

As coordinator of the U.S. voluntary standardization system, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private, non-profit organization working to enhance U.S. global competitiveness and the American quality of life by promoting, facilitating, and safeguarding the integrity of the voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system.

### **Membership**

Membership in the ANSI Federation is comprised of thousands of companies and millions of professionals representing government, organizations, companies, and academia, with a voice and influence over the standardization and conformity assessment decisions that directly affect their business. The Institute represents the diverse interests of stakeholders worldwide through its headquarters in Washington, DC, and its office in New York City.

### **American National Standards**

ANSI does not itself develop standards; rather, technical societies, trade associations, and other groups are accredited by the Institute to coordinate and lead technical development efforts of American National Standards (ANS). In order to maintain ANSI accreditation, standards developers are required to consistently adhere to a set of requirements or procedures, known as the “ANSI Essential Requirements,” that govern the consensus development process. This serves and protects the public interest since standards developers accredited by ANSI – and the ANS they develop – must meet the Institute’s requirements for openness, balance, consensus, and other due-process safeguards, assuring that all interested and affected parties have an opportunity to participate in a standard’s development.

### **International Standardization**

ANSI also promotes the use of U.S. standards internationally, advocates U.S. policy and technical positions in international and regional standards organizations, and encourages the adoption of international standards as national standards where they meet the needs of the user community. The Institute is the official U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, via the U.S. National Committee (USNC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and is also a founding member and Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatory of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) as well as the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). ANSI is also the U.S. representative to the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).

As a founding ISO member, ANSI plays a strong leadership role in ISO’s governing council, and the USNC is equally well-positioned in the IEC. Through ANSI, the U.S. has direct access to the ISO and IEC standards development processes. ANSI participates in most technical programs of both ISO and the IEC, and administers many key committees and subgroups. Among its responsibilities as the U.S. member body to ISO, ANSI accredits U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (U.S. TAGs), whose primary purpose is to develop and advance

U.S. positions within ISO technical committees. U.S. positions for the IEC are similarly overseen by the USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC).

### Conformity Assessment

ANSI's role in the conformity assessment arena involves two related but distinct efforts on both sides of a boundary of impartiality between membership and a complete portfolio of third-party accreditation programs for conformity assessment bodies. Within ANSI membership governance, the Conformity Assessment Policy Committee (CAPC) follows developments, facilitates consensus, and advocates policy. And the International Conformity Assessment Committee (ICAC) assures that U.S. positions are considered with respect to the standards developed by the ISO Conformity Assessment Committee (CASCO) for these methods and attributes.

Furthermore (separate and impartial in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011), ANSI accreditation programs assess the competence of organizations that certify products and personnel; validation/verification bodies engaged in the reduction and removal of greenhouse gases; and organizations that issue education and training certificates to professionals worldwide. Meanwhile, ANSI's affiliated non-profit, the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB), also provides accreditation services for management systems certification bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, and reference material producers.

### Public Policy and Government Affairs

Government agencies use standards both directly and indirectly in their work: in regulations and laws, in procurement, and in internal operations. ANSI works with its many government members on outreach programs to agencies and legislators, often including public testimony when called upon. These efforts foster understanding among opinion leaders of the major role standards play in the global marketplace.

ANSI encourages greater use of voluntary consensus standards by government agencies and broader participation by agency personnel in standards development. Today, nearly every agency of government has a need for standards, whether as an element of regulatory regime, as a key part of procurement policy and operations, or as an aid to government in tackling efforts to ensure public safety and health.

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### Workcred

An affiliate of ANSI formed in 2014, Workcred's mission is to strengthen workforce quality by improving the credentialing system, ensuring its ongoing relevance, and preparing employers, workers, educators, and governments to use it effectively.



Through research, consulting, and educational activities, Workcred collaborates with industry, government, and training/education partners to improve the quality, effectiveness, and market value of credentials. Workcred's expertise includes assessing workforce needs, developing or revising credentials, creating career pathways, and fostering greater alignment between education/training, credentialing, and industry needs.

Workcred maintains separation from and respects the impartiality of ANSI's accreditation service as a separate 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation.