

OVERVIEW

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The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance 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.

ANSI's role in conformity assessment includes effective and comprehensive accreditation of third party organizations that certify that products, processes, services and personnel; validation/verification bodies engaged in the reduction and removal of greenhouse gases; and certificate programs for organizations that issue education and training certificates confirming learning outcomes for the workforce. The affiliated ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredits management systems registrars, laboratories, and inspection bodies.

Through its accreditation process, the Institute assesses and attests to the competence of bodies to carry out certification activities in accordance with international standards as well as public and private programs and schemes. ANSI's accreditation programs themselves operate in accordance with international requirements and have been verified by government and peer assessments.

ANSI also facilitates and assures due process in the development of American National Standards (ANS) by accrediting the procedures of standards developing organizations (SDOs). These groups work cooperatively to develop voluntary national consensus standards. And as part of its responsibilities as the U.S. member body to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ANSI accredits U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (U.S. TAGs). These groups develop and transmit, via ANSI, U.S. positions on activities and ballots of ISO Technical Committees, Subcommittees, and policy committees.

VALUE OF ANSI ACCREDITATION

ANSI accreditation provides assurance that standards, goods, and services meet essential requirements throughout the global supply chain – engendering consumer trust and fostering competitiveness. Increasingly, procurement authorities, regulators, government agencies, and program/scheme owners are specifying accreditation in order to demonstrate the technical competence and impartiality of conformance services and processes. These assessments enhance confidence between buyers and sellers as they mitigate risk.

ANSI's accreditation of conformity assessment bodies:

- Assures their competence and reliability
- Engenders marketplace confidence via regular, impartial, internationally recognized assessments
- Positively influences customer satisfaction based on greater quality awareness and enhanced communication
- Reduces liability insurance and legal costs given accountable and transparent risk management
- Sustains continual improvement through assessment of system effectiveness, efficiency and competence
- Promotes consistency and equivalence of assessments via peer review based mutual recognition
- Reduces multiple audits and barriers to trade, towards the goal of “certified once – accepted everywhere”