

ANSI/ASSP Z590.3-2021

Prevention through Design

Guidelines for Addressing Occupational Hazards
and Risks in Design and Redesign Processes



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS



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ANSI/ASSP Z590.3 – 2021

American National Standard

Prevention through Design

**Guidelines for Addressing Occupational Hazards
and Risks in Design and Redesign Processes**

Secretariat

American Society of Safety Professionals
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

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American National Standards Institute

American National Standard

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FOREWORD

This standard was developed by a standards committee, national in scope, functioning under the procedures of the American National Standards Institute with the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) as Secretariat. This revision of the standard was developed to provide updated guidance in the consistent practice of identifying, assessing, and treating occupational hazards and risks in the design and redesign processes, and throughout a system's lifecycle. The revision aligns with key risk-based standards and technical reports including ANSI/ASSP/ISO 31000, *Risk Management – Guidelines*, ANSI/ASSP/ISO 31010, *Risk Management – Risk Assessment Techniques*, and ASSP TR-31010 Technical Report: *Risk Management – Techniques for Safety Practitioners* and can be used to integrate a prevention through design (PtD) process into an organization's risk management process.

In addition, the revision is designed to allow the user to integrate PtD elements such as procurement, management of change, risk assessments, and design safety reviews into an organization's safety management system such as ANSI/ASSP Z10.0:2019, *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems* and ANSI/ASSP/ISO 45001:2018, *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use*.

The revision includes updated guidance in: roles and responsibilities of stakeholders; design safety reviews; establishment of safety specifications; management of change; the PtD risk management process; and the hierarchy of risk treatments. In addition, the revision includes additional addendums for: the PtD risk management process; the logic supporting the hierarchy of risk treatments; ergonomics and human factors engineering; and management of change.

History: In the late 1990s, the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Safety through Design at the National Safety Council concluded that significant benefits will be derived if decisions affecting safety, health and the environment are integrated into the early stages of the design and redesign processes.

- In 1994, the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) released a position paper approved by the Board of Directors to promote acquisition of knowledge of and application of "Designing for Safety" concepts.

Developments since then have given additional importance and credence to management, design engineers and safety and health professionals having knowledge of the principles and practices applied in addressing occupational risks in the design and redesign processes.

In 2007, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) established a major National initiative to "create a sustainable national strategy for Prevention through Design."

In 2008, an article by Fred A. Manuele, CSP, P.E., entitled "Prevention through Design: Addressing Occupational Risks in the Design and Redesign Processes" was published in *Professional Safety*, which formed an early basis for the Z790.001-2009 technical report, and now this standard.

In 2009, the Technical Report Z790.001-2009 was published. In 2011, the standard, ANSI/ASSP Z590.3-2011, *Prevention through Design: Guidelines for Addressing Occupational Hazards and Risks in Design and Redesign Processes* was published. The standard was then reaffirmed in 2016.

Requirements in the standard are identified by the word "shall." An organization that chooses to conform to this standard is expected to fulfill those "shall" requirements. Explanatory comments and recommended practices preceded by the word "Note" are informative and not requirements

of the standard. Also, addenda are informative and are not normative requirements of the standard.

Normative Requirements: This standard uses the single column format common to many international standards. The normative requirements appear aligned to the left margin. To meet the requirements of this standard, machinery, equipment and process suppliers and users must conform to these normative requirements. These requirements typically use the verb “shall.”

Note: The informative or explanatory notes in this standard appear indented, in italics, in a reduced font size, which is an effort to provide a visual signal to the reader that this is informative note, not normative text, and is not to be considered part of the requirements of this standard; this text is advisory in nature only. The suppliers and users are not required to conform to the informative note. The informative note is presented in this manner in an attempt to enhance readability and to provide explanation or guidance to the sections they follow.

Revisions: The Z590.3 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made periodically (usually five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the Z590.3 Committee to process the changes in a timelier manner.

Interpretations: Upon a request in writing to the Secretariat, the Z590.3 Committee will render an interpretation of any part of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear, citing the relevant paragraph number(s) and phrased as a request for a clarification of a specific requirement. Oral interpretations are not provided. No one but ASSP is authorized to provide any interpretation of this standard.

Effective Date: This standard is effective 90 days after the publishing of this standard. The committee recognizes that some period of time after the approval of this document is necessary for organizations, suppliers, and users to develop new designs and/or modify existing standards or procedures in order to incorporate the new and/or revised requirements of this standard into their operations. The committee recommends that entities that choose to adopt this standard begin implementing the requirements within 12 months of the approval date.

Approval: Neither the Z590.3 Committee nor American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approves, certifies, rates, or endorses any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

Appendices: Appendices are included in most standards to provide the user with additional information related to the subject of the standard. Appendices are not part of the approved standard.

Checklists: Checklists included in this standard may be copied and used in non-commercial settings only.

Committee Meetings: Persons wishing to attend a meeting of the Z590.3 Committee should contact the Secretariat for information.

