



## **OSHA Announces Limited Reopening of Slip Resistance of Walking Surfaces Provision in Steel Erection Rulemaking Record**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced it will reopen for 90 days, until Oct. 13, 2004, its rulemaking record on a provision of the steel erection standard that addresses the slip resistance of walking surfaces of coated structural steel members.

OSHA is conducting this limited reopening of the rulemaking record because it is considering whether to retain, amend, or revoke this provision. The agency is seeking comments on whether suitable and appropriate test methods for testing structural steel coatings, and whether slip-resistant coatings meeting the slip resistance criteria in the standard, can reasonably be expected to be available by July 2006.

The steel erection standard is the first OSHA safety standard developed under the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990 and



the Department's Negotiated Rulemaking Policy. The standard enhances protections provided to iron workers by addressing the hazards that have been identified as the major causes of injuries and fatalities in the steel erection industry. ■

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## **Corps Lays Out \$15 Billion Construction Plans**



Don Basham, Chief of the Engineering and Construction for the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), outlined for ACEC members the Corps' \$15 billion F.Y. '05 military and civil works programs. Both have remained at stable funding levels for the past several years.

The Corps anticipates a \$11.2 billion military program, including \$738 million for engineering, \$416 million for Superfund and \$375 million for environmental projects.

According to Basham, the civil works program faces

challenges in the coming years from declining Congressional appropriations and the considerable requirements on our nation's water resources. Basham estimates that the Corps F.Y. '05 civil works appropriations will be close to the \$4.5 billion it received last year.

Basham stressed that the Corps will continue to rely on private contractors to execute most of its work. Although the Corps workforce has declined in the past decade by 20 percent, its program has grown by 70 percent.

"We are contracting out about 75 percent of our military planning, engineering and design work, and about 50 percent in the civil works area...about \$1 billion in A/E fees annually," said Basham.

Basham also underscored his agency's commitment to working with ACEC to enhance the role of Qualification Based Selection in selecting design-build teams.

ACEC and the Corps have undertaken a joint project that would allow federal agencies to select design-build teams based on qualifications, a move that would significantly reduce the costs associated with pursuing design-build projects. Both organizations are working towards passage of legislation next year. ■

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## **CASE Risk Management Program (RMP) Presents a Convocation for Structural Engineering Firms**

Save the date! November 5-6, 2004 at the offices of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Reston, VA and in conjunction with the Structural Engineering Institute. Attendance will be limited. With rising liability insurance premiums, you will want to learn as much about reducing this cost as possible. The day and a half program will include sessions on reducing risks in condo work, the six prescriptions for success, why do slab-on-grades crack, indemnity and limitation of liability clauses, how to read them, deal makers and deal breakers in contracts. Registration is \$150. For more information contact Ed Bajer at CASE, [ebajer@acec.org](mailto:ebajer@acec.org) or Jim Rossberg at the Structural Engineering Institute at [jrossberg@asce.org](mailto:jrossberg@asce.org). ■

# Consensus Reached on Recommendation for OSHA Cranes and Derricks Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that its Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (CDAC) has reached consensus on language for a revised crane and derrick standard for construction. The draft will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health and will continue through the rulemaking process.

"This is a significant step forward in protecting the thousands of workers who operate and work around cranes," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "The members of this committee were tasked with a formidable challenge -- to develop and reach consensus on a revised cranes and derricks standard in one year, and they achieved that ambitious task. We applaud their hard work and commitment to protecting workers and improving crane safety."

Key provisions of the C-DAC proposal include:

- The scope section covers a wide range of new types of cranes that have been developed over the past 30 years.
- A qualified person must address a list of key hazards associated with equipment assembly and disassembly.

- Ground conditions must be made adequate for crane set-up to help prevent tip-overs.
- In order to prevent electrocution, a leading cause of crane-related fatalities, employers must choose from a list of options for ensuring that equipment does not come within a prescribed distance of power lines. When working closer than that distance, a specified list of measures must be taken.

After a phase-in period, crane operators will have to be certified by either: (1) any crane operator testing organization approved by a nationally recognized accrediting agency, or (2) the employer's own qualification program, which must be audited by a testing organization approved auditor.

- Signal persons must meet specified qualification requirements.
- Updated requirements for cranes on barges.
- Safety devices, operational aids, signals, specific types of equipment (such as derricks and tower cranes), inspections, wire rope, prototype design and testing, crushing and overhead hazards, fall protection and equipment modification are also addressed.

C-DAC was established in June 2003 to function as a part of OSHA's rulemaking process to revise the existing standards for cranes and derricks in construction. [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

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## ACEC 2004 Fall Conference

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The Conference features over 25 educational sessions covering eight important business tracks: Marketing and Business Development; Business Management; Finance; Leadership; Human Resources; Information Technology; Project Delivery and Legal/Risk Management.

Three hotels will host this year's meeting. The Holiday Inn by the Bay will host the Board of Directors meeting, main convention activities, exhibit hall and welcome reception. Committee meetings and the spouse breakfast will be held at the Portland Regency Hotel. The Doubletree Hotel is the site



for the Legal Counsels Forum. Free shuttle service will be available between hotels.

Make plans early to secure the hotel of your choice. Detailed hotel and conference information is available at [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org). For questions, contact [meetings@acec.org](mailto:meetings@acec.org) or call 202-347-7474. ■

