About ANSI

The American National Standards Institute is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. A membership organization, ANSI works 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. In this role, ANSI does not itself develop standards; rather, the Institute oversees the development and use of voluntary consensus standards by accrediting the procedures used by standards developing organizations, and approving their finished documents as American National Standards.

Because of ANSI's unique role as a coordinating body and a bridge between the private and public sectors, the Institute can build partnerships and foster collaborative solutions for national and global priorities. And ANSI is a membership organization, providing members with the broadest access to up-to-date standards policy information and opportunities for participation, leadership, and influence. ANSI's membership is comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations. The Institute represents the diverse interests of more than 125,000 companies and organizations and 3.5 million professionals worldwide through its headquarters in Washington, DC, and its office in New York City.

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, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and is a U.S. representative to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

As a founding ISO member, ANSI plays a strong leadership role in ISO's governing body, and the USNC is equally well-positioned in the IEC. Through ANSI, the U.S. has immediate access to the ISO and IEC standards development processes. ANSI participates in almost the entire technical program of both ISO and the IEC, and administers many key committees and. 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 endorsed and closely monitored by the USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC).

ANSI's role in the conformity assessment arena includes a complete portfolio of third-party accreditation programs. These include assessing 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 U.S. workers.

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