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Standard Guide for Consensus-Based Process for an Occupational Safety and Health Standard That Includes an Occupational Exposure Guideline¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide presents a framework for a stakeholder-focused consensus-based decision-making process for occupational safety and health standard development activities that include adoption or development of occupational exposure guidelines (OEGs) as a part of Occupational Health and Safety standards.

1.2 This guide applies to safety and health standard development activities in which an occupational exposure guideline will be included as one element of a comprehensive standard that addresses safety and health management strategies such as communication, monitoring and controls. It is not meant to be used to develop an OEG apart from the context of such management strategies. In cases where other occupational exposure limit (OEL) establishing bodies have developed OELs, those may be reviewed, assimilated, or adapted rather than recreated *ab initio*.

1.3 This guide does not replace existing consensus-based, decision-making, or committee participation processes that are used to develop safety and health standards. It is intended to be used in conjunction with such processes to improve scientific and technical input and stakeholder involvement in occupational safety and health decision-making for such standards.

1.4 *Limitations*—This guide does not prescribe specific methods for generating or evaluating scientific and technical data related to assessing a particular occupational safety and health issue. Occupational safety and health standards apply to a wide variety of substances and occupational exposure circumstances. It is not possible to anticipate all situations where an OEG may be useful for a standard. This guide will be helpful in promoting appropriate balance and input, but the consensus process must deal with real world complexities that individual standards may involve.

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Terminology

2.1 *Definitions*—Except as modified below this guide will utilize the definitions in *Regulations Governing ASTM Technical Committees*.

2.2 *Definitions:*

2.2.1 *stakeholder, n*—any individual, group, company, organization, government, or other entity, which may be directly affected by or has a stake in the outcome of the specific consensus-based standard development process.

2.2.2 *consensus-based occupational safety and health standard development (CBSD) process, n*—a process to provide appropriate balance, scientific and technical information and stakeholder involvement for occupational safety and health standards which include or are proposed to include an occupational exposure guideline.

2.2.3 *informed decision, n*—agreement reached by affected stakeholders, which is obtained by a process by which affected stakeholders (1) are involved in a participative process that creates common understanding of the issues, concerns and priorities held by all affected stakeholders; (2) assess, prioritize and select actions to improve the problem situation; and (3) achieve consensus on specific initiatives related to the consensus based standard development process.

2.2.4 *occupational exposure guideline (OEG), n*—a guideline used in an ASTM standard for limiting exposure to a chemical, physical, or biological agent to prevent unacceptable risk of harm to worker populations. OEGs may be established for mixtures.

2.2.4.1 *Discussion*—An OEG may take one or more of several forms and should include considerations of the averaging time (for example, ceiling, short term limits, full shift limits, etc.) and the target (individual workers, process or activity, population, position, etc.).

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E34 on Occupational Health and Safety and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E34.80 on Industrial Health.

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