



The Value of ANSI Accreditation

Top 10 Advantages

of accredited third-party
conformity assessment



The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) offers highly recognized accreditation programs for organizations that certify products and personnel; bodies engaged in the validation and verification of carbon emissions data and carbon offsets; and organizations that issue education and training certificates to U.S. workers. The affiliate ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) also provides accreditation services for management systems certification bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, reference material producers, and forensics testing agencies.



While these programs cover diverse areas, they all recognize the competence of impartial bodies to carry out certification of products, processes, personnel, services, or systems in accordance with specific requirements defined in international standards. There are many advantages to a certification or credentialing program in earning ANSI accreditation, including the ten that follow.



Growing importance of third-party accreditation

Increasingly, procurement organizations and government entities are specifying requirements for accredited, third-party certification. This opens doors to those programs that are accredited – not only towards increased business and customers, but also new opportunities for collaborative relationships, partnerships, and further growth.



INDUSTRY

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ACCREDITATION is the independent assessment of a third-party certification program or other conformity assessment body (or, a standards developer) to determine whether it demonstrates competence and is operating in accordance with specific requirements.

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Increased government reliance

Numerous federal, state, and local authorities have chosen to rely on ANSI accreditation to demonstrate value and assure competency for important national priorities.

For example, in 2014 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) reaffirmed ANSI's selection as the ONC-Approved Accreditor (ONC-AA) for the ONC Health Information Technology (HIT) Certification Program.

Also, California and other states have passed legislation requiring certificate programs that provide food handling training to meet ASTM E2659, *Standard Practice for Certificate Programs*, an American National Standard. All food handling certificate programs accredited under the ANSI Certificate Accreditation Program (ANSI-CAP) are in compliance with the law.



GOVERNMENT



3

A basis in international standards

Proof of adherence to international standards demonstrates rigor and quality. ANSI accreditation ensures the consistency and integrity of certification bodies and credentials of all sorts by following the processes defined in international standards such as ISO/IEC 17011, *General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*.

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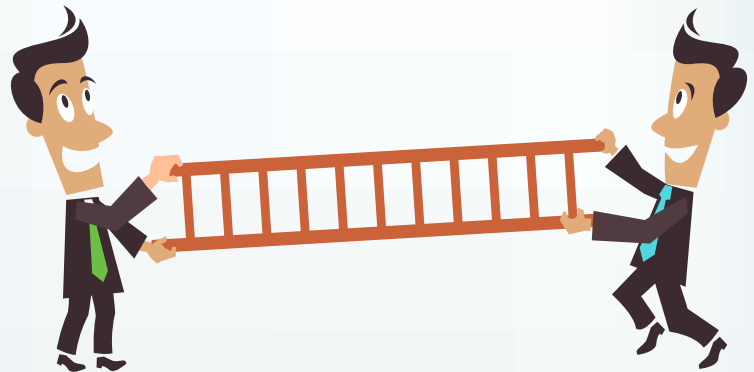
Formal international recognition

ANSI is involved in a number international and regional arrangements for multilateral recognition. As a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) MLA, for example, ANSI demonstrates ISO/IEC 17011 compliance via peer assessments, attesting to equal reliability worldwide. ANSI accreditation is recognized across borders, saving time and money for ANSI clients and facilitating expanded market opportunities.

5

Bridge between standards and conformity assessment

ANSI represents the U.S. in all major international standardization forums including the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). ANSI's representation in the ISO Conformity Assessment Committee (CASCO) contributes to the continual improvement of all conformity assessment standards, such as ISO/IEC 17011.



ANSI



6

Broad confidence and trust

Industry, consumers, and governments alike recognize the dependability of ANSI accreditation. ANSI is widely viewed as preeminent in accreditation, and the ANSI name brings with it a level of confidence and trust that gives assurance to the outputs of an accredited program.



7

Competitive advantage

ANSI accreditation elevates your program above your unaccredited competitors. With all the conformity assessment programs out there, the public often doesn't know how to differentiate quality and value. But ANSI accreditation is the model the public looks to, providing distinction in the marketplace, and the people, products, and systems it serves.



8

Continual quality improvement

The rigorous ANSI accreditation process provides structure that strengthens organizations and helps maintain effective policies and procedures. This thoroughness is key to ensuring the quality of accredited programs and sustaining continual improvement through the regular assessment of system effectiveness, efficiency, and competence.

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Cost reduction and increased productivity

Going through the ANSI accreditation process can help reduce costs and improve efficiency throughout the global supply chain by instituting best practices, streamlining processes, and reducing multiple audits.



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Risk management and asset protection

ANSI accreditation may provide protection in the event of invalid claims. The accountability and transparency built into the ANSI process help back up assertions, and can result in reduced liability insurance.



www.ansi.org/accreditation



ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS FOR:

- Product and personnel certification bodies
- Education and training certificate issuers
- Bodies engaged in the validation and verification of carbon emissions data and carbon offsets
- Testing and calibration laboratories
- Inspection bodies
- Reference material producers
- Forensics testing agencies
- Management systems certification bodies



Vision:

One standard, one test –
accepted everywhere



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