



To The Point

A Review of ANSI/ASSP Z15.1

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.19 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes.¹ This staggering statistic highlights the critical importance of implementing robust safety standards to protect lives and reduce the devastating impact of road traffic incidents.

Importance of Standards

To address this critical issue, organizations and industries have adopted standards like ANSI/ASSP Z15.1. This standard offers a structured framework for managing motor vehicle operations and improving transportation safety. It helps organizations systematically identify and mitigate risks, enhance driver performance, and establish clear policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of crashes. By implementing ANSI/ASSP Z15.1, organizations can significantly contribute to lowering road traffic injuries and fatalities, creating safer roads for everyone.

For employers, road safety programs not only save lives but also help control costs associated with motor vehicle incidents. The ANSI/ASSP Z15.1 standard provides valuable guidance for developing policies, procedures, and management processes to address risks tied to motor vehicle operations.

Occupational motor vehicle crashes have a wide range of causes, including mechanical failures, driver errors, and vehicle design flaws. Preventive measures are equally diverse, ranging from regular vehicle maintenance and the use of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) to telematics with AI-powered cameras, increased seat belt usage, and comprehensive driver training programs. By leveraging these strategies alongside the ANSI/ASSP Z15.1 standard, organizations can create a safer and more efficient transportation environment.

What Is ANSI/ASSP Z15.1?

There is no simple strategy for prevention as the causes and solutions vary. However, a tool can be utilized to help reduce the occupational casualties and crashes associated with motor vehicle incidents.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) have developed a standard, Z15.1: Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operations. It is a voluntary national standard designed to help organizations provide guidelines and establish best practices for developing motor vehicle safety

programs—whether addressing a single vehicle or a fleet, the vehicle is employee-owned, employer-owned, or leased/borrowed from a third party. It includes such key components as:

- Scope, Purpose, & Applications
- Definitions
- Management, leadership, and administration
- Operational environment
- Driver considerations
- Vehicle considerations
- Incident reporting and analysis

The ANSI/ASSP Z15.1 standard is a key guideline that highlights the importance of safe vehicle operations in the workplace. It provides comprehensive safety recommendations that apply not only to regulated fleets and commercial driver's license (CDL) drivers but also to all employees who operate vehicles, including those in non-regulated environments. This includes the use of passenger vehicles and light trucks by salespeople, management, or other staff for work purposes. By setting clear safety protocols, the standard aims to reduce the risks of vehicle-related incidents and protect the safety and wellbeing of all employees.

The Z15.1 standard is essential for fostering a strong safety culture within organizations by promoting proactive risk management, effective driver training and qualification standards, and consistent enforcement of policies. Its critical features include:

- Strong leadership
- Speed management
- Driver impairment and distraction
- Journey and fatigue management
- Vehicle maintenance and inspections
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Incident analysis and corrective actions

By addressing these critical areas, the Z15.1 standard not only helps organizations meet compliance requirements but also significantly enhances overall workplace safety.

Learn More & Connect

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Implementation

Fleet organizations are encouraged to take several actions to align with the Z15.1 standard. First, they should obtain a copy of the standard and conduct a thorough assessment of their current practices against the Z15.1 framework. This process involves collaborating with legal counsel to ensure that all policies and procedures align with relevant regulations and provide adequate protection for the organization. Engaging upper management is also crucial, as their commitment is necessary for allocating resources, creating a culture of safety, and supporting training initiatives.

All significant fleet exposures identified during this assessment should be communicated to all relevant stakeholders to ensure awareness and alignment across the organization. Additionally, organizations should establish and publish a written policy addressing Z15.1. This policy should outline how the standard fits within the organization's current health and well-being program, applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rules and regulations.

A comprehensive written program should also be developed to include the following elements:

- Safety policy
- Responsibilities and accountabilities
- Driver recruitment, selection, and assessment
- Organizational safety rules
- Orientation and training
- Reporting rates and major incidents to executives
- Communications
- Vehicle specifications
- Inspection and maintenance
- Reward and recognition
- Regulatory compliance management
- Management program audits

Resources

[Creating a Fleet Safety Culture](#)

[NETS Comprehensive Guide to Road Safety](#)

[Motor Vehicle Record Guide](#)

1. World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries