What is an **American National Standard (ANS)** anyway?

*And how can I participate in the ANS development process?*

- The webinar will start at 2pm Eastern
- All participants are muted for the duration of the webinar
- Slides will be distributed to all by email
- Please use the **CHAT** option to submit a question and send it to “All Panelists” (Not to the Host)
- This session will be recorded and the recording *may* be available at a later date
Let’s get started…

• On behalf of ANSI, thanks very much for joining us today
• A huge thank you to those of you who are already involved in standards...you literally make the world a better place
• Goals for the next 90 minutes:
  • Connect you to the world of standards and pique your interest
  • Share information about ANSI and the “American National Standards” (ANS) process
  • Spread the word about the value of standards in our daily lives and to the U.S. economy
  • Encourage you to get involved through ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (www.ansi.org/asd)
Standards are building blocks for innovation and competitiveness

“Standards are the infrastructure for innovation, a critical component in bringing technologies from the lab to the market. Standards create a common language for trade and improve quality of life by enhancing safety, security, interoperability and the environment.”

Dr. Walter G. Copan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- United States Standards Strategy, 2020
Today is a review of the basics

• What is a standard?
• A bit about the U.S. Standards System
• What is ANSI? For more: www.ansi.org
• Why do standards matter and who creates them?
• What are American National Standards (ANS)?
  • What requirements apply to the ANSI consensus process?
    ➢ ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards (www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements)
  • Who develops ANSI?
• How you can participate in the development of ANSI through ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers
So let’s begin with some context ...
What is a standard? A VCS? An ANS?

• **Standard***: a document that tells you how to define or do or say or make or test or organize or design something

  • **Voluntary Consensus Standard (VCS)***(definition to follow): a private sector standard developed in a specifically defined open and fair environment with general agreement by stakeholders (OMB A-119, NTTAA)
  

  ➢ **American National Standard (ANS)**: a VCS developed in accordance with the “*ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards*” and subject to ANSI’s **unique**: 1) accreditation of consensus procedures; 2) neutral oversight; 3) approval process; 4) Patent Policy; 5) appeals process; and 6) procedural audit process.

  *Simplified definition*
1995 National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) — Public Law 104-113

Encourages government agencies to rely on existing private-sector standards whenever possible
For reference...

- National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA)
  - This law directs all federal government agencies to use, wherever feasible, standards and conformity assessment solutions developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies in lieu of developing government-unique standards or regulations.

- OMB Circular A-119: *Federal Participation in the Development and use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities*
  - “The policies of Circular A-119 are intended to encourage Federal agencies to benefit from the expertise of the private sector, promote Federal agency participation in standards bodies to support the creation of standards that are useable by Federal agencies, and minimize reliance on government-unique standards where an existing standard would meet the Federal government’s objective.”
Definition of VCS Body
OMB Circular A-119

e. “Voluntary Consensus Standards body” is a type of association, organization, or technical society that plans, develops, establishes, or coordinates voluntary consensus standards using a voluntary consensus standards development process that includes the following attributes or elements:

(i) **Openness:** The procedures or processes used are open to interested parties. Such parties are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in standards development on a non-discriminatory basis. The procedures or processes for participating in standards development and for developing the standard are transparent.

(ii) **Balance:** The standards development process should be balanced. Specifically, there should be meaningful involvement from a broad range of parties, with no single interest dominating the decision-making.

(iii) **Due process:** Due process shall include documented and publically available policies and procedures, adequate notice of meetings and standards development, sufficient time to review drafts and prepare views and objections, access to views and objections of other participants, and a fair and impartial process for resolving conflicting views.

(iv) **Appeals process:** An appeals process shall be available for the impartial handling of procedural appeals.

(v) **Consensus:** Consensus is defined as general agreement, but not necessarily unanimity. During the development of consensus, comments and objections are considered using fair, impartial, open, and transparent processes.
Definition of VCS from OMB Circular A-119

What Are Voluntary Consensus Standards?

