



2008 WAA Legislative Summary

by Jeff Treu

Compliance Directorate

OSHA released Compliance Directorate on 6/25/08 forcing all companies to adopt practices designed for the logging industry. Tree Care Industry Association went to work to attempt to have the directive rescinded. The directive was rescinded August 21.

EAB Find in Wisconsin

Detection, quarantine and followup. Stay tuned!

OSHA Updates from the ISA

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) addressing tree care operations, including hazards, fatalities and control measures. OSHA is requesting data, information and comments on effective measures to control hazards in tree care operations and prevent injuries and fatalities.

The International Society of Arboriculture, Secretariat for the American National Standards Institute's Accredited Standards Committee (Z133), announced that an OSHA representative met with the Z133 committee on October 30th, 2008. The Z133 committee includes representatives from the tree care industry, labor, the academic community, government, equipment manufacturers, insurance carriers, and other interested groups and individuals.

OSHA requests comment on regulatory alternatives to reduce injuries and fatalities, as well as what requirements a standard addressing hazards in this industry should include and the potential costs and benefits of such a standard. Comments must be submitted by Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

ISA, TCIA, SMA, SCA, and ASCA strongly believe that any standard for tree care operations developed by OSHA should be based on the ANSI Z133 standard. Also, proper training is absolutely essential in the safe practice of tree care operations. In addition to strong, clear, and fair safety standards, widespread education in the use and content of those standards is key to reducing the rate of industry accidents and fatalities.

ISA is making an official statement to OSHA on these issues and recommends support of the Z133 standards to OSHA.

Visit www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=16667 for additional details, www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=SubmitComment&o=090000648070ccf8 for ways to comment, and www.osha.gov/briefing.html for the OSHA newsroom website.

Thank you for your continuing support of arboriculture.