

CITY OF AUSTIN STANDARD OF CARE FOR TREES AND PLANTS

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ANSI A300, Z133.1, Z60.1

What is a Standard?

- “Standard” - a model or example to be followed: a definite level or degree of quality that is proper and adequate for a specific purpose (2000 Merriam-Webster ©)
- ▣ Other examples: Uniform Building Codes, Engineering Standards, Traffic Control Devices, Management (ISO)
- ▣ Importance: Communication, Professionalism, Promotion of Industry-Recognized Practices, Contract/Specification Guidance, Liability Exposure Reduction

Definitions



- ANSI – American National Standards Institute
- OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- BMP – Best Management Practice
- ISA – International Society of Arboriculture

Why Does Austin Need Standards for Trees?

□ 1. It's the law

▣ § 6-3-6 STANDARDS OF CARE FOR A TREE OR PLANT ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

- (A) The urban forester shall develop a standard of care for trees or plants on public property. Standards developed under this section shall be based on the current edition of the National Arborists Association's Standards for Tree Care or other nationally recognized standard.
- (B) Before a standard is adopted by the board, the board shall review the standard at a public hearing.
- (C) The urban forester shall make a copy of the standards and related rules available to the public.

■ *Source: 1992 Code Section 15-10-4(D); Ord. 031023-10; Ord. 031211-11.*

□ 2. It allows the urban forester to determine how trees are managed on public property without direct supervision of all responsible parties

Why ANSI?



- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
 - ▣ Oversees development of voluntary consensus standards
 - ▣ Accredits standards developed by standard developing organizations
 - ▣ Approximately 9,500 American National Standards that carry the ANSI designation
- Approved Standards Committee (ASC) A300
 - ▣ Approved by ANSI June 28, 1991
 - ▣ Administered by a secretariat (Tree Care Industry Association, TCIA) to ensure compliance with ANSI procedures

Standard Development



- The ANSI process involves:
 - consensus by a group that is open to representatives from all interested parties
 - broad-based public review and comment on draft standards
 - consideration of and response to comments
 - incorporation of submitted changes that meet the same consensus requirements into a draft standard
 - availability of an appeal by any participant alleging that these principles were not respected during the standards-development process.

ASC A300 Representation



- ❑ US Forest Service
- ❑ Society of Municipal Arborists
- ❑ International Society of Arboriculture
- ❑ Tree Care Industry Association, Inc
- ❑ Utility Arborists Association
- ❑ American Society of Landscape Architects
- ❑ American Nursery and Landscape Association
- ❑ Many private tree industry representatives

ANSI A300 – Tree Care Practices

- Apply exclusively to the management of "woody landscape plants"
- Divided into parts (year listed indicates latest revision)
 - ▣ (Part 1) - 2008 Pruning
 - ▣ (Part 2) - 2011 Soil Management (includes Fertilization)
 - ▣ (Part 3)* - 2006 Supplemental Support Systems (includes Cabling, Bracing, and Guying, and Propping)
 - ▣ (Part 4)* - 2008 Lightning Protection Systems
 - ▣ (Part 5) - 2012 Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction
 - ▣ (Part 6) - 2012 Transplanting (includes Planting)
 - ▣ (Part 7) - 2006 Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)
 - ▣ (Part 9) - 2011 Tree Risk Assessment
 - * currently under revision

ANSI A300



- Other Upcoming Standards
 - ▣ Part 8 – Root Management
 - ▣ Part 10 – Integrated Pest Management
 - ▣ Part 11 – Urban Forest Products

Best Management Practices



- ❑ Published by International Society of Arboriculture to accompany ANSI A300 Standards
- ❑ BMP's are interpretations of ANSI Standards and provide basic guidance (How-To's)
- ❑ Specific practice decisions will still be made by tree managers and arborists

ANSI Z133.1 – Arboricultural Operations

- ❑ Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations
- ❑ Updated in 2012
- ❑ Many OSHA Standards Cited
- ❑ Topics covered:
 - ▣ General Safety
 - ▣ Electrical Hazard
 - ▣ Use of Vehicles and Mobile Equipment
 - ▣ Portable Power Hand Tools
 - ▣ Hand Tools and Ladders
 - ▣ Work Procedures



ANSI Z60.1 – American Standards for Nursery Stock

- Tree stock specifications and definitions
- Developed by the American Nursery and Landscape Association's Horticultural Standards Committee
- Covers planting depth, circling roots, minimum size of container for given caliper size
- Most useful for developing specifications for tree stock
- Related ISA Guidelines



“Should” vs “Shall”

- ANSI Standards consist of a number of “shall” and “should” statements
 - ▣ “Shall” - is "a mandatory requirement." A mandatory requirement is not optional and must be followed for ANSI A300 compliance.
 - ▣ “Should” - is an advisory recommendation which may be deviated from when defensible reasons or valid justifications for non-compliance exist.
- “Shall” statements are appropriate for guiding enforceable standards, rules, and laws—“Should” statements are not

Austin Utilization of A300/Z133/Z60.1 to Date



- Custom and practice for many city departments engaged in tree care and maintenance
- Guidance for Scope of Work for contracts
- Conditions of receiving a Public Tree Care Permit

Additional Opportunities



- ❑ Expanded bid specifications
- ❑ Guidance of tree management plans
- ❑ Permit conditions
- ❑ Development Regulation / Tree Preservation Plans
- ❑ Ordinance and Rule updates
- ❑ Public education
- ❑ Suggestions for managers of private trees

Adoption Process & Follow-Up

- Staff feedback was gathered at interdepartmental tree working group meeting on October 25, 2012 – no dissenting opinions regarding adoption
- Urban Forestry Board Public Hearing – this meeting
- Adoption of ANSI A300, ANSI Z133.1, and ANSI Z60.1 as “stop-gap” standards
 - ▣ Will provide a basic level of guidance
 - ▣ Austin-specific standards will be forthcoming and guided by the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, multi-department input, and public input
 - ▣ Austin-specific standards shall be adopted by the Urban Forestry Board.
- Future re-evaluation can include a review of the appropriateness of all or part(s) of ANSI A300, Z133, or Z60.1 including those under development or in revision

Adoption Recommendation



- Urban Forester Recommendations:
 - “Adopt the most current version and any updates to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300, Z133.1, and Z60.1 as the Standard of Care for trees and plants on public property in Austin and that staff should recommend to the Board standards that are more specific to Austin’s urban forest and reflect city and department policies, laws and strategic plans”
 - Incorporate a review of the staff-generated Austin-specific standards into 2013 Strategic Goals Plan