ANSI

accreditation program for product certification bodies

American National Standards Institute

The mission of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is to enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by promoting, facilitating and ensuring the integrity of voluntary consensus standards and the related conformity assessment systems.

ANSI is a founding member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, via the U.S. National Committee, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The Institute also participates in the activities of regional standardization and accreditation cooperation bodies, including the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Standards are just good ideas unless products, processes, systems and personnel conform to them.

Certification is a statement that the specified requirements in a voluntary standard or regulation will be met. These requirements often include statements of how to make a product safe, efficient, and compatible with others.

A certification body is an impartial third party that tests and evaluates a product to determine its compliance with relevant standards. Upon verification, a certification mark is applied to the product or its packaging to serve as a visual statement of conformance.

A certification program that is accredited by ANSI is recognized for its adherence to international accreditation requirements. Benefits are recognized not only by the accredited certification body, but also by the product manufacturer and the end user:

- Doors open to international markets
- Trade barriers are reduced
- The need for a duplicative test or mark is often eliminated;
- Consumers gain access to safer and better quality products
- Government agencies are aided in their efforts to assure public safety and health and to protect the environment

Global acceptance

Product certification programs accredited by ANSI comply with internationally recognized guidelines, requirements and standards. The cornerstone of ANSI's accreditation process is ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*. The global acceptance of ISO/IEC Guide 65 facilitates the recognition of certifications across national borders and reduces barriers to trade for suppliers' goods and services.

Regulatory reliance

Domestically, regulators at the federal, state and local levels are increasingly motivated to depend upon independent certification bodies for the accurate and unbiased evaluation of certain products. ANSI's accreditation of a certification program demonstrates to the government that competence has been established and is being maintained.

Continual improvement

ANSI's accreditation programs are driven by a process of continual improvement and responsiveness to evolving user needs. Periodic assessment and on-site evaluations verify conformance to program criteria. These regular evaluations help to ensure that an organization is competent to perform the tests, review the results, conduct evaluations and make decisions on certification.

ANSI Accredited Program
PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

SAFE QUALITY FOODS

Consumer confidence in safe quality food and the integrity of the food supply chain is enhanced by the partnership between ANSI and the Food Marketing Institute. ANSI provides an accreditation service for FMI's **Safe Quality Food Initiative** certification program (www.sqfi.com).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RADIO EQUIPMENT

The U.S. federal government relies on ANSI to accredit Telecommunications Certification Bodies under a **Federal Communications Commission** program that enforces rules for the manufacturers of telecommunications and radio communication equipment used in the U.S. and abroad.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

At the request of the Sustainable Forestry Board, ANSI administers an accreditation service for certification bodies operating under the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative Chain of Custody** (SFI CoC) and/or the **PEFC Chain of Custody** (PEFC CoC) programs. These initiatives positively impact a range of forest-based products and their movement from the forest to the end user.

ANSI-Accredited Product Certification Programs
Scopes of Certification Activities

- **SQFI 1000** — HACCP Supplier Assurance Code for the Primary Producer
- **SQFI 2000** — HACCP Supplier Assurance Code for the Food Industry
- **EurepGAP** certification programs for agriculture products

- Appliances
- Automotive lifting devices
- Bottled water and packaged ice
- Building products
- Building and institutional furniture
- Class II biohazard cabinetry
- Drinking water additives
- Drinking water treatment units
- Electric appliances and accessories
- Electrical products
- Fenestration products
- Food service equipment
- Food safety
- Gas appliances and accessories
- Gas and oil products
- Manufactured products
- Recreational vehicle plumbing products
- Marine products
- Personal protective and safety equipment
- Plastic piping systems and components
- Plumbing products
- Recreational and occupational health and safety/Personal protective clothing
- Sanitation products
- Sealed insulating glass
- Solar energy
- Sustainable forestry
- Swimming pools, spas and components
- Telecommunications and radio equipment
- Treated wood
- Wastewater treatment units
- Windows and doors
- Wood products

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competence impartiality integrity

These principles are the foundation of a system built to provide industry, government and consumers with confidence that the products we use and depend on every day meet a set of defined characteristics.

ANSI, the American National Standards Institute, plays a key role in this system — opening global markets and helping to mitigate the impact of both U.S. and foreign regulatory burdens.