• “Voluntary consensus standard” is a type of standard developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, through the use of a voluntary consensus standards development process as described in Section 2e.
  • These bodies often have intellectual property rights (IPR) policies that include provisions requiring that owners of relevant patented technology incorporated into a standard make that intellectual property available to implementers of the standard on non-discriminatory and royalty-free or reasonable royalty terms (and to bind subsequent owners of standards essential patents to the same terms).
  • In order to qualify as a “voluntary consensus standard” for the purposes of this Circular, a standard that includes patented technology needs to be governed by such policies, which should be easily accessible, set out clear rules governing the disclosure and licensing of the relevant intellectual property, and take into account the interests of all stakeholders, including the IPR holders and those seeking to implement the standard.

• ANSI’s Patent Policy that applies to American National Standards (section 3.1 of the ANSI Essential Requirements) fulfills this requirement and has existed for more than 50 years
ANSI Patent Policy = IPR Policy for ANS

• ANSI Patent Policy (3.1 of the ANSI Essential Requirements) is a safeguard for users of an ANS and for ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (ASD) because it lets both know whether a patent holder of essential technology that is referenced in the ANS is available on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms (RAND) to all who wish to implement the ANS
  • the Patent Policy applies only to "essential" patent claims and not to patented technology that may be referenced in the standard, but is not necessary in order to comply with the standard’s requirements
  • early disclosure of the possible existence of any such essential patent claims is encouraged so all are aware and can make informed choices regarding the inclusion of the patented technology
  • the ASD must receive from the patent holder or its designee a written assurance (aka Patent Letter of Assurance - PLOA) that the patent holder either does not hold a patent claim required to implement the standard or that it will license applicants (those seeking to implement the standard) under RAND terms
  • the ANSI Patent Policy requires that when an ASD receives a PLOA for an essential patent, the standard must include a notice that points out to implementers that there may be a patent claim that is essential to the implementation of the standard
ANSI’s Patent Policy

• To learn more, see these other ANSI documents for guidance:
  ✓ 2022 edition of *Guidelines for Implementation of the ANSI Patent Policy - An Aid to More Efficient and Effective Standards Development In Fields That May Involve Patented Technology*
  ✓ 2020 edition of *Understanding the Patent Policy of the American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”) – A Primer*
Let’s briefly review some background about standards development...
The U.S. System is Unique

Most countries (top down)
Standards development priorities driven by government or national standards bodies

U.S. system (bottom up)
Standards development priorities driven by users and markets
Our Standardization Infrastructure

• Firmly rooted in U.S. history and experience

• Premised on the belief that standards can play an important role in enabling technological innovation
  • defining and establishing common platforms for product differentiation
  • enabling interoperability
  • facilitating competition

• Public-Private Partnership
  • Both the public and private sectors provide the people, resources, technical contributions, and intellectual vitality that underpin the U.S. standards system
U.S. Standardization System
comparison with many other economies

• Emphasizes private-sector standards solutions

• Relies on private-sector compliance verification (conformity assessment) for both regulatory and non-regulatory functions

• Provides a strong voice and greater authority to standards users and individual stakeholders
U.S. Standards System: reliable - flexible - responsive

- Market driven
- Flexible and sector-based
- Industry-led and government-supported

- 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 respective needs

As defined in the United States Standards Strategy
www.ansi.org/usss
• Updated 2020 United States Standards Strategy (USSS)
  • Developed through the coordinated efforts of a large and diverse group of constituents representing stakeholders in industry, standards developing organizations, consortia, consumer groups, government, and academia.
  • Represents the vision of a broad cross-section of standards stakeholders, reflecting the essential diversity of the U.S. standards system.
• Affirms that the U.S. is committed to a sector-based approach to voluntary standardization activities, both domestically and globally.
• Establishes a standardization framework built upon the traditional strengths of the U.S. system—consensus, openness, and transparency—while giving additional emphasis to speed, relevance, cross-sector interactions and dependencies, and the needs of public interest constituencies.

✓ The strategic and tactical initiatives contained in the USSS are developed so they can be referenced by diverse interests to meet their own national and individual organizational objectives.
Let's look at some key actors in standards development in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSI</th>
<th>Standards Developers</th>
<th>Companies &amp; Other Stakeholders</th>
<th>Consumers &amp; Other Stakeholders</th>
<th>Government &amp; Other Stakeholders</th>
<th>NIST</th>
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<td>Coordinates U.S. system and policy development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Independently run standards development activities</td>
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<td>Coordinates and monitors US Government (USG) use of and participation in VCS activities. Develops NIST standards.</td>
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<td>Legal metrology and WTO-TBT enquiry point</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provides technical input for standards development</td>
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<td>Participates in U.S. policy development</td>
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Let’s take a minute now to review ANSI’s roles...

**ANSI** coordinates standards, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States of America.

- Founded in **1918**, ANSI is a private, not-for-profit organization (501(c)3)
- ANSI is not a government agency, standards developer or certifier
ANSI represents and serves the diverse interests of more than 270,000 COMPANIES and ORGANIZATIONS and 30 MILLION PROFESSIONALS worldwide.
ANSI’s Mission Statement

“

To enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity.

“
What Does ANSI Do?

Coordinates and ensures the integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system

» Serves as a bridge between public and private sectors

» Provides a neutral forum

» Accredits standards developing organizations (SDOs) and approves American National Standards

Represents the U.S. around the world

» Serves as the official U.S. representative in international and regional standardization forums

» Facilitates access to these forums and programs by U.S. experts, organizations, and industry

» Coordinates standards capacity-building programs in developing countries

» Promotes U.S. interests
• **U.S. national body member** to the ISO (International Organization for Standardization [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch))

• **U.S. national body member** to the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)) via the U.S. National Committee (USNC)

• a U.S. member of IAF and ILAC (International Conformity Assessment)

• member of regional forums in the Pacific Rim and the Americas

• liaison with groups in Europe, Africa and the Middle East

• bilateral agreements with other national standards and conformity assessment bodies
As the bridge between public-sector policies and private-sector solutions, ANSI has a vital role to play in strengthening U.S. competitiveness, fostering innovation and improving quality of life.

Let’s look at some examples of ANSI as a Convenor...
ANSI Collaboratives and Workshops

2020
Standardization and the Commercial Space Industry Workshop

Continually assessing areas of need

2020
Standardization Empowering AI-enabled Systems in Health Care Workshop

2018
Dietary Supplements Standardization Coordination Workshop

2017
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Standardization Collaborative

2016
America Makes & ANSI Additive Manufacturing Standardization Collaborative

2013
ANSI Network: Smart and Sustainable Cities

2012
ANSI Energy Efficiency Standards Coordination Collaborative

2011
ANSI Electric Vehicles Standards Panel

2010
The Financial Management of Cyber Risk

2009
ANSI-NIST Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Collaborative

2009
Workshop Toward Product Standards for Sustainability

2007
ANSI Network on Chemical Regulation

2007
Biofuels Standards Coordination Panel

2006
ID Theft Prevention and ID Management Standards Panel

2005
Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel

2004
Nanotechnology Standards Panel

2003
Homeland Defense and Security Standardization Collaborative

1994
Information Infrastructure Standards Panel

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Let’s briefly review ANSI’s role as an Accreditor:

• *Standards developers - ANSI*
• *Conformity assessment bodies - ANAB*
“Accreditor”

- ANSI accredits standards developers, through the ANSI Executive Standards Council (ExSC)
  - ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (ASDs) sponsor American National Standards (ANS)
- ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) is a wholly owned subsidiary of ANSI that accredits conformity assessment bodies, e.g., certifiers of products, people and systems (see next slide)
- *ANSI is not a standards developer or certifier*
ANSI and ANAB

- We’ve talked about standards, but let’s clarify the term “Conformity Assessment”, which is the methodology used to evaluate compliance with voluntary consensus standards or technical regulations.

- For example, a label on a product might make a statement of conformance with a standard: **Product x meets ANSI/ABC 1-2013 (How to build a widget)**
  - *In this case, ANSI itself did not develop the referenced standard and ANAB did not certify the product*
  - *ANSI approved the standard, sponsored by an ASD, as an ANS*
  - *ANAB may have accredited the product certification body*
**ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), as an Accrdror: Conformity Assessment**

- “Conformity assessment” provides assurance and confidence
  - to consumers, businesses and government when personnel, products, systems, processes, or services are evaluated against the requirements of a voluntary standard
- [www.ansi.org/ncap](http://www.ansi.org/ncap) (see U.S. Conformity Assessment Principles)
- ANSI, through ANAB, offers many accreditation programs for conformity assessment bodies (CAB):
  - [www.anab.org](http://www.anab.org)
  - many standards, including some ANS, form the basis of conformity assessment programs
- While standards are among the documents used in conformity assessment programs, the accreditation requirements for standards developers vs. conformity assessment bodies are distinct and the programs are separate...
## ANAB Accreditations – Conformity Assessment (www.anab.org)

### Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)/Client

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conformity Assessment Programs (ISO 17011)</th>
<th>Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product Certification Body</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Certification Body</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate Issuer</td>
<td>ANSI-ASTM E2659</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHG Validation/Verification Body</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 14065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Systems Certification Body</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspection Body</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proficiency Test Provider</td>
<td>ISO/IEC 17043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Material Producer</td>
<td>ISO 17034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Lab</td>
<td>ISO 15189</td>
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Now let’s narrow our focus to ANSI’s role as the Accreditor of standards developers in connection with American National Standards (ANS) and what this means ...
American National Standards
ANSI as an “Accreditor” of standards developers

- Accreditation by ANSI as a standards developer is a pre-condition for submitting a standard for approval as an American National Standard (ANS)
  - In other words, an individual standard can only be submitted to ANSI for approval as an ANS by an ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) – www.ansi.org/asd
- ANSI accreditation as a standards developer is based on a defined process that is overseen by neutral standards experts who are ANSI Members (ANSI ExSC)
  - Standards developer Accreditation process highlights: Accreditation application, public review & comment, approval of compliant consensus procedures, multi-level appeals process, re-accreditation when procedures are revised, annual compliance certification, regular procedural audits of ANS
  - See section 4.1 of the ANSI Essential Requirements
Accreditation as a Standards Developer: for American National Standards (ANS)

At ANSI:

- Accreditation as a standards developer relates to the procedures used in relation to American National Standards (ANS) only.

- Accreditation means that a standards developer’s procedures with respect to proposed and approved ANS meet the due process based criteria established in a document called the “ANSI Essential Requirements” (www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements)

- Once accredited, a standards developer uses those procedures to develop evidence of consensus with respect to the content of a proposed ANS.
Let’s remind ourselves why standards are important...
Why are standards important?

- Standards **facilitate trade**, commerce, and **innovation**
- Standards give us **common language**
- Standards help to **advance scientific discovery** and keep people safe by minimizing injuries and protecting key environmental resources
- Standards **reduce costs** in the public and private sectors
- Standards **support interoperability** in all areas of life
- Standards **protect public health, safety and security**
- Standards **make everyday life and the economy work**, for example:
  - Product standards: banking cards, washing machines, face shields, goggles
  - Safety standards: lifejackets, eyewear, boiler pressure vessel code, national electrical code, life safety code, standards for first responders
  - Performance standards: food and toy safety
  - Prescriptive & performance standards (some can be both): indoor air quality
  - Management systems standards: quality, environmental & energy management
  - Personnel standards: food handlers, crane operators, welders
  - Built environment standards: plumbing, mechanical and building codes
  - ICT standards: underpin almost everything
Who creates standards?

• Companies, government, consortia, standards developers, code organizations and others like trade associations and not-for-profits, create standards (domestic & international):
  • some are for limited or internal use, e.g., in a company or within a government agency
  • some are produced for broader use
  • some are created as Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS)
    ✓ an American National Standard (ANS) is a Voluntary Consensus Standard
      ➢ Unless mandated by law, compliance is voluntary

• In the US, the standards process is market driven, sector based, industry led, and government supported
  • All who are directly and materially interested in a standard under development, including consumers and the general public, can have a voice in the ANS process
Let’s focus on one category: American National Standards (ANS)

- 238 ANSI-accredited standards developers (ASD) [www.ansi.org/asd](http://www.ansi.org/asd)
- *ANSI Essential Requirements: due process requirements for American National Standards* ([www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements](http://www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements))
  - “ANSI Essential Requirements” and an ASD’s accredited procedures govern the ANS process
- Only ASDs may submit standards for approval as ANS
  - Accreditation by ANSI is a pre-condition for submitting a standard for approval as an ANS
  - All ANS are maintained on a regular cycle to ensure currency
- More than 13,000 American National Standards
- All ASDs are subject to ANSI’s neutral third-party oversight including a regular procedural audit
  - Not all standards developed by these organizations are approved as ANS
  - ANSI’s rules apply only to ANS

Learn more: [www.ansi.org/ansvalue](http://www.ansi.org/ansvalue)
Where else can I find ANS information?

www.ansi.org/asd
1. List of ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (ASD) with a scope and contact
2. List of proposed ANS (point-in-time)
3. List of approved ANS (point-in-time)

www.ansi.org/StandardsAction
➢ ANSI’s free public notice vehicle for ANS
➢ Published weekly on Friday afternoon
➢ Includes proposed ANS and open public comment opportunities

Subscribe online to ANSI Standards Action and more
https://www.ansi.org/resource-center/publications-subscriptions#
Who makes decisions about ANS-related actions?

