

<b>S. Joe Bhatia</b> President and CEO American National Standards Institute	<b>Moderator – Panel 2: Standards and Certification</b> Import Safety Summit July 9, 2008
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**Panel Summary:**

Private sector initiated and driven standards-setting, auditing and certification efforts already play a critical role in allowing purchasers and suppliers to establish and maintain confidence in their products and business partners. The Action Plan for Import Safety identified accredited independent third-party certification as a key resource to improving the safety of products. This panel will highlight current successful accredited third-party certification programs and discuss the unique role they can play.

**Moderator:**

S. Joe Bhatia, President & CEO, American National Standards Institute

**Panelists (alpha order):**

- Dr. David Acheson, Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- Elizabeth Borrelli, Executive Director, Toy Safety Certification Program, Toy Industry Association
- Clement Erhardt III, Executive Vice President Corporate and External Affairs, GS1 US
- Jill Hollingsworth, Vice President, Food Marketing Institute representing the Global Food Safety Initiative
- Donald Mays, Senior Director, Product Safety & Technical Public Policy, Consumers Union
- Gene Rider, Consumer Goods President, North America, Intertek

**Timing:**

10:45 am - noon

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### **Welcome / Opening Remarks**

1:30 – 1:40 p.m.

*694 words, approximately 5.5 minutes (including introductions)*

Good morning everyone . . . my name is Joe Bhatia. On behalf of the American National Standards Institute, it is my pleasure to add our words of welcome and appreciation for your participation at today's Summit.

Within the past twelve months, nearly every industry has taken steps to examine, re-evaluate and enhance the safety of its consumer products. Much has already been accomplished, but more needs to be done.

U.S. citizens are counting on industry to work in partnership with government to ensure that the products they find on their local shelves meet the highest possible levels of import safety.

As Secretary Leavitt mentioned in his remarks this morning, the public-private partnership must become stronger so that we can improve the quality and safety of the networks that supply the food we eat and the products we use.

Standards will help. But in many cases, as we saw in the toy industry last year, the required standards – both at the national and global levels – already exist. The challenge is a lack of compliance to standards . . . not a lack of standards themselves.

*(pause)*

With a marketplace and a global supply network that is expanding and evolving faster than ever before, it is difficult to keep pace with the growing number and complexity of standards, regulations, testing and auditing programs:

- How do suppliers and retailers that do business globally meet the unique national requirements of many countries?
- How does one identify what standards, tests, auditing and accreditation schemes are available . . . which ones are accepted – by whom and where . . . and what is still needed?

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These are some of the questions that we are going to investigate in this panel's discussion of standards, certification and import safety.

Our panel includes a federal official, industry representatives, and a consumer advocate. They have been asked to describe certain private sector-led standards and conformity assessment initiatives . . . why they have been launched . . . and how they are addressing concerns regarding the safety of imported products.

Each will bring a unique viewpoint to our discussion.

I expect that we will see many similarities.

Our goal is to identify some of the best practices that are already working, to build upon them, and to help chart the course for continuous improvements in import safety.

*(pause)*

The underlying premise of standards and compliance programs in this country is that they should be market-driven, open and consensus based. All stakeholders have the opportunity to influence not only the standards that support consumer products, but also the testing, inspection and audits that verify that products do, in fact, comply with the agreed-upon standards.

Industry endorses this approach.

The current Administration – through the work of the Interagency Working Group on Import Safety, as well as congressional initiatives for CPSC, DHS and FDA reorganization efforts – endorses this approach.

And consumers endorse this approach.

Many other countries turn these responsibilities over to government.

The U.S. approach to a public-private partnership means we share responsibility for the quality and safety of our supply chains. And when reforms are needed, it must be a collective effort to effect the necessary changes.

*(pause)*

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For the past 90 years, ANSI has served as the coordinator of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community and as the U.S. representative to standards and compliance bodies around the globe.

We are champions for a system that is based on continuous quality improvements and private-sector quality assurance efforts . . . a system that evolves with technology and that responds to public-sector oversight, regulations and needs.

I am looking forward to this discussion, and am pleased to introduce you to the panel:

- Dr. David Acheson, Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- Elizabeth Borrelli, Executive Director of the Toy Safety Certification Program at the Toy Industry Association
- Jill Hollingsworth, Vice President of the Food Marketing Institute representing the Global Food Safety Initiative
- Clement Erhardt III, Executive Vice President for Corporate and External Affairs at GS1 US
- Gene Rider, Consumer Goods President for North America at Intertek.
- Donald Mays, Senior Director of Product Safety & Technical Public Policy at Consumers Union

David, will you please kick-off our discussion . . . .

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