



# ANSI IN CHINA Newsletter

Issue No. 19, Q1 2020

## U.S.-China Standards, Conformance, and Trade

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#### **About this publication**

The ANSI China Newsletter is distributed to the membership and constituency of the [American National Standards Institute \(ANSI\)](https://www.ansi.org). It provides updates on technical activities, policy decisions, trade matters, and other information of interest to ANSI members operating in or interacting with China. Some articles are reprinted from the ANSI website, [www.ansi.org](https://www.ansi.org), and some may be contributed by authors who are not ANSI staff.

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#### **Contribute**

Contributions are gladly accepted for review and possible publication, subject to revision by the editors. Submit proposed news items to: [china@ansi.org](mailto:china@ansi.org).

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## Reform Recap

### The Chinese Standards System:

On November 4, 2017, China's National People's Congress promulgated the revised Standardization Law, which entered into force on January 1, 2018. The revision is part of the ambitious plan State Council released in March 2015 to deepen the reform of China's standardization system. The plan includes six measures to:

- ◆ Establish a central coordinating mechanism under the State Council;
- ◆ Consolidate the number of mandatory standards;
- ◆ Optimize the structure for voluntary standards;
- ◆ Foster the development of association standards;
- ◆ Encourage the development of enterprise standards; and
- ◆ Improve the level of internationalization of standards.

The reform represents a significant shift from the previous structure of the Chinese standards system, which emphasized mandatory and voluntary standards for each of the four different levels of standards: national, industry, local, and enterprise. More information on the current structure is available on ANSI's Standards Portal.

ANSI is closely monitoring the rollout of standardization reform in China. Additional background and timely updates can be found by searching "China" and "reform" on ANSI's online news site.



## U.S.-China SCACP Workshop Updates Amidst COVID-19

The health, safety, and well-being of our staff, members, and standards community partners are paramount at ANSI. The spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) around the globe is a public health pandemic. In view of the significant health risks posed by COVID-19, ANSI has put in place several precautions consistent with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for strategies that businesses may implement to protect their constituents and stakeholders.

ANSI has launched a COVID-19 Resources Page to share important ANSI announcements and to highlight the efforts of the U.S. standardization community in supporting rapid response efforts.



In the interest of public health, ANSI is making virtual attendance available for all upcoming meetings and conferences through June. ANSI's U.S.-China Standards and Conformity Assessment Cooperation Program (SCACP) is exploring opportunities to deliver upcoming workshops through virtual platforms, and workshop organizers, presenters, speakers, and participants would be able to interact with one another until travel restrictions can safely be lifted. We see this as the best option to continue U.S.-China commercial relationships and persevere through these unprecedented times.

**ANSI is currently working with USTDA, U.S. industry members, and Chinese counterparts to make remote attendance possible to upcoming workshops.**

With regard to future conferences, ANSI will be continuously working with our Chinese stakeholders to monitor developments in order to determine the viability of in-person attendance at a later date.

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The ANSI China Program demonstrates ANSI's ongoing commitment to fostering U.S.-China cooperation to facilitate trade. To this end, ANSI continues its implementation of Phase V of the U.S.-China Standards and Conformity Assessment Cooperation Program (SCACP).

In order to maximize U.S-China industry engagement, ANSI is currently accepting proposals for U.S.-China SCACP workshops to take place in the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first two quarters of 2020. ANSI welcomes industry proposals on a rolling basis throughout the year for topics that address relationship building and knowledge sharing of industry best practices with Chinese counterparts.

**Proposed topics should:**

- ◆ Demonstrate the time-sensitivity of an issue that impacts mutual economic and commercial benefits
- ◆ Address a problem and its potential impact on areas that represent the greatest opportunity for business and trade growth
- ◆ Enable U.S.-China technical cooperation in the area of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures

Click here to access the U.S.-China SCACP webpage and download the Commercial Benefit Questionnaire to propose a future SCACP workshop.

## Latest Updates on the Reform

### China's 2020 Standardization Work Plan

On March 13, 2020, the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) released Main Points of National Standardization Work in 2020 ("Work Plan"), calling for public comments exclusively from Chinese government agencies, trade associations, and organizations.

The *Work Plan* was an outcome of SAC's National Standardization Work Conference, held annually to bring together the Chinese standardization community to review accomplishments from the past year and to define priorities for the upcoming year. The conference, which took place in Beijing on January 19, 2020, included representatives from the State Council, State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA), China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) and AQSIQ, amongst others.



Chinese Officials at the 2020 National Standardization Work Conference, Photo credit: SAC

SAC leadership provided an overview of 2019 standardization accomplishments at the meeting, as detailed by the following table:

Standards/Activities	Accomplishment in 2019 (Newly introduced)	Compared to 2018
National standards	2,021	2657
Industry standards	4,880	4261
Local standards	7,238	3,405
Social organization standards	6,227	3809
Enterprise standards	370,000 (55,962 enterprises published through self-declaration)	339,03300
Technical committees	41 established	14
International secretariat leadership	8 designated to China	5 designated to China
International standards projects	238 proposed by China	161 proposed by China
Voluntary national standards projects	2,145	2560

The 2020 Work Plan aims to improve economic and social development, enhance the quality and safety of products and services, and strengthen standardization work. The Work Plan guides the following actions in the implementation of the Standardization Law and other adjacent initiatives:

- ◆ Clarify the dual attributes of "regulation" and "standards" of mandatory national standards
- ◆ Outline the roadmap for local standards management
- ◆ Improve the management of technical committees
- ◆ Accelerate the improvement of next-generation information technology and biotechnology standards system
- ◆ Improve the adoption and alignment with international standards

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While the 2020 Work Plan inherits many merits and key points from the 2019 version, it exceeds the original planning work and puts special emphasis on implementation and enhancement of capacities to carry out standardization activities. The following overarching themes and action plans are of particular mention:

## 1. Development of an overarching standards strategy

The *Work Plan* proposes an action plan to implement research findings derived from the "China Standards 2035." Under the proposal, mandatory national standards can be enshrined as "regulations" or "standards" with a consistent administrative framework, standards development process, oversight, and feedback mechanisms. As an equally important component, the Work Plan also outlines the importance of integrating a standardization strategy into the upcoming "14th Five Year Plan."

## 2. Implementation of mandatory national standards and local standards management measures

In 2019, the People's Republic of China passed both mandatory national standards and local standards management measures that become effective in 2020. From the local standards perspective, the Work Plan supports the establishment of domestic demonstration zones for standardization pilot activities by promoting the coordinated development of regional standardization in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, Yangtze River Economic Belt, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The *Work Plan* also reiterates China's further steps to strengthen the enforcement and supervision of these measures. ANSI and U.S. industry provided feedback to both measures in 2019. However, several challenges remain in the latest measures.

## 3. Development and enhancement of social organization standards

The *Work Plan* emphasizes and sheds light on the development of social organization standards. Besides guiding the development of social organization standards by establishing an oversight mechanism that encourages collaboration between government and social organizations, the Work Plan also encourages local social organizations to participate in international standardization activities to accelerate the adoption of China-led social organization standards.

## 4. New emphasis on emergency management-related standards development

China sees standards development as an instrumental role in resolving pressing issues, including the implementation of restricted environmental, health, and safety –related standards. Amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, the Work Plan calls for the development of standards related to disease protection, epidemic control, emergency management, and supply chain risk management.

## 5. Further alignment with international standards

The *Work Plan* reiterates China's commitment to promote the publication of Chinese versions of ISO and IEC standards while accelerating the establishment of new technical committees. In particular, the Work Plan calls for extensive international cooperation in the fields of new energy, new materials, quantum computing, digital twins, intelligent manufacturing while accelerating the transformation of China's dominant technical standards to the international ones. The latest version of the Work Plan also includes an article that emphasizes China's commitment to supporting the IEC presidency of Dr. Shu Yinbiao.

**As an equally important component, the Work Plan outlines a series of key activities, plans, guidelines, and measures that are currently in the promulgation, development, or implementation phase, including:**

- ◆ Implement the "Management Measures for Mandatory National Standards"
- ◆ Implement the "Management Measures for Local Standards"
- ◆ Implement the "Action Plan for Foreign Language Translation of Chinese Standards"
- ◆ Implement the "Action Plan for Promoting Standards Development among Belt and Road Countries"
- ◆ Carry out the annual assessment on technical committees
- ◆ Launch the Innovation and Achievement Award for China's Standardization

More information on the 2020 Standardization Work Plan is available via SAC in Chinese. ANSI has prepared a reference translation of the Work Plan for ANSI members available on ANSI Connect.

