REPORT OF BREAKOUT SESSION 2(a)

Conformity Assessment

June 25, 2009

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

ANSI Workshop: Generating U.S. Input on the
ISO Strategic Plan 2011–2015
June 25–26, 2009
Conformity Assessment (CA) 
Key Discussion/Consensus Points

- Suggestions for more consistency, comprehensiveness...
  - Existence of IAF/ILAC Guidance docs indicate shortcomings
    - Problem: inconsistency amongst Accreditors
    - Solution: more participation at CASCO by Labs and CBs
  - Need for better education of role of CASCO (& Directives)
    - TC’s confused about boundaries between Stds/CA

- Neutrality Policy?
  - Good, but…
  - Important distinction: Directive (1/2/3 party) vs. ISO in CA
  - Confusion between tools (standards) and application (CA)
Conformity Assessment (CA)
Key Discussion/Consensus Points

- CASCO’s expanded involvement with Stakeholders?
  - ANSI ICAC (Int’l Conformity Assessment Committee)
    - US Mirror Committee to CASCO (ANSI member benefit!)
  - Concern: proliferation of Liaisons at ISO possibly dilutes primary input from member bodies (Mirror Committees)

- ISO involvement in Mutual Recognition Agreements?
  - One suggestion: “IEC CB-like” scheme for Accreditors
    - (tools for MRA operation)
  - Counterpoint: “not another QSAR!”
  - Educational role: better informed users can facilitate the availability and understanding of attestations of conformity
Conformity Assessment (CA)
Key Discussion/Consensus Points

- ISO involvement in Market Surveillance & CA Claims?
  - No, ISO should not be involved in Market Surveillance
  - Yes, ISO should defend its Brand against misrepresentation

- Implications of link between Standards and CA?
  - Good (and important) to promote understanding of connection
  - Further implications (educational opportunity)
    - Awareness of alternatives, methods and potential conflicts
      - 1st/2nd/3rd party; origins of assertions/attestations
    - Define value: internal (improvement) vs. external (validation)
    - Critical Need: Int’l Acceptance of Test Results