March 15, 2018

TO SEI NOCSAE PARTICIPANTS:

SEI Certification Bulletin #19
Standards Update / Faceguard Testing / Annual Certification / Certification Test Fees

SEI attended the NOCSAE Winter Standards Committee meeting held in San Antonio, TX on February 2, 2018. We are pleased to provide you with SEI’s summary of actions taken at that meeting. The official minutes will be issued by NOCSAE. For your information, the following are summaries of the standard approvals and the expectations for certification.

Modified NOCSAE Standards

NOCSAE approved the following standard modifications. The modifications are provided for clarification only; no changes were made to the standard that will affect initial or annual certifications.

ND001-17m17b Standard Test Method and Equipment Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Headgear/Equipment
- Removed Section 8.1 regarding the use of hazardous materials. Hazardous substances are covered in detail by multiple federal regulations and requirements that did not exist at the time of the original wording.
- Added field hockey ball SEI / NOCSAE logo.

ND069-14m17 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Field Hockey Balls
- Updated SEI / NOCSAE logo.

ND015-15m17 Standard Test Method and Specification Used in Evaluating the Corrosion Characteristics and Effects on Metallic Hardware Disassembly
- Added compliance level (level 2) to Section 1.1.

ND045-17m17b Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Lacrosse Face Protectors
- Updated formatting / corrected typos.
- Removed shimming language from Section 7.1.
Revised NOCSAE Standards

NOCSAE approved the following standard performance specification revisions which will become effective February 2019.

The following standards are affected by the COR requirement for baseball projectile change:

- ND022-18 *Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter’s Helmets*
- ND024-18 *Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Catcher’s Helmets with Faceguard*
- ND029-18 *Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Fielder’s Headgear*
- ND072-18 *Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter’s Helmet Mounted Face Protector*
  - Removed COR requirement for the baseball projectile. Balls that have been subjected to COR testing are oftentimes no longer suitable for product testing. The requirement that balls, “be of the construction specified and used by Major League Baseball” results in an acceptable COR range. The disclosure of which is specifically prohibited by Major League Baseball.

- ND027-18 *Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseballs*
  - Edited Section 5.2 to allow multiple methods to measure ball circumference. The current standard requires measurements to be taken on seam and off seam. The industry standard measurement tool for ball circumference is a steel tape, which cannot measure balls off-seam. Thus, this change in wording is needed to allow those using various measurement systems that may be limited to accomplish the measures. A companion procedural guide provides for two methods.

- ND087-18 *Standard Method of Impact Test and Performance Requirements for Football Faceguards*
  - A provision was added to address alternative faceguard designs and a test method with corresponding performance criteria was added to evaluate those designs. The current standard was design restrictive and only allowed for traditional style masks with overlapping wires.
ND081-18 *Standard Pneumatic Ram Test Method and Equipment Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear and Face Guards*

- Added 9.3.2 and 9.3.3 which restrict the impact area and remove the facemask as a point of initial contact for random impact locations. Removing the facemask as an initial point of contact would reduce the variability in random impact location results from lab to lab.

ND021-18 *Standard Projectile Impact Test Method and Equipment Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear, Faceguards, Or Projectiles*

- Changed mass requirement from 140-145 grams to 142-146 grams in Appendix 1 (Headform Response Verification). The weight range combined with the other required ball parameters made finding an appropriate ball difficult, expensive, and time consuming. Increasing the weight limit by 1 gram, while reducing the allowable weight range, reduces the time required to find an appropriate projectile to verify headform response.

**Other Topics**

**Football or Baseball Faceguard Testing**

SEI and NOCSAE discussed and agreed to testing one representative football or baseball faceguard model on one football or baseball helmet model if the SEI participant can present passing internal QC/QA test data for all other helmet models applicable for the faceguard model. SEI reserves the right to randomly select samples for verification testing.

**Annual Certification Testing**

With the next SEI Certification Program Manual (CPM) revision, SEI will be adding the following new section regarding annual certification testing to Program Section 30: NOCSAE:

**SEI CPM Section 30.## Annual Certification Testing**

Following the issuance of initial certification, certification testing shall be conducted on an annual basis. NOCSAE product models shall not be tested annually if there has been no production of that product model since its last certification date and the product model inventory has been in the participant’s direct control and post customs. The required internal QC/QA test data shall be provided and SEI reserves the right to randomly select samples for verification testing. Product model inventory that is maintained at a contract manufacturing location is not considered to be in the participant’s control.
Certifying Baseballs, Football Helmets and Chest Protectors

SEI will be issuing a second bulletin this month that will include test fees for certifying baseballs, football helmets and chest protectors. Product models for these standards can be submitted at any time for initial certification.

As you are aware, NFHS is requiring baseballs to be SEI certified to the NOCSAE ND027-18 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseballs by January 1, 2019.

The football helmet standard, ND002-17 Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Football Helmets, now includes pass/fail requirements for pneumatic ram testing (NOCSAE ND081-14m15 Standard Linear Impactor Test Method and Equipment Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Protective Headgear and Faceguards). The ND002-17 standard has an effective date of November 1, 2018.

The NOCSAE ND200-18 Standard Test Method and Performance Specification Used in Evaluating the Performance Characteristics of Chest Protectors for Commotio Cordis was approved as a new standard at the January 2017 Winter Standards Committee meeting.

We hope you have found this bulletin to be helpful. Please feel free to call a member of the SEI staff if you have any questions regarding the information contained within this bulletin.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hock
Program Development Director

cc: SEI Staff
    SEI Quality Auditors
    SEI Approved Laboratories
    NOCSAE
    SFIA