SUBJECT: Roll-Over Protection Structures (ROPS): Minimum Performance Criteria

AFFECTED STANDARDS/DIRECTIVES: 1926.1001(a) through 1926.1001(h)

PURPOSE: To give direction to all compliance personnel concerning acceptable roll-over protective structures.

BACKGROUND:

A. In 1969 the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) promulgated the performance criteria documents for Roll-Over Protective Structures (ROPS) on which 1926.1001(a) through 1926.1001(h) is based. Since that time advances in ROPS technology and practice have been made. Petitions have been received from members of industry requesting that 1926.1001(a) through 1926.1001(h) be amended so as to adopt SAE's new performance criteria document J1040a-1975 or SAE J1040 May 1994. Although this document has been under review by federal OSHA, it may be some time before any amendment of the standard, if warranted, will be accomplished. Meanwhile, numerous inquiries have been made by ROPS manufacturers and/or users as to whether ROPS complying with the criteria set forth in SAE J1040a-1975 or SAE J1040 May 1994 satisfies the requirements of the OSEAct and 1926.1001(a) through 1926.1001(h).

B. In a letter dated October 1, 1976, the chairman of the SAE Construction Machinery Technical Committee, Mr. George L. Klose, on behalf of Subcommittee 12, represented to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that the criteria set forth in SAE J1040a-1975 do not compromise the safety of employees. The program directive system was developed to unify all health and safety policies, procedures, orders, and information dissemination.

ACTION: Based on the representations of the SAE Subcommittee 12 and OSHA's evaluation of the material submitted concerning SAE J1040a-1975 or SAE J1040 May 1994, ROPS meeting the criteria set forth in that SAE document shall be regarded substantially in compliance with 1926.1001(a), even if they do not meet all the criteria set forth in earlier
criteria documents on which the present standard is based. Failure to meet
the requirements of the standard are to be regarded as minimal if the
ROPS meet the SAE J1040a-1975 or SAE J1040 May 1994 criteria.

EFFECTIVE
DATE:    This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until
canceled or superseded.