



The U.S. Standardization System, the American National Standards Process, and the Sustainability Standards Landscape

Presented by

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Overview: The U.S. Standards and Conformity Assessment System

U.S. Standardization System

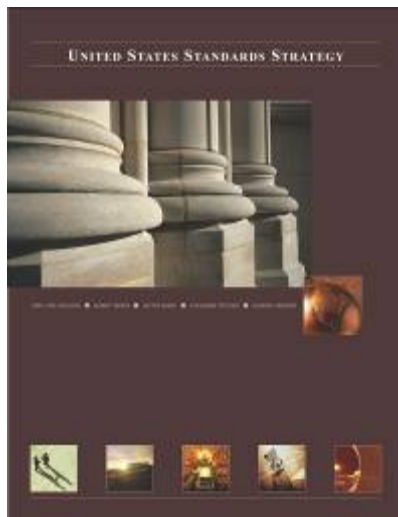
a market driven approach

- In the U.S. alone, there are more than one hundred thousand standards
- These documents are being developed by:
 - standards developing organizations (SDOs)
 - over 500 consortia
 - thousands of committees
- Over 9,500 approved American National Standards

U.S. Standardization System

reliable – flexible – responsive

- Market driven
- Flexible and sector-based
- Partnership between public and private sectors



This system is designed to . . .

- **Support** a broad range of stakeholder engagement
- **Address** emerging priorities and new technologies
- **Allow** stakeholders to find the solutions that best fit their needs

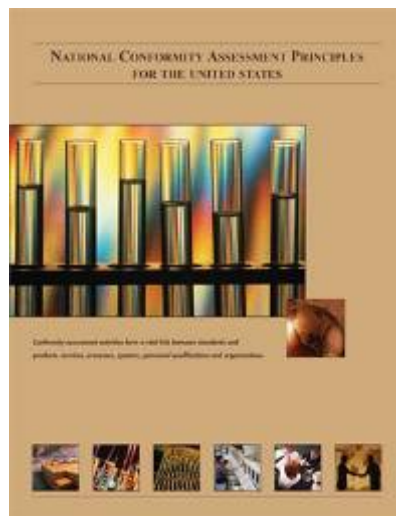
As defined in the *United States Standards Strategy*

www.us-standards-strategy.org

U.S. Conformity Assessment System

reliable – flexible – responsive

- The National Conformity Assessment Principles (NCAP) for the United States document explains key aspects of compliance verification.



The NCAP is a guidance document that can be considered in conjunction with the *United States Standards Strategy* (USSS).

*National Conformity Assessment Principles
for the United States*

www.ansi.org/ncap

What Is ANSI?

- **The American National Standards Institute leads standards, conformity assessment and related activities in the United States.**
- Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization.
- ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer.

ANSI's mission . . . to enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and ensuring their integrity.

What Are ANSI's Roles?

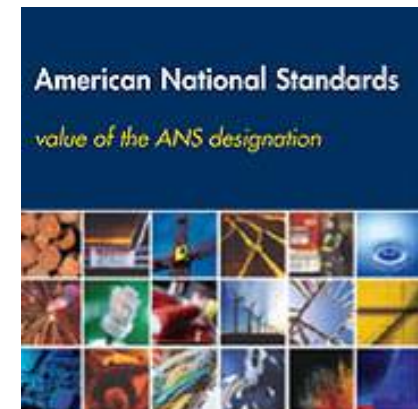
- Represents U.S. globally
- Ensures integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system
- Provides central resource for information and education
- Offers neutral forum
- Accredits standards developers and conformity assessment organizations
- Approves American National Standards
- Protects public interest in standards and compliance



ANSI Accreditation of Standards Developing Organizations and the American National Standards (ANS) Process

SDO Accreditation Overview

- ANSI fosters the U.S. standardization system by accrediting the procedures of standards developing organizations (SDOs) and subsequently approving individual documents as American National Standards (ANS)
 - More than **220 accredited SDOs**
 - **Over 9,500 approved ANS**
 - Accreditation is a *pre-condition* for submission of a candidate ANS to ANSI for approval



Learn more:
www.ansi.org/ansvalue

What Are the Advantages of Accreditation?

- Indicates quality, credibility, consensus, and an open standards development process
- Increases market efficiency
- Provides some legal insulation
- Maximizes market and regulatory acceptance

What Are the Essential Requirements of Accreditation?

