

S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute	Building Consumer Confidence Washington, DC – September 26, 2007 Welcoming remarks from ANSI <i>664 words, approximately 5.3 minutes</i>
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Good morning everyone. My name is Joe Bhatia and I am president and CEO of the American National Standards Institute. On behalf of everyone at ANSI, it is my pleasure to welcome you to *Building Consumer Confidence*.

(pause)

We gather as representatives of industry and government, consumer groups, SDOs and compliance bodies. But we are also consumers. Each of us wears two hats and brings both a personal and professional perspective to the issues that we'll be discussing today.

Anyone who has picked up a newspaper in the past several months realizes that consumer safety issues are causing a nationwide crisis of confidence. Some suppliers are not complying with the rigorous standards and regulations that have been established to keep our citizens safe.

That's why ANSI decided to convene this open forum. We must work together to identify necessary, workable, and immediate actions that can be taken to ensure that only safe products will be found on our shelves.

(pause)

ANSI is the coordinator of this nation's private-sector led and public sector-supported voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment system. We speak as the U.S. voice in standardization forums around the globe. And, through our network of members, we represent the interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

Protecting the safety of consumers is of paramount importance to the Institute. It is a key element of our mission – and we are committed to its implementation.

(pause)

Of all consumer issues, toy safety has received the most attention in recent months. The Toy Industry Association has asked ANSI to work with them to develop a long term solution that will bolster toy safety.

But ANSI works with many other sectors, as well.

(pause)

Consumers have the right to expect that their children's toys are safe. The same expectation should hold true for any product they buy . . . from ladders to laptop batteries, from appliances in their kitchens to the latest audio and entertainment devices in their family rooms

For all of these products, U.S. citizens count on industry to work in partnership with government to uphold the highest possible level of safety.

When the public and private sectors work together, we develop viable, standards and compliance-based solutions to address current and emerging priorities.

Today, we'll discuss what's working . . . and what's still needed. We'll tackle a number of questions that are on all of our minds:

- How can we ensure the integrity *and improve* of the current product safety system?
- What can we do to restore consumer trust?
- How do we strengthen consumer and government reliance on the consensus-based, well-vetted standards and compliance programs that exist today?
- And how will the successful U.S. public-private partnership extend into the global community?

We have much to accomplish.

I challenge you to not only identify the priority initiatives that must be addressed, but also the resources that are needed and the timelines that must be met.

From manufacturer to government regulator to retailer to consumer – we all have a role to play. I look forward to working with you.

Thank you!

(pause)

Now I'd like to turn the podium over to Scott Cooper, ANSI's vice president for government relations. Scott . . .