

# ANSI & the U.S. Standards System: Standards, Trade & Investment

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# Key Terms



## ■ Standards

- **Market-driven** product and service specifications (e.g., technical requirements, management systems, etc.)

## ■ Regulations

- **Mandatory** technical specifications, which may include particular standards or conformity assessment procedures

## ■ Conformity Assessment

- **Processes and systems** used to verify the compliance of a product, person, process or system to either a standard or a regulation (e.g., testing, certification)



- The American National Standards Institute coordinates standards, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States
- Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization
- ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer



## ANSI's mission

To enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity

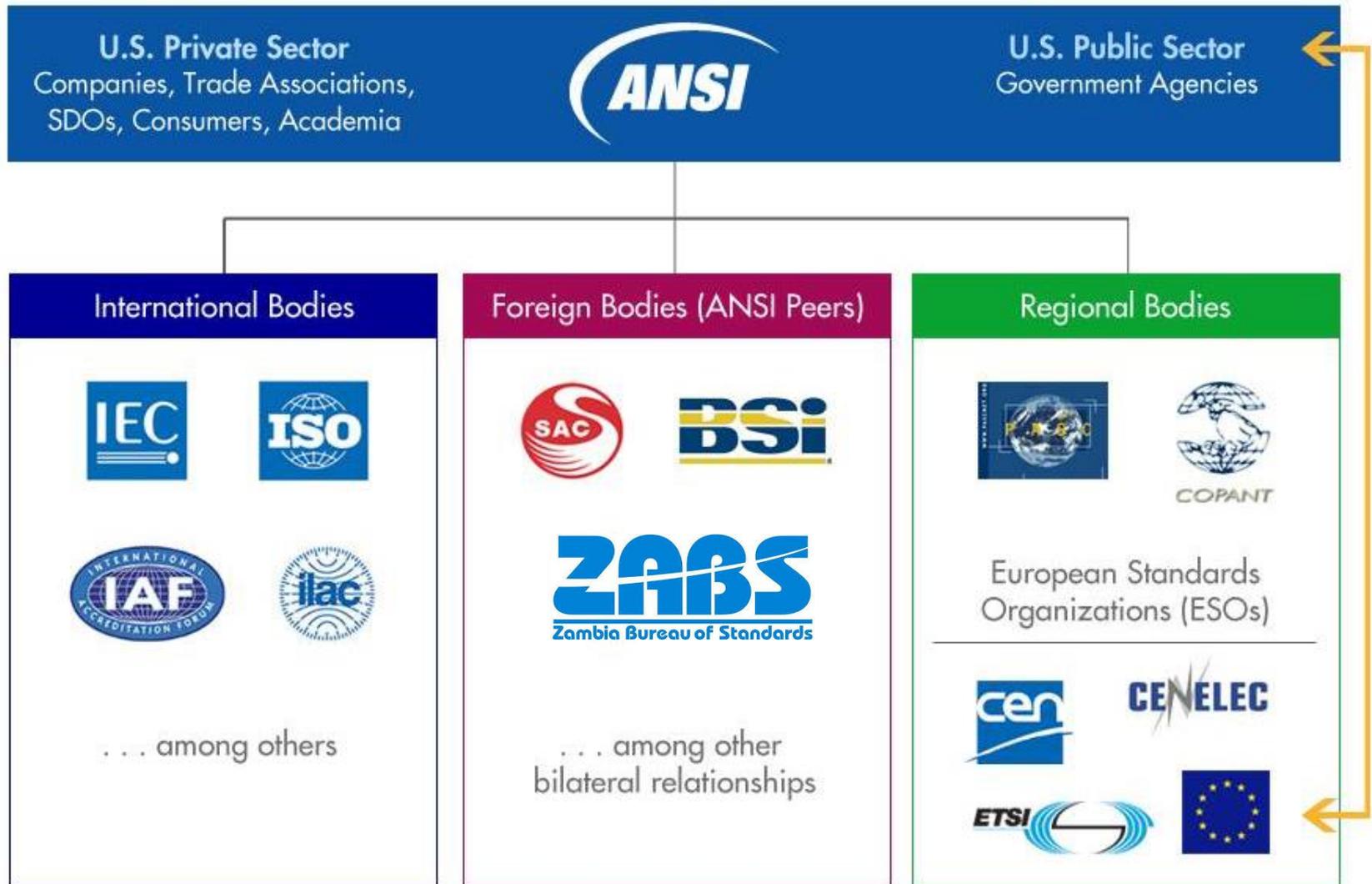


- Represents U.S. globally
- Accredits standards developing organizations and approves American National Standards
- Accredits / approves technical advisory groups (mirror committees) for ISO / IEC technical work
- Accredits conformity assessment bodies
- Standards re-seller
- Education and training
- Offers neutral forum for identifying standards needs and discussion of issues
- Serves as a bridge between U.S. public & private sectors
- Ensures integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system

- U.S. member of ISO
- U.S. member of the IEC, via ANSI's U.S. National Committee
- a U.S. member of IAF and ILAC
- member of regional forums in the Americas and the Pacific Rim
- liaison with groups in Europe, Africa and the Middle East
- bilateral agreements with other national standards bodies



# Snapshot: ANSI International, Regional, and Bilateral Activities





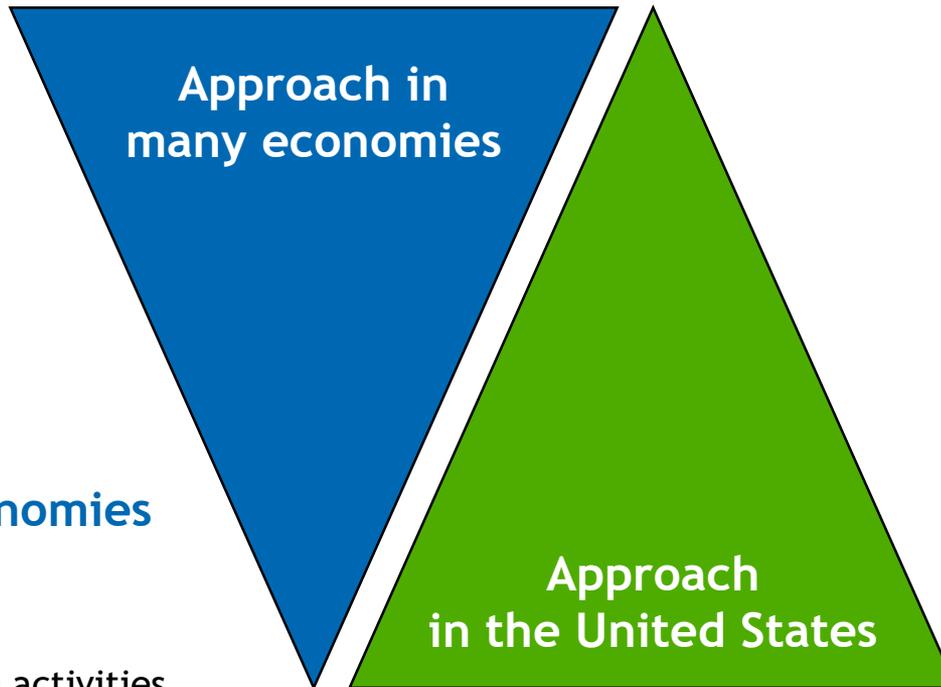
ANSI represents and serves the interests of more than **270,000 companies and organizations** and **30 million professionals** worldwide

### Members of the ANSI Federation include . . .

- Industry
- Government
- Trade Associations
- Academia
- Individuals
- Standards Developers
- Professional Societies
- Service Organizations
- Consumer and Labor Interests
- and many more

# U.S. Standards System

market driven



**Many other economies**  
*Top Down*

Standards bodies  
drive standardization activities

**United States**  
*Bottom Up*

Standards users drive  
standardization activities

# U.S. Standards System



- System is led by private sector, supported by public sector
- Emphasizes private-sector standards and conformity assessment solutions
- Provides a strong voice and greater authority to standards users and individual stakeholders
- Strength from diversity

# The Public-Private Partnership



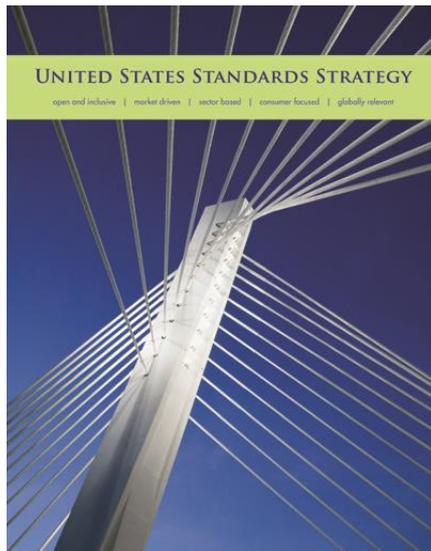
- No single government agency has control over standards
  - Each agency determines which standards meet its needs
  
- **National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) – Public Law 104-113**
  - Encourages each government agency to seek existing private-sector standards that are appropriate for its purpose and mission
  - Standards are “Incorporated by Reference” into regulation

# U.S. Standards System

reliable - flexible - responsive



- Market driven
- Flexible and sector-based
- Industry-led and government-supported



**This system is designed to . . .**

- **Support** a broad range of stakeholder engagement
- **Address** emerging priorities and new technologies
- **Allow** stakeholders to find the solutions that best fit their respective needs

As defined in the *United States Standards Strategy*  
[www.us-standards-strategy.org](http://www.us-standards-strategy.org)

# U.S. Standards System

## guiding principles



- The U.S. endorses the globally accepted standardization principles of the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement
  - Transparency
  - Openness
  - Impartiality
  - Effectiveness and relevance
  - Consensus
  - Performance-based
  - Coherence
  - Due process
  - Technical Assistance
  - Flexible
  - Timely
  - Balanced
- Standards should meet societal and market needs and should not be developed to act as barriers to trade
- SDOs should avoid duplication of, and overlap with, the work of other standardizing bodies



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

# Multiple-Path Approach

different tools for globally relevant standards



- **Use in the global marketplace** is the best measure of an international standard, not which organization developed the standard
- Some standards bodies adopt ISO and IEC standards, and define these as international
- ANSI and U.S. stakeholders take **multiple-path approach**
  - Globally relevant standards may be developed by ISO, IEC, or any other standards developer that adheres to WTO/TBT principles
  - Users decide which standards meet their needs, which SDOs they want to work with

# U.S. Standardization System

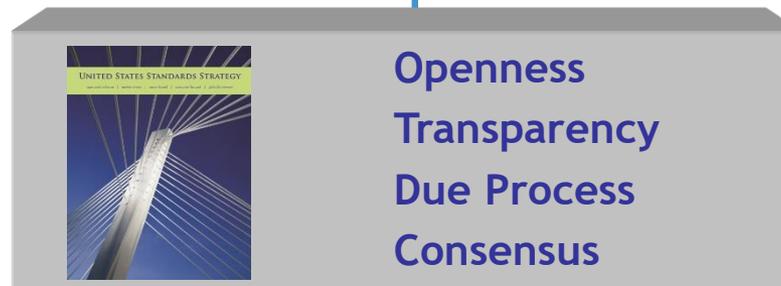


- ANSI accreditation of SDOs and U.S. TAGs promotes alignment with the WTO's Internationally Recognized Principles for Standards Development

*ANSI Essential Requirements*  
for the development of  
American National Standards

World Trade Organization  
Technical Barriers to Trade  
Agreement

Referenced in the  
*United States  
Standards Strategy*

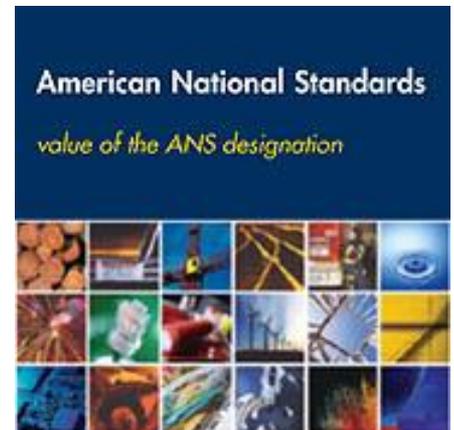


Referenced in the WTO  
TBT Committee Second  
Triennial Review - Annex 4

# American National Standards (ANS)



- Currently there are approximately 240 ANSI-accredited standards developers
  - Not all standards developed by these organizations are submitted for consideration as ANS
  - Standards developers are accredited based on the “ANSI Essential Requirements”
- There are more than 11,000 American National Standards
- Learn more: [www.ansi.org/ansvalue](http://www.ansi.org/ansvalue)



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

# U.S. Standardization System

examples of ANSI-accredited SDOs and U.S. TAGs

ASTM  
International



ASTM  
INTERNATIONAL  
Standards Worldwide

American  
Society of  
Mechanical  
Engineers



ASME  
SETTING THE STANDARD

International  
Code Council



ICC  
INTERNATIONAL  
CODE COUNCIL®

American  
Dental  
Association



ADA®

National  
Electrical  
Manufacturers  
Association



NEMA  
Setting Standards for Excellence  
www.nema.org

National Fire  
Protection  
Association



NFPA®

**SAE** International™

Society of Automotive Engineers

IEEE STANDARDS  
ASSOCIATION

Institute of  
Electrical and  
Electronics Engineers



Underwriters  
Laboratories Inc.®

Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

American  
Society  
of Civil  
Engineers



ASCE®  
American Society of Civil Engineers

American  
Petroleum  
Institute



energy API

And more than 200  
additional organizations

# U.S. Standards System

## examples of roles and responsibilities

	ANSI	Standards Developers	Companies	Consumers	Government	NIST
Coordinates U.S. system and policy development	✓					
Independently runs standards development activities		✓				
Coordinates and monitors USG use of and participation in VCS activities						✓
Legal metrology and WTO-TBT enquiry point						✓
Provides technical input for standards development			✓	✓	✓	✓
Participates in U.S. policy development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Standards-related measures can support economic growth, trade and investment

- Globally relevant standards support:
  - Participation in the global supply chain by ensuring compatibility of inputs from different locations;
  - More efficient manufacturing or other production processes that yield greater productivity at cheaper costs and higher levels of quality assurance;
  - Rapid, large scale deployment of innovative technologies;
  - Important policy objectives such as human and animal health, safety, and environmental protection.

# Standards-related measures can also hinder economic growth

- Standards-related measures that:
  - Are developed with the sole goal of protecting a local industry,
  - That are developed without consideration for existing globally standards and related resources,
  - That include overly burdensome paperwork or other requirements, or
  - That are out of date
- Can stifle innovation, reduce competition, and create unnecessary barriers to trade.

# How can today's workshop help?

- Focus on energy, agriculture, and Infrastructure:
  - What are the existing technical activities and globally relevant standards that may be applicable to Zambia?
  - Can these standards be developed or adapted to reflect key characteristics of Zambia?
  - What lessons can Zambia draw from the development and characteristics of the sector within the U.S.?
  - What are the best practices and strategies for developing standards that facilitate economic growth, trade and investment with the U.S.?
  - What resources and opportunities for collaboration with the U.S. exist?

# For More Information

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