

Attachment 1
Advisory Committee Background and Overview
Construction Safety Orders, Article 12, Sections 1600-1601
Pile Driving and Pile Extraction

Background:

California's pile driving standards were last amended in 2004. A new American National Standards Institute (ANSI) consensus standard, ANSI/ASSE A10.19, Safety Requirements for Pile Installation and Extraction Operations was published in March 2008. This completely new standard is the product of an ANSI Standards Committee on Safety in Construction and Demolition Operations, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Secretariat. The purpose of the standard is to serve as a guide to contractors, labor, equipment manufacturers and government authorities.

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Article 12, contains standards for pile driving. The existing standards address such worker safety measures as safety zones, blocking devices, hose connections, work platforms, access to elevated locations, signalers, pile driver rig stability, handling of piles, and flotation devices for work over water. However, the new ANSI/ASSE Standard addresses several issues, such as planning, personnel access, specific requirements based on pile hammer types, and pile extraction, which either are not currently addressed by Title 8 standards, or addresses them with greater specificity and clarity for employers and enhances worker safety. The new ANSI/ASSE standard also offers an opportunity to update existing Title 8 standards consistent with current technology and industry practice.

Overview:

The proposed update of pile driving and pile extraction standards would include the following provisions:

- Prescribe minimum standards for site-specific safety plans.
- Establish a controlled access zone.
- Provide greater clarity regarding employee access to elevated locations including pile leads, and work on sheet piles.
- Specific provisions for pile hammers, including vibratory pile hammers.
- Provide greater clarity regarding pile leads.
- Pile driving rig stability.
- A new section on pile extraction.
- Safe storage of piles.