

The Slips, Trips & Falls Compendium: A Partnership Between ASSE & ASTM

John Pace is Vice President of Publications and Marketing for ASTM International. In this interview, he explains why ASTM International chose to be part of ASSE's Slips, Trips and Falls Compendium.

Please provide a brief description of your position as Vice President of Publications and Marketing for ASTM International.

I am Vice President of Publications and Marketing for ASTM International. I am responsible for all commercial-related activities at ASTM, including editorial, production, product management, sales, marketing, licensing and special permissions.

The Slips, Trips and Falls Compendium contains both ASSE and ASTM standards. Why did ASTM decide to partner with ASSE in this endeavor?

Both organizations publish a broad range of standards, however, in the area of slips, trips and falls, ASTM's and ASSE's safety-related technical information addresses similar subject area. It made sense to partner with ASSE to produce a more comprehensive information package.

How do the ASTM standards included in the compendium—ASTM F1637-07, ASTM F1694-96 (2004) and ASTM F1240-01—complement the ASSE standards and technical report?

ASTM F1637-07 is a standard practice that addresses elements along and in general walkway areas such as floors, sidewalks, stairs, etc.

ASTM F1694-96 (2004) is a standard guide that provides recommendations for recording walkway surface evaluation and incident report data pertaining to slips, trips and falls.

ASTM F1240-01 is a standard guide that provides a method for comparing footwear bottom surfaces based on slip characteristics on contaminated surfaces.

ASTM Committee F13 developed all three of these documents. The committee oversees technical subcommittees working in four different areas: traction, footwear, research and walkway surfaces.

John Pace is Vice President, Publications and Marketing for ASTM International. His primary responsibilities include managing all business and commercial operations, which involve ASTM standards and related products, systems and services.

Prior to joining ASTM in 2003, Pace worked for Information Handling Services for 23 years. He held various sales positions and also served as Senior Vice President of Product Management, International Sales and Standards Business Development.

Between 1977 and 1980, he served as an officer in the 9th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

Pace holds a bachelor of arts degree in economics and business from Virginia Military Institute and a master of business administration degree from the University of Puget Sound.

How can SH&E professionals and employers best incorporate the compendium into their safety practices?

SH&E professionals and employers should be aware that laws and requirements, as well as best-in-class recommendations and guides, exist to ensure safe workplaces for employees. The wealth of comprehensive information in this compendium can contribute to a safer working environment.

What kind of response has ASTM received from SH&E professionals since the compendium's release?

From my personal perspective, anytime ASTM can partner with an organization to produce a more comprehensive package of information that results in a safer working environment or improves the quality of a product or process, it reflects positively on everyone involved and helps the customers or end users who depend on such information.

As an organization, many of our ASTM compilation products in the past did not include complementary standards, reports or technical data from other organizations that addressed similar areas. However, during this past year, ASTM has made a greater effort to engage in more joint product development efforts with organizations such as ASSE, the American Concrete Institute, the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and other standards development organizations and commercial resellers in the standards business. We will continue this strategy moving forward.

Based on ASTM's own standards development experience and research, why are slips, trips and falls so prevalent in U.S. workplaces?

I am not an expert in this area, but based on my professional career experience and extensive international business and travel, I have observed that more slip, trip and fall incidents may occur in the U.S. because we tend to move at a faster pace. Likewise, while we have laws and regulations to address general safety and safety in the workplace, employers do not always focus enough on these.

However, I cannot generalize and state that slips, trips and falls are more prevalent in the U.S. because I think that while we may not be as focused as some areas of the world, we are more careful and cognizant of safety-related issues than other countries. The ASTM members who contribute to our standards development process come from more than 100 countries around the world, so as an international organization, we address our standards development activities from a truly global perspective.

Is ASTM developing any new standards for preventing slips, trips and falls?

ASTM Committee F13 presently oversees jurisdiction for 14 standards in the general areas of pedestrian/walkway safety and footwear.

Five new work item initiatives are also in progress for developing new standards/guides/practices or updating existing data. For more information, visit <http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/COMMITTEE/F13.htm>.

