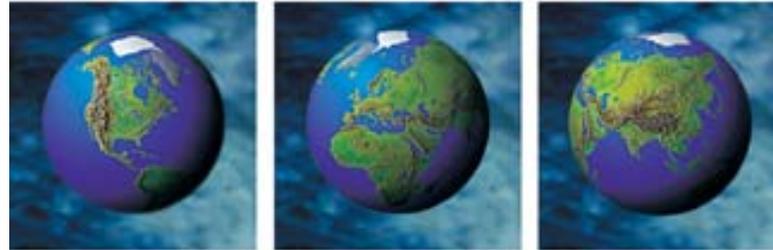




*American National Standards Institute*

# The Rationale behind the U.S. Approach to Participation in International Standards Development



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# Premise

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## ***The international language of commerce is standards.***

### **Source:**

U.S. Secretary of Commerce – Donald Evans

*Report on Standards and Competitiveness –*

*Removing Standards-Related Trade Barriers Through Effective  
Collaboration*

May 18, 2004

# The U.S. Standardization Model

## *“One Approach Among Many in the World”*

- The U.S. “standardization” model includes both standards-setting and conformity assessment programs
  - Models the governmental structure
    - Federal and decentralized
  - Models the nation’s economic structure
    - sector-based and market driven
  - Relies strongly on diversity and decentralization

# Role of U.S. Government

- There is no single U.S. government agency that has control over standards.
  - Each agency determines which standards meet its needs
  - Compliance and enforcement criteria must be identified for any standards that are referenced or mandated in regulations
  - The agency is responsible for determining whether a private sector standard already exists that is appropriate for its needs
    - If so, they will use the private sector standard
    - If not, the agency is expected to work with the private sector to develop the needed standard

## ***A Federation of members (the stakeholders) representing . . .***

- Academia
- Individuals
- Government
- Manufacturing
- Trade Associations
- Professional Societies
- Service Organizations
- Standards Developers
- Consumer and Labor Interests
- and many more

