



National Safety Council

Position/Policy Statement

ANSI Z590: Establishing Levels of Competence in the Safety Profession

The National Safety Council supports efforts to enhance both the safety profession and the practice of safety. The Council is not totally convinced that an ANSI Standard on Establishing Levels of Competence in the Safety Profession (ANSI Z590) is the proper vehicle for this enhancement. The Council is concerned that whatever process is utilized to develop Z590 be designed to involve the views of as much of the safety community as possible. The Council is also concerned that the proposed standard recognize the many branches of the safety profession and the many backgrounds (educational and experienced-based) that contribute to a level of competence in the safety profession. Also, it should be understood that each industry has special needs and this should be recognized in any standard developed. Finally, the Council recommends that the standard examine the use of terminology for the various competency levels that is now commonly used.

With these principles, both the support and the concerns serving as guidance, the Council will continue to participate in the development of the ANSI Z590 Standard.

This policy statement reflects the views of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Approved by the Board of Delegates, October 21, 1999