Do you foresee any other similar joint ventures for ASTM and ASSE? Should the organizations partner in any other standards areas?

If our members and customers voice a need and if such partnerships produce better products and a "win" for all, we certainly will remain open to future collaborations with ASSE. There has been good cooperation from both sides with regard to the Slips, Trips and Falls Compendium initiative. ■

Recommended Reading

[Slips & Falls: Employee Experience & Perception of Floor Slipperiness: A Field Study in Fast-Food Restaurants](#)

*By Kai Way Li, Theodore K. Courtney, Yueng-Hsaing Huang, Wen-Ruey Chang & Alfred J. Filiaggi
(Professional Safety Journal 2006)*

[State of the Art in Slip-Resistance Measurement](#)

*By Steven DiPilla & Keith Vidal
(Professional Safety Journal 2002)*

[Slip Resistance: Field Measurements Using Two Modern Slipmeters](#)

*By Brian C. Grieser, Timothy P. Rhoades & Raina J. Shah
(Professional Safety Journal 2002)*

[Slips, Trips & Falls In Construction & Mining: Causes & Controls](#)

*By Mark C. Radomsky, R.V. Ramani & Joseph P. Flick
(Professional Safety Journal 2001)*

[The Rest Of The Equation: Walkway Surface Safety & Traction In The Workplace](#)

*By Steven DiPilla
(Professional Safety Journal 2001)*

[Footwear Safety & Traction in the Workplace](#)

*By William English
(Professional Safety Journal 2000)*



What Does the Compendium Include?



ANSI / ASSE A1264.1-2007

Safety Requirements for Workplace Walking/Working Surfaces & Their Access; Workplace Floor, Wall & Roof Openings; Stairs & Guardrails Systems

Gives safety requirements for areas where danger exists of persons or objects falling through floor or wall openings, platforms, runways, ramps and fixed stairs.

ANSI / ASSE A1264.2-2006

Standard for the Provision of Slip Resistance on Walking/Working Surfaces

Gives provisions for protecting persons where there is potential for slipping and falling as a result of surface characteristics or conditions.

ANSI / ASSE TR-A1264.3-2007

ANSI Technical Report: Using Variable Angle Tribometers for Measurement of the Slip Resistance of Walkway Surfaces

Discusses the technical aspects, research, legislation, standards activities and operation of variable angle tribometers commercially available for testing of walkway surface slip resistance.

ANSI / ASSE A10.18-2007

Safety Requirements for Temporary Roof & Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways & Other Unprotected Edges in Construction & Demolition Operations

Gives safety requirements for the protection of employees and the public from hazards arising out of or associated with temporary floor holes and wall openings, stairs and other unprotected edges.

Historical Documents:

ANSI / ASSE A1264.1-1995 (R2002)

Safety Requirements for Workplace Floor & Wall Openings, Stairs & Railing Systems

ANSI / ASSE A1264.2-2001

Standard for the Provision of Slip Resistance on Walking/Working Surfaces

ANSI A10.18-1996

Safety Requirements for Temporary Roof & Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways & Other Unprotected Edges in Construction & Demolition Operations

ASTM Standards:

ASTM F1637-07

Standard Practice for Safe Walking Surfaces

Addresses elements along and in walkways, including floors and walkway surfaces, sidewalks, short-flight stairs, gratings, wheel stops and speed bumps.

ASTM F1694-96 (2004)

Standard Guide for Composing Walkway Surface Evaluation & Incident Report Forms for Slips, Stumbles, Trips & Falls

Lists items that may be useful in recording and evaluating the conditions of a walkway surface, including ramps and stairs, that may involve a slip, stumble or trip that may result in a fall.

ASTM F1240-01

Standard Guide for Ranking Footwear Bottom Materials on Contaminated Walkway Surfaces According to Slip Resistance Test Results

Describes a method for ranking slip-resistance test results of footwear bottom materials on contaminated walkway surfaces.

Compendium in the News!

“ASSE & ASTM Team Up to Offer Slips, Trips & Fall Prevention Compendium for Employers”
(July 2008)

“New Technical Report on Measurement for Slip Resistance Registered with ANSI ”
(January 2008)