



# WHAT IS ANSI? >>>

AN OVERVIEW

# ANSI IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE U.S. VOLUNTARY STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AND STRENGTHENING ITS IMPACT BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

## WHAT IS A STANDARD, ANYWAY?

In the simplest sense, a standard is an agreed-upon way of doing something. In practice, it is a document that sets specific guidelines for the design, operation, manufacture, and use of nearly everything produced by mankind. There are standards to protect human health, safety, and the environment, and others to ensure that different products work compatibly together.

Voluntary standards are the result of cooperation between technical professionals, companies, industry groups, academics, and government and consumer representatives. They represent the combined expertise of those who have a stake in the technology, working to agree upon requirements and best practices.

Standards drive innovation, strengthen businesses, and fuel our nation's economy. And they make people's everyday lives easier, safer, healthier, and more enjoyable.



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ANSI'S ROLE IN THE U.S. STANDARDS SYSTEM?**

# STANDARDS COORDINATION

ANSI is highly involved in coordinating standardization in fields vital to U.S. interests and priorities—often in cutting-edge industries such as nanotechnology, 3-D printing, and drones.

The Institute establishes ongoing standards collaboratives and partnerships as well as topical workshops and other activities to address specific standardization needs. Relying on the cooperation of volunteers from diverse industries and sectors, ANSI is able to identify gaps in existing standards and make recommendations for future work.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

One of the great strengths of the U.S. approach to standards and conformity assessment is the “public-private partnership.” The Institute bridges the gap between industry and government and enables information exchange and access among standards developing organizations and public-sector leaders, agencies, and legislators. ANSI works with its members to create outreach programs to legislators, to increase understanding of the private-sector standards and conformity assessment community among agencies, and to provide testimony when requested by legislative committees, among other activities.

[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)

# AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS PROCESS

While ANSI coordinates U.S. voluntary standardization activities, the standards are written by hundreds of individual standards developing organizations (SDOs). If an SDO complies with ANSI’s Essential Requirements—including openness, balance, due process, and consensus—they can apply to become an ANSI-accredited standards developer (ASD). More than 240 organizations are currently accredited as ASDs.



An ASD can then request that ANSI approve a specific standard as an American National Standard, which means that it has been approved by ANSI’s Board of Standards Review as meeting certain criteria regarding due process in its development.

To date, there are more than 11,000 American National Standards, comprising the work of thousands of experts from hundreds of ASDs representing practically every industry sector.

[www.ansi.org/psa](http://www.ansi.org/psa)

# MEMBERSHIP

ANSI membership provides a chance to join a distinguished group of companies, organizations, government entities, consumer groups, educational institutions, and other public and private sector innovators who are harnessing the power of standards to position themselves for long-term success.

Standards can affect your bottom line, and membership gives you the opportunity to influence technical and policy developments, optimize your market position, and keep up on the latest developments in your industry. Companies and organizations that participate actively in standards development can benefit from increased efficiencies, growth and market access opportunities, and a competitive advantage over those who don't. ANSI membership provides a seat at the table to access these strategic benefits.

Members also receive discounts on standards from ANSI's webstore, and on workshops and other events and activities.



[www.ansi.org/membership](http://www.ansi.org/membership)

# ACCREDITATION

Put simply, conformity assessment—including testing, inspection, verification, and certification—is a means of showing that a person, product, service, system, or body meets the requirements of a standard or guideline. It is the vital link between standards and their implementation. Without it standards are just good ideas.



The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), a wholly owned subsidiary of ANSI, promotes confidence in the marketplace through its accreditation programs for a wide array of conformity assessment bodies including: management systems certification bodies, calibration and testing labs, product certification bodies, personnel certifications and personnel credentialing bodies, forensic test and calibration service providers, inspection bodies, greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies, reference material producers, and proficiency test providers.

[www.anab.org](http://www.anab.org)

[www.ansiaccrreditation.org](http://www.ansiaccrreditation.org)

# INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

ANSI is the sole U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and, through the U.S. National Committee (USNC), to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Hundreds of U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)—accredited by ANSI or approved by the USNC—develop and transmit U.S.

positions on ISO and IEC committee activities and ballots. The Institute also represents U.S. interests in other major

global and regional standards and accreditation cooperatives, and in dialogues with key markets like China, Europe, and India.



ANSI is also highly active in public- and private-sector partnership activities that provide capacity-building assistance and other engagement opportunities with emerging economies on standards, trade, infrastructure, and good regulatory practices. Recently, this has included efforts related to non-sewered sanitation, medical devices, and clean energy.

Additionally, ANSI fosters U.S. competitiveness by assisting members and stakeholders with international trade issues affecting their business.

[www.standardsportal.org](http://www.standardsportal.org)

# EDUCATION & TRAINING

Designed for newcomers and longtime standards professionals alike, ANSI's education and training programs promote understanding of and participation in standards and conformity assessment activities. The Institute's instructor-led and web-based training options provide guidance to anyone wanting to learn about the important work that ANSI does, and how to get involved. ANSI also offers opportunities and free resources for K–12 and university students and faculty, helping to bring standardization into the classroom and show the next generation its importance.

[www.ansi.org/education](http://www.ansi.org/education)

[www.ansi.org/students](http://www.ansi.org/students)

## workcred

The U.S. credentialing system is confusing, and difficult to navigate. Through research, consulting, and educational activities, ANSI's affiliate Workcred connects and educates stakeholders to create a more integrated and effective credentialing system, and helps people and organizations understand what makes a quality credential.

[www.workcred.org](http://www.workcred.org)

# NEED STANDARDS?



We provide access to hundreds of thousands of standards developed by hundreds of individual SDOs through our webstore.

Buy standards individually, or choose Standards Subscriptions, a multi-user, custom-built standards solution that fits the needs of your organization.

**[webstore.ansi.org](http://webstore.ansi.org)**

## WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD,

ANSI is committed to enhancing the global competitiveness of U.S. business and quality of life by providing a framework for fair standards development and quality conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity. Encompassing practically every industry, the Institute represents the diverse interests of more than 270,000 companies and organizations and 30 million professionals worldwide.

**[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)**



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