



American Concrete Institute

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July 5, 2018

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Anne Caldas
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Re: *Through the Looking Glass*
Consumer and Public Interests

Dear Mr. Bhatia and Ms. Caldas:

We are writing to initiate consideration of a concept regarding the ANSI policies and procedures for standards development, *Essential Requirements*. In March of this year, ACI was represented at the ANSI *Through the Looking Glass* program held in Washington, DC. The report back to ACI included an emphasis on avoiding the potential for product interests to supersede the interests of individual consumers or the general public.

ACI applauds ANSI for initiating efforts to help assure safety to the public. We understand that one of the concepts discussed was related to appropriate consumer or public representation and engagement in the processes of ANSI accredited standards development organizations (ASD).

We firmly believe that within ACI (an ANSI ASD, 501(c)(3) organization, and professional technical society) the life, health, and safety of the public is in the forefront of all our committee efforts. As such we do not believe there is a need for increased stringency nor specific consumer or public representation in our process. Professionals participating in our committees continue to have interest of the general public as a primary focus. We suspect that this would be indicative of other 501(c)(3) organizations, or qualified professional societies. Thus, we recommend that the current ANSI *Essential Requirements* continue to serve as the basis of standards development for such organizations.

However, recognize that many ASDs are entities incorporated as 501(c)(6) organizations or otherwise have missions or primary activities intended to increase sales or market share for their respective member products and services. We can therefore envision scenarios where additional

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oversight, consumer or public representation, or other stringencies in the standards development process may be appropriate.

To address the latter, it may be necessary to have additional provisions in the *ANSI Essential Requirements* specifically for entities where the mission or primary activities, in whole or in part, are to increase sales or market share for the respective members.

If ANSI finds a need to better address consumer protection and the interest of the general public in standards development we suggest:

- 1) The basic *ANSI Essential Requirements*, with the necessary routine updates, continue to apply for ASDs that are incorporated as 501(c)(3) organizations or otherwise qualified as professional societies.
- 2) New criteria be developed and implemented through the *ANSI Essential Requirements* to address consumer and public interests for ASDs whose mission or activities are related to increased sales or market share for respective member products and services, such as, but not limited to 501(c)(6) organizations.

As an aside, we believe that most of the ACI membership would find it offensive to suggest that the consumer and public interests are not in the forefront of ACI committee work. Suggesting a lack of consumer or public interest may not be a message that ANSI wants to communicate to the members of professional societies like ACI.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this viewpoint.

Respectfully,

Ron Burg

Ron Burg
Executive Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen S. Szoke'.

Stephen S. Szoke
Code Advocacy Engineer

cc: Mike Tholen, Managing Director, Engineering and Professional Development, ACI
Matt Senecal, Director, Engineering, ACI