

<p>S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute</p>	<p align="center">Luncheon Briefing on the Role of Standards in Our Economy: Energy Efficiency and Safety in Our Buildings</p> <p align="center">U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., December 4, 2007</p> <p align="right"><i>785 words, approximately 6.25 minutes</i></p>
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Thank you all for joining us today for lunch.

My name is Joe Bhatia and I am president and chief executive officer of the American National Standards Institute.

For those of you who may not be familiar with ANSI, we serve as the coordinator of this nation’s private-sector led and public sector-supported voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI accredits the developers of codes and standards in dozens of industries. In a similar fashion, we accredit organizations that are engaged in conformity assessment . . . also known as compliance . . . activities.

Through our network of members, ANSI represents the interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide. We speak as the U.S. voice in standardization forums around the globe.

(pause)

When we talk about standardization, we’re actually discussing a broad range of activities and ideas – from the actual development of a standard to its promulgation, acceptance and implementation.

Standardization includes the methods of evaluating whether products, processes, systems, services and personnel comply with a standard – this evaluation is known as conformity assessment.

Standards development and assessing conformity to standards go hand-in-hand.

(pause)

Anyone who has seen the headlines for the past several months knows that consumer product recalls have heightened public awareness of standardization activities. Compelling questions have been raised about the safety of imported goods and the integrity of the global supply chain.

Representatives of government, industry and consumers are banding together to demand that suppliers comply with the rigorous standards and regulations that have been established to keep our citizens safe.

Since ANSI was formed 90 years ago, we have worked to forge strong partnerships between the private and public sectors. One of the best examples of the success of these relationships is Public Law 104-113, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act.

The NTTAA directs federal agencies to participate in and use codes and standards that have been developed or adopted through a voluntary consensus process. Since the law was passed in the mid-1990s, there has been widespread recognition that:

- regulatory compliance and procurement costs have been reduced,

- operational efficiency has increased, and
- duplication of effort caused by having separate private sector and government-unique solutions has been avoided.

Most importantly, the NTTAA has enabled the government to take advantage of private sector technology and expertise in establishing standards and compliance programs that serve national needs.

(pause)

When the public and private sectors work together, we develop viable solutions to address current and emerging priorities.

ANSI, for example, is currently working with the toy industry and the CPSC to establish a testing and inspection program that will monitor the toy supply chain from the smallest subcontractor to retail shelves. We have testified before House and Senate committees, as well as the President's Working Group on Import Safety, to provide updates on our progress.

- ANSI has also teamed with the Council of Better Business Bureaus to tackle identity theft.
- We partnered with the 9-11 Commission and continue to work with the DHS to address homeland security.
- We were asked by the Office of Science and Technology Policy to take the lead in nanotechnology initiatives.
- We are helping HHS to develop a secure electronic health record for every American.
- And earlier this year, we turned our attention to alternative energy resources with a new coordination activity in the area of biofuels.

In all cases, we begin by examining the existing system, identify what is working . . . capture those successes . . . build upon them . . . and make them better.

(pause)

My partners on today's panel are also committed to making things better. . . . They are *going green* . . . providing the building market with guidance towards ensuring a more sustainable future.

By focusing on environmental responsibility, resource efficiency, occupant comfort, well-being and community sensitivity – which have become major themes throughout the global standards system – we are encouraging continual environmental improvement, providing confidence to this growing market and ensuring a bright future for the global village.

Now, we just have to make sure that that bright future is lit by energy efficient LEDs.

(pause)

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your questions.