Standard Approval: This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the American National Standards Committee on Prevention through Design, Z590.3. Approval of the standard does not necessarily imply (nor is it required) that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time this standard was approved, the Z590.3 Committee had the following members:

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Contents

1. Scope, Purpose and Application	10
1.1 Scope	10
1.2 Purpose	10
1.3 Application	11
2. Referenced and Related Standards and Guidelines.....	12
3. Definitions	12
4. Roles and Responsibility.....	16
4.1 Leadership	16
4.2 Stakeholders	17
5. Relationships with Suppliers	18
6. Establishing Safety Specifications	19
7. Design Safety Reviews	20
7.1 Policies.....	20
7.2 Process	20
8. Management of Change	20
9. PtD Risk Management Process	21
9.1 Leadership, Direction and Communication	21
9.2 Competent Assessors	21
9.3 Establish Risk Criteria.....	22
9.4 Establish the Context	22
9.5 Anticipate/Identify Risk.....	23
9.6 Analyze Risk	25
9.7 Evaluate Risk	26
9.8 Select and Implement Risk Reduction and Control Methods.....	27
9.9 Monitor and Review	27
9.10 Record and Report.....	28
9.11 Follow Up on Actions Taken	28
10. Risk Assessment Techniques	28
11. Hierarchy of Risk Treatments	29
Addendum A – The PtD Risk Management Process (Informative).....	32
Addendum B – Progression of Occupational Health Issues Flow Chart (Informative).....	35
Addendum C – Procurement Guidelines (Informative)	36
Addendum D – Risk Assessment Report (Informative)	38
Addendum E – A Design Safety Review Guide (Informative).....	40
Addendum F – Examples of Risk Assessment Matrices and Definitions of Terms (Informative).....	46

Addendum G – Comments on Selected Risk Assessment Techniques (Informative)	51
Addendum H – Potential Failure Mode and Effects Analysis Sequence (Informative)	60
Addendum I – The Logic Supporting the Hierarchy of Risk Treatments (Informative).....	61
Addendum J – Ergonomics and Human Factors Engineering (Informative).....	66
Addendum K – Management of Change (Informative)	69
Addendum L – Bibliography (Informative).....	71

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD Z590.3
PREVENTION THROUGH DESIGN
GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS
AND RISKS IN DESIGN AND REDESIGN PROCESSES**

1. Scope, Purpose and Application

1.1 Scope

This standard provides guidance on including prevention through design concepts within an occupational safety and health management system. Through the application of these concepts, decisions pertaining to occupational hazards and risks can be incorporated into the process of design and redesign of work premises, tools, equipment, machinery, substances, and work processes including their construction, manufacture, use, maintenance, and ultimate disposal or reuse. This standard provides guidance for a life-cycle assessment and design model that balances environmental and occupational safety and health goals over the life span of a facility, process, or product. Figure 1 illustrates an example of the lifecycle phases of a system.

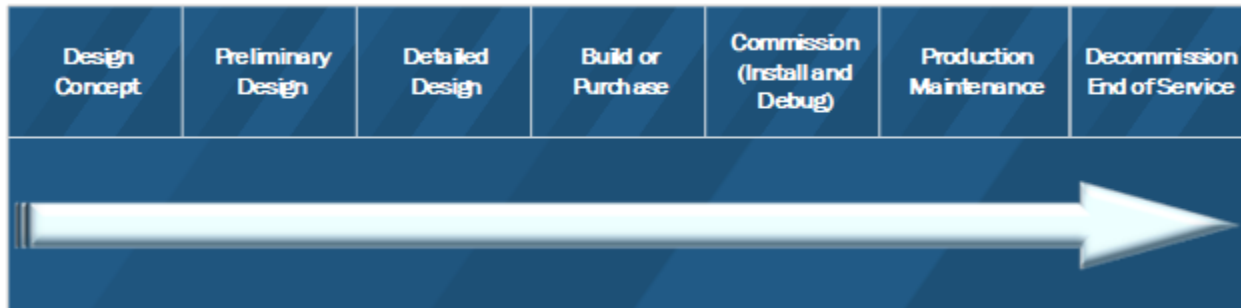


Figure 1. Example of the lifecycle phases of a system

This standard complements but does not replace performance objectives existing in other specific standards and procedures.

The goals of applying prevention through design concepts in an occupational setting are to:

- Achieve acceptable risk levels.
- Prevent or reduce occupationally related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.
- Reduce the cost of retrofitting necessary to prevent and mitigate hazards and risks that were not sufficiently addressed in the design or redesign processes.

1.2 Purpose

This standard pertains principally to the avoidance, elimination, reduction or control of occupational safety and health hazards and risks in the design and redesign process.

Note: Incidents or exposures that have the potential to result in occupational injuries and illnesses can also result in damage to property and business interruption, and damage to the environment. Reference is made in several places in this standard to those additional loss potentials which may require evaluation and resultant action.