

# THE POWER OF STANDARDIZATION

EVERY DAY, STANDARDS WORK FOR YOU.



## WHAT IS ANSI?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. In this role, the Institute works in close collaboration with stakeholders from both industry and government to identify standards-based solutions to national and global priorities.

- ANSI coordinates and accelerates needed standardization activities through public-private partnerships and collaboratives. As a neutral party, the Institute brings together diverse stakeholders to help ensure everyone's voice is heard.
- ANSI does not develop standards, but rather oversees the creation, promulgation, and use of thousands of standards, guidelines, and conformity assessment activities that directly impact businesses in every sector.
- The Institute promotes U.S. standards internationally, and is the U.S. member body of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, through its U.S. National Committee, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), among other regional and global forums. ANSI participates in almost the entire technical program of both ISO and IEC and administers many key committees and subgroups, enabling the U.S. to have immediate access to the ISO and IEC standards development processes.
- ANSI's role in the conformity assessment arena includes a complete portfolio of third-party programs under the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB). These include the accreditation of certifying bodies for products, personnel, and management systems, as well as the accreditation of calibration and testing labs, forensic test and calibration service providers, police crime units, inspection bodies, greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies, reference material producers, and proficiency test providers.

## DID YOU KNOW...



...that almost everything that you've touched today is affected by standardization?

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 93% of global exports are influenced by standards.

## WHY ARE STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

Behind the scenes, standards make everyday life work. Standards ensure that you can make a phone call anywhere in the world, that batteries for electrical appliances are safe, and that a plane that takes off from London can be refueled in Los Angeles.

In the U.S. alone, there are more than 100,000 standards at work across all areas of industry:



### Product-Based Standards

For example: car airbags, washing machines, banking cards



### Performance-Based Standards

For example: toy safety, greenhouse gas emissions, food safety



### Management System Standards

For example: ISO 9000 Quality and ISO 14000 Environmental Management Systems



### Personnel Certification Systems

For example: cyber-risk technicians, food handlers, crane operators



### Construction/Building Systems

For example: building, electrical, and plumbing codes

## HOW ARE STANDARDS DEVELOPED?



### Who Develops Standards?

There are hundreds of standards developing organizations (SDOs) and consortia that develop standards for their particular industry. These organizations work hard to enhance quality of life and improve the competitiveness of U.S. businesses operating in the global marketplace.



### How Are Standards Created?

When experts in an SDO identify the need for a standard, they gather all the affected stakeholders—from government, to consumers, to businesses—and create a voluntary consensus standard that takes everyone's needs into account.



### What Happens after the Standard Is Created?

Conformity assessment is the vital link between the standard and the product or service itself. Testing, inspection, and auditing of products and management systems are as important as the standard in ensuring that products and systems are safe and perform as expected. This task may rest with the manufacturer, an independent third party like an auditor or testing lab, or an official like a building code inspector.

## ACCREDITATION AS A STANDARDS DEVELOPER

ANSI fosters the U.S. standardization system by accrediting the procedures of SDOs and approving documents as American National Standards (ANS). To achieve this coveted designation, SDOs must comply with ANSI's *Essential Requirements* and demonstrate their commitment to four "cardinal principles":

1

### Openness

Any materially affected and interested party shall have the ability to participate.

2

### Balance

Participants should represent diverse interests and categories, and no single group or individual should have dominance in standards development.

3

### Due Process

All objections shall have an attempt made toward their resolution. Interests who believe they have been treated unfairly have a right to appeal.

4

### Consensus

Agreements are reached when more than a simple majority of the participants concur on a proposed solution.

ANSI's many checks and balances, including impartial audits, accreditation requirements, and an appeals process, underpin the integrity of the ANS process, regularly assuring adherence to the Institute's procedures and safeguarding the value of the ANS designation. Only standards that meet ANSI's *Essential Requirements* ([ansi.org/essentialrequirements](http://ansi.org/essentialrequirements)) and are sponsored by an ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD, [ansi.org/asd](http://ansi.org/asd)) may be approved as ANS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE POWER OF STANDARDIZATION, CONTACT:

Mary Saunders, Vice President, Government Relations  
202.331.3610, [mrsaunders@ansi.org](mailto:mrsaunders@ansi.org)

[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)