3 main committees populated by ANSI members:

- ANSI Executive Standards Council (ExSC)
- ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR)
- ANSI Appeals Board
  - All serve as fiduciaries and neutral, knowledgeable professionals
  - Oversight role and decision-making is subject to conflict of interest procedures

See next slide
What is ANSI’s role in the ANS process?

ANSI Members/Program Oversight Committees

• Oversee the integrity of the ANS consensus process by assessing evidence of procedural compliance with ANSI’s Essential Requirements

• Accredit (and re-accredit) standards developers (procedures) - ExSC

• Approve individual standards as American National Standards (ANS) – BSR, Audited Designators

• Audit ANS for procedural compliance - ExSC

• Hear procedural appeals related to ANS
  • Were procedures followed?
  • Was a comment afforded due process?
  • Is a developer in compliance with ANSI’s requirements?

• Consider whether an ANS designation should be withdrawn for cause (at any time, after ANS approval) - BSR

• Maintain and revise the procedures that govern the ANS process - ExSC
www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements

• For American National Standards (ANS), all ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers (ASDs) are bound by:
  • the *ANSI Essential Requirements* and
  • the ASD’s *ANSI-Accredited Procedures*

• Broad flexibility in consensus process models used by ASDs, some variables:
  • Layers of review and approval
  • Numerical requirements
  • Votes at meetings or via ballot
  • In-person meetings, webinars, teleconference, mail/hard copy
  • Concurrent or sequential steps, e.g., vote and public review
  • Use of electronic systems to support the consensus process
  • Starting with a draft standard or from scratch
    • Any document that is not yet an “ANS” is “draft” or “proposed”
Overarching Consideration of ANS Process: **Due Process**

- Due process means that any party (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest has a right to participate by:
  - expressing a position and its basis
  - having that position considered
  - appealing if adversely affected

- Due process allows for equity and fair play
  - Fairness and consistency are safeguards
ANSI Essential Requirements -
Criteria for ANS consensus and approval

• ANSI’s *Essential Requirements* (see sections 1.0 & 2.0)
  • Openness
  • Lack of dominance
  • Balance
  • Coordination and harmonization
  • Notification of standards development
  • Consideration of views and objections
  • Consensus body vote
  • Procedural appeals
  • Written procedures
ANSI’s Definition of Consensus

• **Consensus** means substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially interested parties.
  - This signifies the concurrence of more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity.
  - Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that an effort be made toward their resolution.

• Every ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer’s procedures includes a definition of consensus; the definitions vary but must be applied as written and must be consistent with ANSI’s definition

• Consensus is more than a numerical determination
ANSI Essential Requirements

• All ASDs and accredited procedures must also comply with ANSI’s requirements related to:
  • ANSI Patent Policy (3.1)
  • Commercial terms & conditions (3.2)
  • Antitrust policy (3.3)
  • ANS record retention/evidence of compliance (3.4)
  • Metric policy (3.5)
  • Interpretations policy (3.6)
  • Publication (4.4)
  • Maintenance requirements (4.7)
What rules apply to the ANS process?

- In addition to the *ANSI Essential Requirements*:
  - The Standards Developer’s ANSI-accredited procedures
    - Often available from ASD’s website (*but must be available upon request*)
    - Provide the details of processes related to public notice, voting, comment consideration, appeals, etc.
    - May include ANS consensus body participation requirements
  - Standards Developer’s *electronic tools* (vary): requiring use of online systems or specific forms/formats is acceptable
  - *Consensus body membership* application, code of conduct, etc. (vary)
  - Typical default when procedures are silent: *Roberts Rules of Order, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (or similar)*
What does the ANS development process entail?
ANS Development Cycle — Overview

