



American National Standards Institute

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a not-for-profit membership organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system.

ANSI accredits standards developers to develop American National Standards (ANS). The process is fair and open and encourages consumers to partner with representatives from the private and public sectors for the enhancement of our quality of life and the facilitation of the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses. ANSI also serves as the official United States member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, via the U.S. National Committee, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations, ANSI represents the diverse interests of more than 125,000 entities and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**ENGAGING
CONSUMERS
IN GLOBAL
STANDARDIZATION**



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From household appliances to drinking water, and from bicycle helmets to e-commerce security, the impact of standards can be felt in every aspect of our daily lives. When consumers participate in standardization activities, the products and services we rely upon become safer, healthier and more environmentally and economically sound.

For nearly 90 years, the U.S. standards system coordinated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has been based upon the active, yet voluntary, collaboration of diverse stakeholders. Representatives from industry, government, and academia work hand-in-hand with consumers and consumer organizations to develop standards that reduce or eliminate risks—especially to children, the elderly and the disabled, and others with special needs. These norms mitigate injuries, hazards and other safety risks that are both known and anticipated. The success of this system is apparent, as demonstrated by a decade-long requirement that the U.S. federal government work with the private sector to develop and implement voluntary consensus standards.

Today, the fast pace of ever-evolving technology brings with it a new set of standardization needs and unique opportunities for consumer participation. Globally accepted principles call for anyone with an interest in a standards activity to be able to make their views known—either directly as a member of a committee or via public comment. ANSI encourages the proactive voice of consumers in standards-setting.

For more information, or to participate in the programs described below, please visit www.ansi.org/consumer

ANSI Consumer Interest Forum

ANSI's Consumer Interest Forum (CIF) is the venue for U.S. consumer advocates to influence the development of standards and standardization policies and procedures. The CIF works to educate consumers regarding the activities of the Institute and the standards development community, and to facilitate the representation of consumer interests in both governance and technical activities across the standards and conformity assessment community.



International Organization for Standardization Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO)

As a leading member of ISO/COPOLCO, ANSI surveys a wide range of policy and technical activities in the international standards community. Via its CIF, the Institute helps to identify and staff priority ISO activities and support new areas of work where there is a perceived need for enhanced consumer protection.



U.S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (USNC/IEC)

ANSI's USNC/IEC represents the nation in the global standardization of products and services related to electricity and electronics. The USNC recently renewed its commitment to engage consumer representatives in IEC standards-setting activities and is now soliciting U.S. experts with experience in areas such as consumer electronics, the safety and performance of household electrical appliances, electrical accessories, batteries and lamps, and more. [For more info: www.ansi.org/usnc]