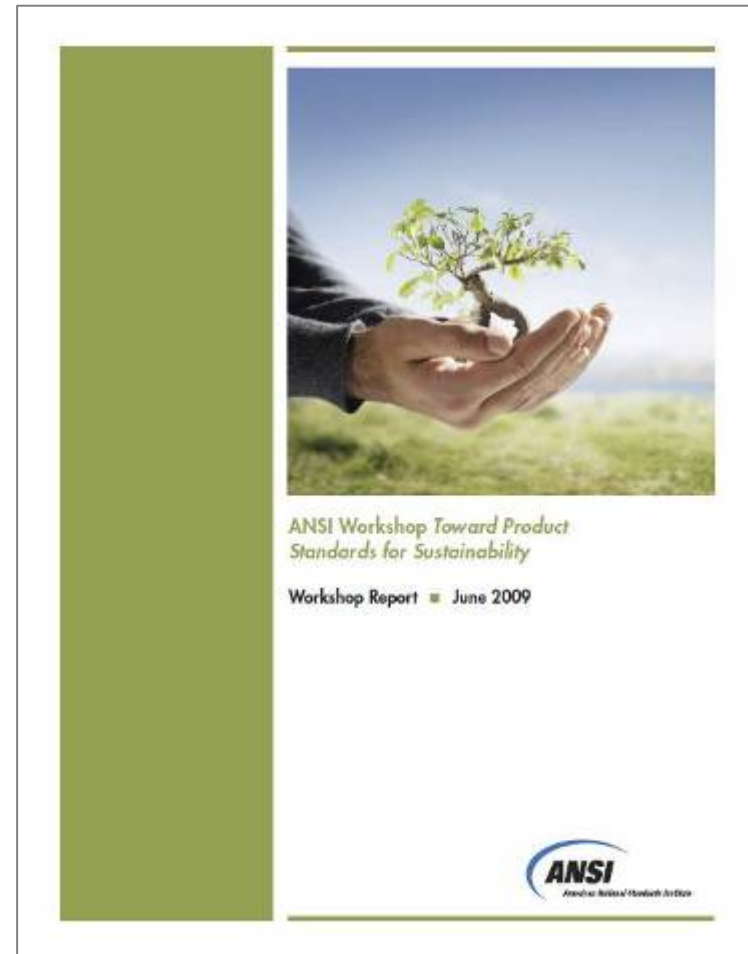
- Due process
- Openness
- Balance
- Consensus
- Public review
- Appeals



The Sustainability Standards Landscape

ANSI Workshop: *Toward Product Standards for Sustainability*

- April 8-9, 2009
 - Organized by ANSI with support from U.S. EPA
 - 240 in-person attendees; 100+ via webinar
- 65-page workshop report contains a *complete* summary
 - Visit ansiposts.ansi.org



What Are the Needs?

- Terms like “green” and “socially responsible” subject to varied interpretations in the marketplace
- Product standards and criteria help establish uniform technical requirements, methods, processes, and practices that address sustainability
- **Shades of green:** many existing standards and labels/certification marks already exist
 - How do consumers, government, and industry know which to use?

Who Is Developing Sustainability Standards?

- Over 50 organizations and government agencies . . . and that's just the ones we know about!

ACC
ACMA
AFPA
AHAM
AHRI
AIHA
ASABE
ASHRAE
ASME
ASSE
ASTM International
AWWA
BIFMA International
Canadian Wood Council

CSA America
CSI
ECCB
Green Blue Institute
Greenguard Envir. Inst.
Green Seal
IAPMO
ICC
IEC
IES
IEEE
ISO
Leonardo Academy
MACTEC

MTS
NAHB
NAHSA
NIOSH
NSF International
OPEI
Renewable Fuels Assoc.
SMACNA
TAPPI
Toy Industry Assoc.
UL
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
U.S. EPA
U.S. Green Building Council

Key Workshop Findings

- Pros and cons to each kind of standards development – proprietary, consensus-based, and government regulation
 - Government regulations can set the floor and voluntary standards can raise the ceiling

- Need for an overarching body to coordinate and guide the process

- Need consistent and globally-accepted nomenclature and terminology
 - Terms like “attribute” and “label” are being interpreted differently by consumers, standards developers, government, and industry

Key Workshop Findings (continued)

- Standards should be clearly written so they can be effectively used for reliable certification
- Single-attribute standards vs. multi-attribute standards
- Uniformity and transparency needed about the degree to which a product addresses sustainability concerns
 - Reduce consumer confusion

For more information



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