A Private- and Public-Sector Partnership Since 1918

***ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer.***

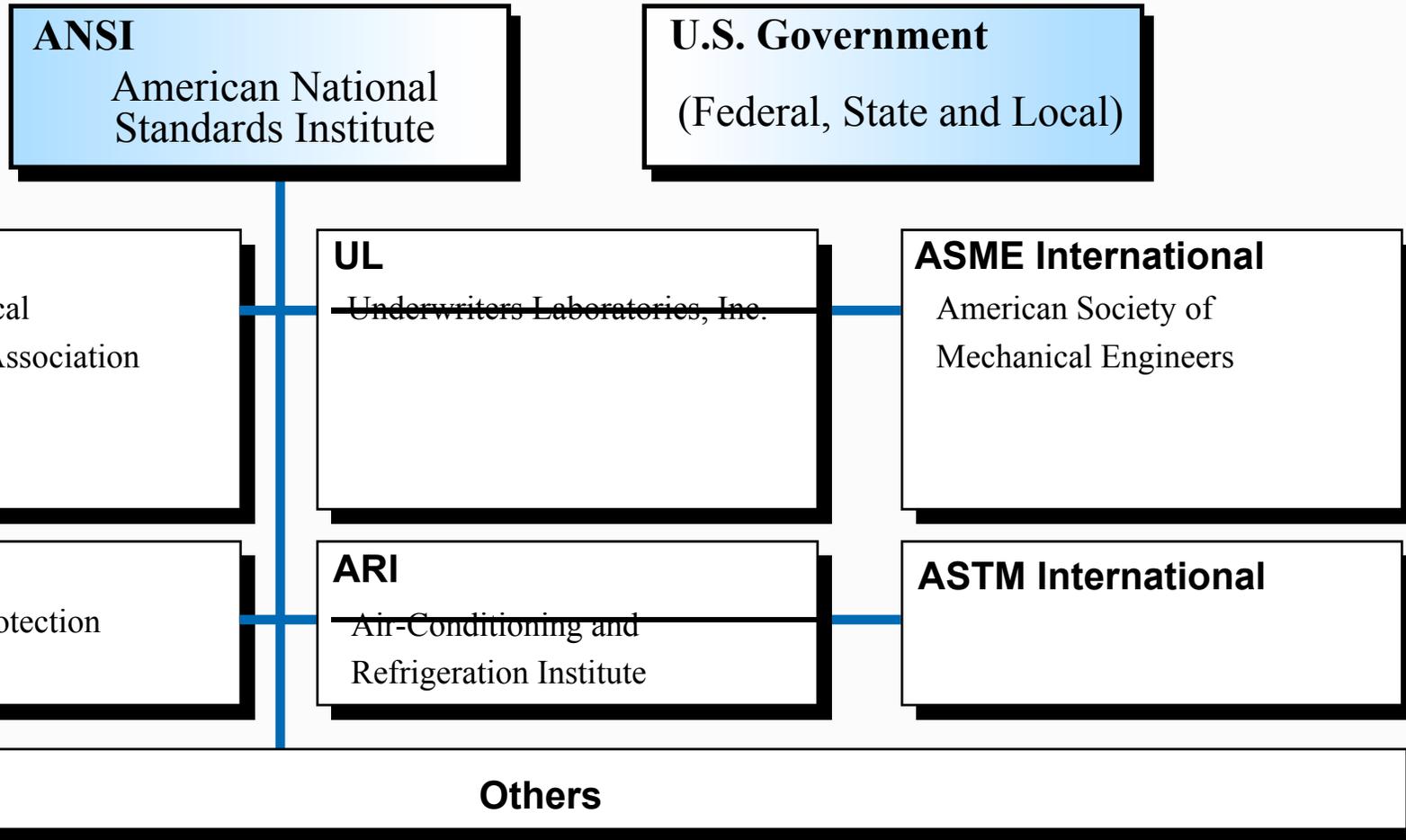


- Facilitate U.S. *standardization* policy development
- Develop and promote global *standardization* policies

ANSI is the bridge for standardization

- between industry and government
  - among industries

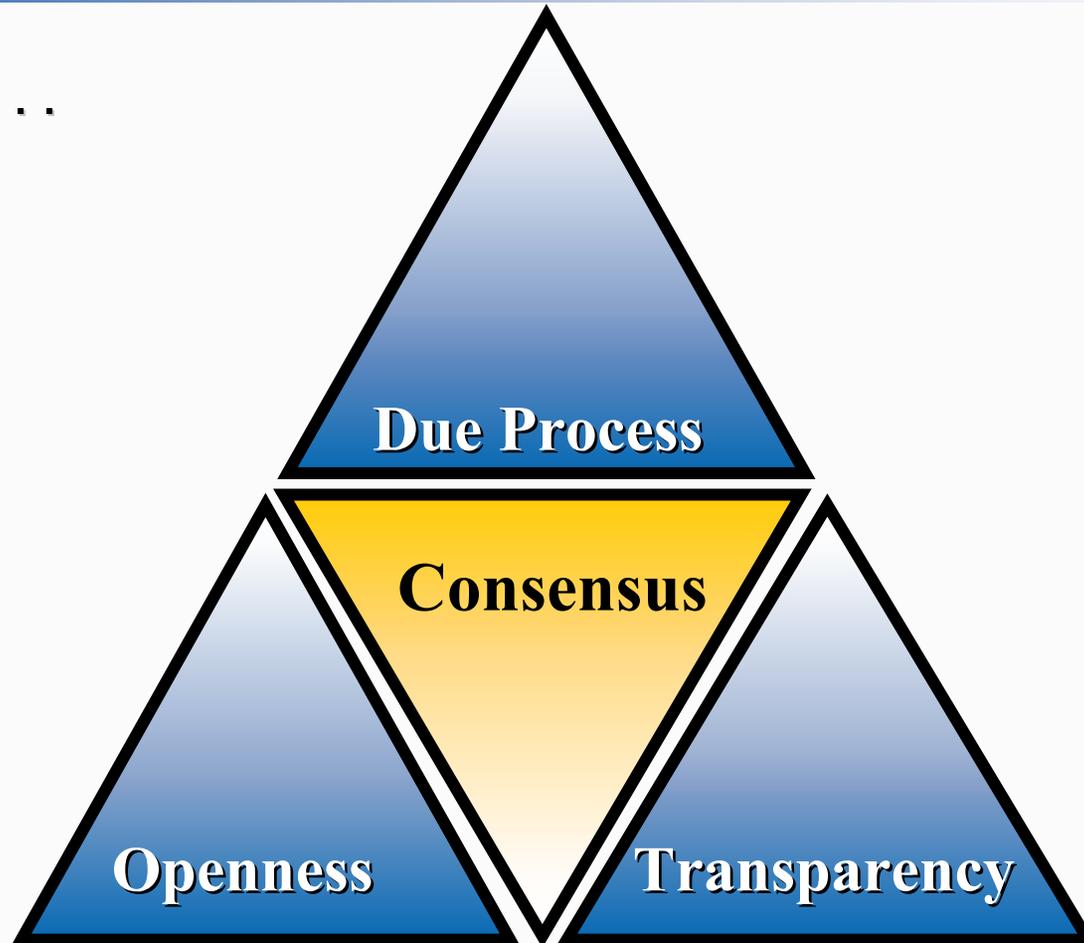
# Examples of U.S. Standards Organizations Accredited by ANSI



