

IWCA Window Cleaning Safety Standard Approved By ANSI

On October 25, 2001, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the International Window Cleaning Association (IWCA) I-14.1 Window Cleaning Safety Standard for publication as an American National Standard.

The action is a result of nearly five years of work by members of the IWCA I-14 Committee. Throughout this process, interested parties affected by the Standard provided input and submitted comments on the draft. This enabled the committee to review hundreds of comments, statistics and technical reports and make numerous changes to the draft standard in order to achieve a consensus for the window cleaning industry.

The IWCA I-14 Committee is comprised of 24 members that include safety consultants and designers, window cleaning contractors, officials from the California and New York Departments of Labor, the IWCA and BOMA International.

The ANSI/IWCA I-14.1 Window Cleaning Safety Standard is a two-part document designed to serve as a guide for regulatory agencies, architects and building owners and managers. Part A focuses on safety guidelines for the use of window cleaning access equipment while Part B deals with the manufacture, design or installation of the equipment. Some of the access equipment addressed in the Standard include rope descending systems (also known as RDS, CDE or CDA), transportable and permanent suspended scaffolds, ladders and man-lifts.

The IWCA anticipates that printed copies of the ANSI/IWCA I-14 Window Cleaning Safety Standard will be available on or about December 1, 2001. BOMA International expects to have copies of the Standard available for purchase shortly thereafter. BOMA is also working on a resource guide that will provide members with detailed explanations of the directives outlined in the Standard.