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## Special Issue: The Role of Standardization in COVID-19 Response Efforts

As part of its committed effort to keep the public informed about important information related to the COVID-19 public health emergency – and to highlight activities of the U.S. standardization community in the fight against the pandemic ANSI has launched the ANSI COVID-19 Resource Webpage.

Available at [ansi.org/COVID-19](https://ansi.org/COVID-19), the resource page includes important ANSI announcements and spotlights ANSI members' efforts to support public health, safety, and infrastructure during the pandemic. In addition, the webpage includes ANSI distance learning opportunities, and links to COVID-19 announcements from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"ANSI and the standards community have always eagerly stepped up to address national and global health and safety issues, and the challenge presented by COVID-19 is no different," said ANSI president S. Joe Bhatia. "We are closely monitoring developments relating to COVID-19 and will post updated announcements as circumstances evolve."



During the COVID-19 outbreak in China, approximately 22 social organization standards were introduced and proposed to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 since January 2020. Among these proposals, 10 were approved and published within 30 days, including:



**Epidemic Prevention and Control Service Specification for Ride-hailing Companies:** Introduced by the China Urban Public Transport Association and Didi, a China domestic mobile transportation platform similar to Uber, the standards provide specific requirements for the drivers' safety protection, vehicle disinfection and ventilation, operation, and service organization, and emergency response to emergencies.



**Specification for Delivery Service Without Physical Interactions:** Published by the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) and introduced by Meituan, a leading e-commerce platform in China, this specification aims to provide service requirements and procedures of handling product. Among other major associations, the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) also provided inputs to the specification document. CCOIC called for public comments but the specification was published within 30 days.



**Guidance of Sensible Diet for the Elderly at Home to Help Prevent Coronavirus:** Introduced by the China Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, the guidance provides guidelines and preventive measures related to dietary and exercise.



**Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Coronavirus in Industrial Enterprises:** Introduced by Hunan Provincial Standardization Association, the standard is designed to support companies and enterprises resume normal business operations and production after the pandemic.

Based on the methodologies and rationale provided by Chinese stakeholders, social organization standards can often be mapped out in three to six months and more rapidly than government-led standards, which makes them ideal for satisfying the demands of a rapidly changing marketplace. ANSI recommends that China educate all levels of government, including associations that are engaged in standards development activities, about adherence to WTO principles, which leads to global relevance and the long-term benefits and efficiencies that result.

## ANSI Insights

### U.S. Standards Strategy Offers Pathway for **CHINA STANDARDS 2035**

China Standards 2035 is a state-sponsored program initiated in 2017 by AQSIQ (merged into State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) in March 2018). To support China's effort to build a versatile standards system, ANSI encourages China to ensure that China Standards 2035 address and demonstrate the following themes and values:

1. **Articulate and implement a transparent standardization reform:** To better protect and promote U.S. interests while maximizing the scope of beneficial cooperation between the U.S. and China, both governments should encourage industry collaboration, through which both countries will foster greater trust by exchanging information on the development, establishment, and implementation of standardization activities. These efforts include the collaboration of technical committees, subcommittees, and working groups with national delegation experts and international standards participants for the benefit of global interests.
2. **Implement and enforce an effective commitment to WTO TBT principles:** While improvement has been made, the U.S. and Chinese governments and industry members should continue to identify and eliminate the effect of technical barriers to trade that result from technical standards and their application.
3. **Work with like-minded partners:** China is encouraged to work with like-minded partners to build and strengthen cooperation, to share best practices, and move China towards further standardization reform. This includes, but is not limited to, an ongoing commitment to ensuring that China's national standards and their application facilitate fair international trade and industry collaboration.
4. **Promote cross-departmental cooperation and coordination:** China should seek different approaches to develop and maintain a diversity of the market-driven, sector-based, and decentralized (bottom-up approach) system to avoid duplicative efforts and conflicting standards. While apparent overlap or conflict is the reflection of different market needs for different sectors or competitive approaches, China should review its policies, processes, and procedures to ensure that good faith is made to minimize conflict and redundancy while increasing efficiency.
5. **Keep private sector informed and engaged in the process:** Industry, consumer, and government should be proactively engaged with standards developers and the private sector. Although U.S. decisions about standards authority and responsibilities were not made deliberately with the intention of providing support for U.S. efforts in international trade, they work well to support the domestic goals of health, safety, and protection of the environment as well as the specification of products, processes, and systems.
6. **Build awareness on the importance and benefit of standardization among public and private sectors:** Standards and conformance play an important role in every aspect of life, benefiting the public and private sectors alike. Standardization activities are key to fueling innovation, facilitating market acceptance of new technologies, facilitating global trade, and protecting health, safety, and the environment.
7. **Establish and maintain a stable funding mechanism for the standardization system and exchange activities:** Public-private partnerships should seek to support the necessary funding is provided to sustain international dialogue, promote information sharing, and facilitate technical exchange activities. The Chinese government should recognize its responsibility to the broader public interest by providing regulatory and financial support and globally promoting the internationally recognized principles.
8. **Extend and capitalize on experiences of foreign experts:** Considering the rapid development of China's standardization activities in emerging sectors and China's increasing participation in global standardization, clear and timely communications between China and the foreign community is critical. In addition to the regular meetings hosted by the China Standardization Expert Committee (CSEC), it might be beneficial for foreign experts to participate in relevant conversations through leveraging both bilateral and multilateral channels to share industry best practices and mutual concerns.
9. **Establish standards education as a high priority and ongoing initiative:** China should look to develop a long-term strategy and action steps to promote the integration of standards and conformity assessment in curricula in order to educate the next generation on the strategic impact of standards and conformity assessment. China should also welcome a mechanism to engage with international standards development organizations.

