

S. Joe Bhatia
President and CEO
American National Standards Institute

Opening Remarks
ANSI-HSSP 6th Plenary Meeting
October 3, 2007

824 words, approximately 7 minutes

Thank you, Jim.

Good morning everyone. I am very happy to add my welcome on behalf of ANSI's Board of Directors, members, and staff.

(pause)

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. In early 2003, the Institute formed this panel in response to an urgent national priority... a critical need for standards and compliance programs to support homeland security and preparedness efforts.

The ANSI-HSSP quickly became recognized as the neutral forum where all stakeholders could come together to address homeland security and emergency preparedness standardization needs.

Today, I look around the room and am proud to see so many of our nation's leading standards and compliance bodies sitting side-by-side with representatives of government and industry.

You have sustained your interest in this panel's work and achieved many successes.

You have collaborated with the Department of Homeland Security, the 9-11 Commission, the national standards bodies of other countries, the International Organization for Standardization, and a host of others... You've produced a number of very impressive, high-level accomplishments, particularly in the overall area of emergency preparedness.

I am proud to offer my congratulations to each of you as the Homeland Security Standards Panel enters its fifth year.

(pause)

But two very talented and dedicated individuals deserve special recognition.

As the first co-chairs of the ANSI-HSSP, Dan Bart and Mary Saunders have been the voices of this panel.

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They have truly set the standard for what a public-private partnership can achieve. We owe both of them a great debt of gratitude... and offer these small tokens of our appreciation for their efforts.

(presentation of crystal . . .)

Please join me in acknowledging Dan and Mary for their tremendous contributions and their outstanding leadership.

(lead applause)

Knowing Dan and Mary, I'm certain that we can count on them to continue their support of and participation in this panel. And I'm confident that they will be at the ready to offer their successors much advice and guidance.

(pause)

Later today, we will officially welcome these successors, our two new co-chairs:

- Christian Dubay, vice president of codes and standards at the NFPA, and
- Gordon Gillerman, conformity assessment advisor at NIST.

Chris and Gordon will continue this panel's public-private partnership. Equally important, their strengths and experiences will further emphasize the critical importance of both standards and conformity assessment in addressing the nation's – and the world's – homeland security priorities.

Chris and Gordon... welcome. You have our best wishes, and we look forward to working with you.

(pause)

Before we begin our program, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge our sponsors:

- Underwriters Laboratories
- The National Fire Protection Association
- Smiths Detection
- Retlif Testing Laboratories

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- ICX Technologies
 - The Homeland Security Institute
 - And last but not least, the National Institute for Standards and Technology.
- Jim, thank you for hosting us today, and for NIST's constant support.

(lead applause)

I'd also like to thank each of you for your participation.

This week, we provide a unique forum for nearly 150 leaders in government, industry and the standards and compliance community to share . . . learn . . . and connect. Nearly a dozen countries are represented for our discussions.

(pause)

Security is a global concern.

The International Organization for Standardization, the International Electrotechnical Commission and the International Telecommunication Union have begun to focus their collective attention on a broad range of security-related issues. . . . The United States is pleased to support these broad efforts.

We are also pleased to host tomorrow's International Workshop on Transit Security. We will hear about many different approaches and strategies for homeland security-related topics that are already in place . . . here and in other nations.

We need to identify what is working, capture those successes, build upon them, and make them better.

Thank you very much for joining us and providing your input . . .

My best wishes for a productive and successful meeting.

(pause)

Now it is my great pleasure to welcome Dr. Bert Coursey, Standards Executive for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Standards.

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Dr. Coursey has been closely involved with the activities of the ANSI-HSSP since its inception in February 2003. Thanks to his dedicated efforts, guidance, and continued support, this panel and DHS enjoy a very positive partnership.

Prior to his current position with DHS, Dr. Coursey was at NIST for more than thirty years, holding management positions in radiation dosimetry and serving as chief of the ionizing radiation division in the NIST Physics Laboratory. He is a recipient of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals of the Department of Commerce, and is the past president of the International Committee for Radionuclide Metrology. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and has more than eighty publications on radioactivity standards and applied radiation dosimetry.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Coursey to the podium. Bert...

(lead applause)