- ANSI serves as the official U.S. member and sets policy for U.S. participation in the
  - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
  - International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
  
- U.S. technical positions for ISO and IEC activities are developed by Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)
  - Allows all affected parties (including U.S. government) to participate in standardization activities

# Internationally Accepted Standards and Conformity Assessment Principles

- Agreed by . . .
  - WTO
  - ISO
  - IEC



# ANSI Participation in ISO



- ISO – Geneva, Switzerland
  - 143 Member countries, of which 93 are voting members; 36 are correspondent members; and 14 are subscriber members
- ANSI one of
  - 5 permanent members to the Council of 18
  - 4 permanent members to the Technical Management Board of 12
- ANSI and its members
  - participate in 79% of Technical Committees
  - administer 18% of TC Secretariats

# ANSI Participation in the IEC

*(through the USNC)*



- IEC – Geneva, Switzerland
  - 61 National Committees (Voting Member Countries)  
(59 Associate Members; 9 Affiliate Members)
- U.S. National Committee
  - one of 5 permanent members of the council board of 15
  - participates in 89% of Technical Committees
  - assigned Secretariats for 16% of TC Secretariats

# Global Relevance of Standards

ANSI worked with its stakeholders and its partners in ISO and IEC to broaden the concept of globally relevant international standards.

- IEC and ISO, recognizing that one harmonized international standard may not today reflect the global marketplace, approved global relevance policies allowing choice of solutions/requirements within a single standard, when appropriate and agreed
- ISO reaffirmed its policy that standards other than those developed by ISO and IEC can be normatively referenced in ISO standards, provided they satisfy the needs of the sector (for example, those developed by other international standards organizations)
- ISO approved modalities of cooperation with other standards developing organizations, thus furthering its policy of inclusiveness, and in improving the efficiency of the international standards development system.

# Market & Standardization Trends

- Increasing participation in international, regional, and national standards development and conformity assessment activities by all stakeholders – bottom to top:
  - Individuals, consumers, academia, local standards developers, labor interests, associations, industry, government
  
- Increasing use and adoption by stakeholders of existing international standards that apply
  - Conserving valuable competitive resources and avoiding “reinventing the wheel”
  
- Regulatory Streamlining
  - Increasing implementation of governmental regulations that reference voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment programs

# Why this Approach?

## The benefits of a bottom-up system

- Allows participation by **any** and **all** stakeholders – bottom to top:
  - Individuals, consumers, labor interests, academia, local standards developers, industry, associations, government
  - foreign stakeholders & technical experts – welcome and invited
- System is **open** for stakeholder participation on U.S. Technical Advisory Groups to the ISO and IEC, in Standards Development Organization Technical Committees, and ANSI membership
- Equitability and Effectiveness: Belief in the underlying principle that a broad diversity of input most efficiently creates the most robust, applicable, functional, and well considered standards

# For more information:

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