

What's the difference between ANSI B11 Standards and ISO machinery safety standards?

Both standards development processes share a great many procedural similarities, in terms of meeting rules, development processes and steps etc., however, there are key differences in the content. Due primarily to OSHA's regulatory role with respect to employer and employee responsibilities, ANSI B11 standards include machinery user requirements in addition requirements for machine manufacturers. They also include requirements for existing "legacy" machinery. By contrast, ISO standards ONLY address the requirements for machine manufacturers, and ONLY address machines manufactured after the publication date of the standard and NOT any existing machines. ISO standards are generally written and edited by people whose native language is not English, so sometimes, the phraseology and sentence construction is not always clear. The other major difference is one of approach, where typically, ANSI standards will normatively reference requirements already contained in a different standard whereas the ANI B11 standards will often repeat the requirement contained in a reference standard for the reader's convenience. This often results in a much more extensive list of normative references in the ISO standard, which can add up to a significant amount of money in order to conform to the requirements of an ISO standard.