



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 globally 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 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.



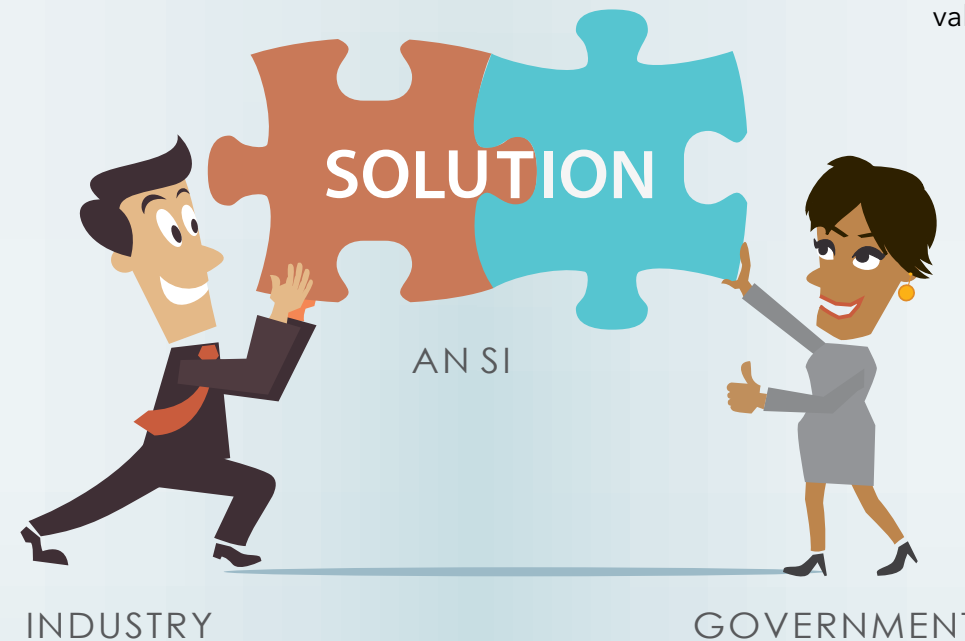
While these programs cover diverse areas, they all recognize the competence of impartial bodies to carry out certification of products, processes, personnel, services, or systems in accordance with specific requirements defined in U.S. and international standards. ANSI accreditation produces many advantages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



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

1 Growing importance of third-party accreditation

Increasingly, procurement organizations and government entities are specifying requirements for accredited, third-party certification. ANSI accreditation opens doors to increase business and customers, and provides opportunities for collaborative relationships, partnerships, and further growth.



Increased government reliance

Numerous federal, state, and local authorities rely on ANSI accreditation to demonstrate value and assure competency for important national priorities. For example, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reaffirmed ANSI's selection as the approved accreditor for their Health Information Technology Certification Program. Also, the Department of Defense stipulates ANSI accreditation in their Directive 8570 for information security professionals.

Laws in California and other states require that food handling training certificate programs 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) comply with these laws.



3 A basis in international standards

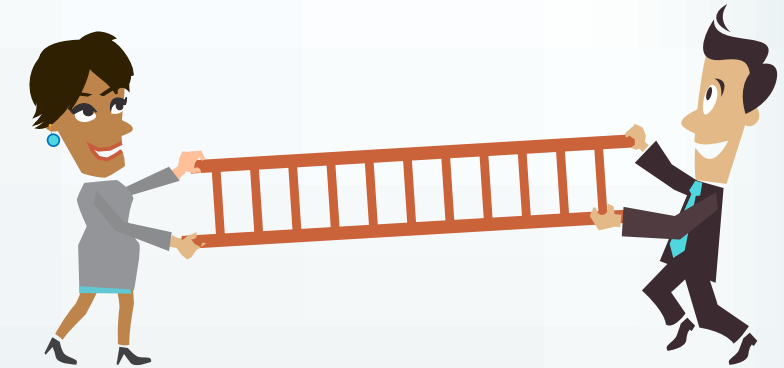
ANSI accreditation assures consistency and integrity of certification bodies and credentials by fulfilling the requirements defined in the international standard ISO/IEC 17011, *General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*. Adherence to this international standard demonstrates rigor and quality.

4 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.



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.

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Competitive advantage

ANSI accreditation elevates your program above your unaccredited competitors. With all the conformity assessment programs out there, it can be difficult to differentiate quality and value. ANSI accreditation is the model the public looks to, providing distinction in the marketplace, and the people, products, and systems it serves.



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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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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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Risk management and legal defensibility

ANSI accreditation provides an added layer of legal defensibility against invalid claims. The accountability and transparency built into the ANSI process support conformity assessment attestations, 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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