

<p>S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute</p>	<p>Action and Reaction: Developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues Baltimore, Maryland – August 9-10, 2007 Welcoming and closing remarks from ANSI</p> <p><i>Welcoming remarks: 1,055 words, approximately 8.5 minutes</i></p>
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Welcoming remarks

August 9, 2007, 12:40 – 12:50 p.m.

Thank you very much for the warm welcome, Nina.

Good morning everyone. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 2007 annual conference.

We’ve come together today to address the impact of chemical controls and regulations on U.S. industry. This is a huge issue that has the potential to disrupt billions of trade dollars. It’s clear that *something* must be done... but there is no consensus yet on what that action should be.

During the course of the next two days we’re going to examine chemical controls from all angles: what’s already been done, what’s happening now, and what can still be influenced.

So far, we have been in more of a reactionary role than a proactive one.

Moving forward, our goal must be to strike a balance between the efforts that protect health, safety and the environment with a long-range view of business planning. This is especially important since many of you from industry are already sourcing the parts and supplies that you will need in 2011 and beyond.

(pause)

In her opening remarks, Nina talked about the need to determine how we can be more deliberate, coordinated, and strategic in anticipating key chemical-related challenges that affect U.S. industry... in short, she introduced the need for a collaborative network.

I feel confident that you’ll hear that theme repeated several times today. I also know it will be a major emphasis during tomorrow morning’s breakfast.

But the need for collaboration extends beyond the manufacturing sector. Industry must partner with government . . . as well as with SDOs and conformity assessment bodies, trainers, academics, consumer representations, and other stakeholders.

The establishment of a panel or an open forum to address emerging chemical issues may well be identified as one of the main outcomes from this conference.

If so, ANSI will be prepared to help. We are firmly committed to addressing domestic and global priorities. This is one of the key points that is emphasized in the *United States Standards Strategy* that you received when you arrived today.

(pause)

ANSI's standards panels are one of the primary means for addressing emerging issues:

- The first of our standards panels helped to develop the information superhighway.
- Our Homeland Security Standards Panel supported a special project on private-sector emergency preparedness that had been requested by the 9-11 Commission and continues today in support of the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.
- At the request of Dr. Marburger, today's keynote speaker, we launched the Nanotechnology Standards Panel to facilitate the development of standards for the burgeoning nanotechnology industry.
- Our Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel is moving at an incredibly rapid pace to support the Department of Health and Human Services in establishing a national health IT network for the United States.
- Last fall, ANSI partnered with the Better Business Bureau to launch a panel to address the need for standards in the area of identity theft prevention and ID management.

Talk about a topic that has broad impact . . . more than 18 million Americans have been the victims of identity-related fraud over the past two years, crossing all aspects of their personal and financial life.

- And earlier this year, we turned our attention to alternative energy resources with a new coordination activity in the area of biofuels.

(pause)

No matter the topic, we can provide the neutral forum where stakeholders work together to:

- identify existing and emerging regulations, requirements and supporting standards and compliance programs,
- define where gaps exist, and
- recommend where additional work is needed.

As appropriate, we will facilitate the development of the necessary deliverables.

And we will help to forge a strong partnership between the private and public sectors.

(pause)

One of the best examples of this strengthening partnership is the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act.

For those of you who are not already familiar with the Act, this law directs federal agencies to use whenever possible technical standards that have been developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. This is in lieu of developing government-unique standards. The same holds true for compliance solutions.

The NTTAA also makes it clear that government should participate as a partner in private-sector led standards development activities.

Since the law was passed in the mid-1990s, voluntary consensus standards have helped the government by:

- increasing operational efficiency,
- reducing regulatory compliance and procurement costs,
- avoiding duplication of effort caused by having separate private sector and government-unique solutions,
- enabling the government to take advantage of private sector technology and expertise in establishing standards and compliance programs that serve national needs, and
- contributing to economic prosperity and growth.

If the Europeans had relied more heavily on an open, standards-based process rather than a purely regulatory approach, we might not be having this conference.

Let's learn from experience and work together to mitigate unnecessary burdens in the future.

We can be mindful of the NTTAA's success and work towards balancing those issues that must be addressed by regulation with those that would be best-served by a standards and conformity assessment-based solution.

(pause)

Maybe this conference will identify opportunities for us to recommend standards and conformity assessment programs as solutions for regulatory issues. Maybe we'll agree to

form a new standards panel or some other type of collaborative structure. Or maybe there will be some other outcomes.

Whatever the outcome may be, ANSI – and the federation of members that we represent – is pleased to be engaged with you.

(pause)

Before I turn the podium back to Nina, I'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge those organizations, companies, and agencies that contributed to the planning and financial support of this conference. Please join me in thanking:

- our diamond sponsors: ASTM International and General Motors,
- our platinum sponsor: Deere & Company,
- our gold sponsors: NSF International, Bergeson & Campbell, and Bureau Veritas, and
- our general sponsors and friends: the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Council of Independent Laboratories, the American Chemical Society, and Synapsis Technology.

Thank you very much for your generous support. *(lead applause)*

(pause)

On behalf of the ANSI team that is assembled here, let me say that we appreciate your participation and look forward to working beside you for the next two days.

This is an opportunity for leaders in government, industry and the standardization community to share common issues, to learn from one another and to make connections for future cooperation and collaboration.

My best wishes for a productive and successful conference.