

Regulatory Compliance

Why Are Standards Important?

Brought To You by Lydia Baugh, ISEA | Jan 05, 2018

Standards are an important part of the world of safety equipment.

- Manufacturers need them to determine the performance requirements for products they design, make and sell, and the test procedures to assess conformity to those requirements.
- Sellers, purchasers and users need them to select the right product for the job, and understand its application and limitations.
- Government agencies incorporate them into workplace safety and health regulations.

Common Standards Misconceptions

But even though standards are a familiar part of everyday commerce, there are some common misconceptions about them.

- Did you know that ANSI doesn't develop standards?
- That no product can ever be "ANSI approved" or "OSHA approved?"
- Who is responsible for developing and maintaining standards?
- How does a product become "approved?"

Quick Overview of Standards

The following is quick overview of standards, certification and regulation – what they are, how they are related, and how they apply to safety equipment. If you'd like more information, check out the *links* to other standards-related websites, or contact ISEA.

- *First of all, what is a standard?*
- *Where do standards come from?*
- *What is ANSI?*
- *Who develops ANSI standards?*
- *Who else develops standards?*
- *What is conformity assessment?*
- *Where does OSHA fit in?*
- *How do products get approved around the world?*

Previously featured on ISEA's Knowledge Center.

For some professional takes on compliance, please see 5 Professional Takes on Reaching OSHA Standards.