an example from NASA:

  http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?Internal_ID=N_PR_8715_003C_&page_name=Preface

  The link below is from the U.S. Department of the Army