### Other Updates on China-based Standards Development

**China Quarterly Magazine on Standardization**

**Catalogue of Newly Approved China's National Standards**

## Policy and Regulatory Tracker

### *China Implements Local Standards Management Measures*

As a key document to implement the Standardization Law, SAC released the draft for comment of the "Administrative Measures for Local Standards" to amend the older version released in 1990. The proposed revisions focus on several aspects: the scope of formulation of local standards was refined, and the procedures, supervision, and legal responsibilities of local standards were defined. In the past two years, a number of guidelines and documents have been issued, and a clear reform objective has been proposed for local standards management.

More information on the announcement is available in Chinese.

### *China Releases Development Strategy of Innovation for Intelligent Connected Vehicles (ICV)*

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), along with other 10 government agencies, jointly promulgated the Strategy for Development of Innovation for Intelligent Connected Vehicles. The Strategy presented the overview and a high-level roadmap for Chinese ICV industry development in the next 15-20 years. The strategy also calls for the establishment of a collaborative and open intelligent automobile technology innovation system, including standards development, testing schemes, and certification mechanisms.

More information on the announcement is available in Chinese.

### *Provinces and Municipalities Release Incentive Policies on Enterprise Standards Frontrunner Program*

The China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) recently released a list to outline 21 provinces and municipalities that introduce a series of incentive and reward policies to promote the implementation of the "Frontrunner" Program of Enterprise Standards. The incentive mechanism has been mentioned lightly in the "Frontrunner Implementation Scheme on Enterprise Standards (Trial)" released in February 2019, along with self-disclosure scheme and evaluation procedures.

More information on the announcement is available in Chinese.

### *China National Institute of Standardization Releases Annual Report of Enterprise Standards*

The China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) released the most anticipated annual report to outline the program accomplishment and address opportunities and challenges of issues related to self-disclosure scheme.

More information on the announcement is available in Chinese.

### *The Regulation on the Implementation of the Foreign Investment Law of China Becomes Effective*

The Regulation on the Implementation of the Foreign Investment Law of the People's Republic of China that was published by the State Council in December 2019 came into force in January 2020. Two articles of the regulation (Articles 13 and 14) explain FIEs' equal participation rights in China's standardization work. These include allowing foreign-invested enterprises (FIEs) to participate equally in the development and revision of standards, including national standards, sector standards, local standards, and association standards.

More information on the announcement is available in Chinese.



### **About ANSI and ANAB**

As the voice of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, the **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)** empowers its members and constituents to strengthen the U.S. marketplace position in the global economy while helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of the environment. ANSI coordinates U.S. standardization activities and represents U.S. interests to international standards bodies such as ISO and IEC.

**The ANSI National Accreditation Board** provides accreditation and training services in the areas of management systems, personnel and product certification bodies, laboratories, inspection bodies, forensic service providers, proficiency testing and reference material producers.