

<b>Arthur E. Cote</b> Chairman of the Board of Directors American National Standards Institute	<b>ASHRAE Board of Directors Leadership Luncheon</b> January 24, 2010
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Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Art Cote, and I am Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute. It is a great pleasure to join you today at your Leadership Luncheon.

Before my retirement in '06, I was EX VP and Chief Engineer at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and worked closely with ASHRAE and your Frank Coda for many years.

As most of you probably know, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI is also the U.S. Member Body to ISO and IEC.

ANSI does not directly develop standards. Rather, we oversee the creation, promulgation, and use of tens of thousands of standards, guidelines, and conformity assessment activities. ANSI has accredited over 220 organizations that are working to set these standards, including – of course – ASHRAE.

ASHRAE has been an important and highly valued member of the ANSI Federation since 1970. You were first accredited as a standards developing organization (SDO) in 1978. And today you sponsor hundreds of American National Standards, making you the (12<sup>th</sup>) twelfth-largest ANSI-accredited SDO.

In addition, you hold the distinction of being one of just five (5) accredited SDOs to hold the Audited Designator status. This means that you have demonstrated a consistent record of successful standards development, and you may designate your standards as American National Standards without additional approval by ANSI's Board of Standards Review (BSR). In short, it means that you do excellent work, and we trust you to keep it up!

One of the things we hear from our members and stakeholders is that there needs to be more – and better – coordination among standards developers. This is a key issue that ANSI is examining for 2010, and I would be interested to hear your perspective on how you think ANSI can assist in facilitating harmonization and collaboration among SDOs in practical terms.

- What can ANSI do to help in minimizing conflicts and duplication among standards?
- How can ANSI help to make sure that all of the right stakeholders are at the table?

I also encourage you to share your experiences from working with the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) on Standard 189 for the Design of High Performance Green Buildings, so that the entire standardization community may benefit from your experience.

As a community, it is vitally important for us to continue to encourage the government to rely on our consensus-driven standards system rather than developing their own standards for procurement and regulation. That is why I'd like to bring to your attention a recent inquiry from Congressman Bart Gordon, chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology.

In October 2009, Congressman Gordon sent an inquiry on standards and the standardization system to about 500 companies and associations. The inquiry included the following four questions:

- How important are technical standards?
- Do you think a comprehensive review of our standards-setting process is timely and worthwhile?
- With the globalization of technology development and business, is it time to assess an international standards system developed 50 years ago?
- Should the Committee examine a single federal coordinating point for all technical standards areas?
- (And when did you stop beating your wife?)

Although not initially sent the inquiry, ANSI was eventually invited to participate. Our response is posted on the ANSI website. In sum, ANSI responded that technical standards are extremely vital to the health of our national economy and that the current domestic and international systems are working quite well. Greater coordination within government agencies would certainly be a plus – as would more participation by government stakeholders – but a wholesale remake of the system is neither necessary nor needed.

I think it's important for us to continue to watch this issue closely and see how it may develop. We need to make sure that our government leaders understand how the public-private partnership in standards development works in this country. They need to understand and appreciate the differences between standards and regulations . . . between consensus-building and government mandates . . . and between our nation's standards system and the systems that other countries have in place.

Organizations like ASHRAE that work in the public interest – and within the ANSI framework – consistently demonstrate the value and reliability of voluntary consensus standards. I thank you for your excellent work and dedication and encourage you to continue your efforts as advocates for the U.S. standardization system.

Thank you for your attention – it was truly a pleasure to join you today. I look forward to any questions you may have.

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