PINS Announcement; PINS Deliberation

Public Review; Consensus vote

Consensus Body: Consideration of Views & Objections; Recirculation; Complete ASD Appeals

ANSI Procedural Appeals; Publication; Maintenance

Approval as an American National Standard (ANS)

Review of Due Process Requirements
ANSI recognizes “multiple paths” to standards development

✓ Not every standard needs to be an ANS, but this presentation highlights the basis for the credibility, integrity and confidence an ANS designation reflects
Approval as an American National Standard (ANS)

- Approval as an American National Standard (ANS)
  - Means the sponsoring standards developer VOLUNTARILY subjects a standard to ANSI’s
    - Neutral oversight and approval process
    - Public notice and comment requirements
    - Document maintenance requirements – documents are current, review cycle required
    - Appeals process: time-tested, credible and fair procedural review
    - Procedural audit process, which addresses the integrity and the “plumbing” of the consensus process
  - Short-hand for compliance with OMB A-119 and the NTTAA
    - An ANS is a Voluntary Consensus Standard
Standards that hold ANS status are used globally too

• When they meet an international marketplace need
• Because the procedures used by ASDs to develop consensus for ANS meet globally accepted criteria
  • ANS designation indicates compliance with the *World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Code of Good Practice (CGP)* criteria for openness, transparency, impartiality and consensus, relevance and effectiveness
  • ANS are often developed by U.S.-domiciled international standards developers
  • ANS serve as the basis for many ISO, IEC or other international standards
  • Many ISO, IEC and ISO/IEC JTC 1 standards are nationally adopted by ASDs as ANS
Questions before we recap and talk about how to participate in the ANS process?
Recap...then, how to participate
US Standards System Model: Strength through Diversity

• “Standards are the building blocks for innovation and competitiveness”
• Standards bring consistency, predictability and credibility to a process and give users a common language and framework
• No matter the challenge, solutions cannot be developed in a vacuum
• The robust U.S. standards and conformance systems are a powerful example of how a consensus-based public-private partnership can work to develop concrete solutions to real-world problems
  • For Consumers
  • For Companies
  • For Organizations
  • For Government
American National Standards -
Hallmarks of the ANS process matter

• Integrity and inclusiveness of the ANS process result in high quality standards that help to protect the public interest and foster commerce

• ANS designation indicates market and stakeholder recognition and acceptance: “quality”

• ANS designation = open, credible and fair process with respect to an individual standard

• ANS process, when properly conducted, provides potential legal safeguards: helps to avoid antitrust and other issues
American National Standards - Why they matter...

• Standards address important topics
  • users and the public should have confidence that they are based on a consensus of views arrived at through a fair and open process

• Consistent with our democratic principles, *i.e.*, everyone with a direct and material interest who chooses to participate (in accordance with the rules) can have a voice

• Consensus and comment consideration in a due process-based (fair) environment lead to standards that will be better accepted and more widely used

• ANSI’s oversight is unique: ASDs – who voluntarily seek accreditation and approval of ANS - are subject to regular review and procedural audit by ANSI *(ANSI BSR, ANSI ExSC, ANSI Appeals Board – subject to COI provisions)*

• ANS designation = short-hand that the consensus process satisfies the Federal Government’s definition of voluntary consensus standard (VCS)
So how can you participate?

- On almost any given day, a standards group or technical committee (aka *consensus body*) is working on standards and making decisions that could affect the bottom line of our national economy, individual and public safety, innovation – and you and/or your organization

*Shouldn’t you be involved?*
Let’s review some tools and data that will help you decide where you need to be represented...
How to ID the sponsor of an ANS?
Which ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD)?

• Identify the standard(s) via the unique alpha-numeric designation, e.g., ANSI/ABC 123-2019
  • Not all ANS include “ANSI” in the designation
  • All ANS are labeled on the cover or front matter
    • “an American National Standard” or use the ANS logo

• Designations frequently include the acronym of the ASD – for example: API, CTA, NFPA, ASHRAE, ASME, UL, IAPMO, ASTM, NSF, NEMA, IEEE, ASIS, CSA, ISEA, ATIS, AAMI, AAFS, ADA, ICC, AWWA, NIST, JEDEC, INCITS, Acoustical Society of America (ASC S1, S12, etc.)...

• Visit www.ansi.org/asd to identify standards that are or are intended to become (proposed) ANS (also review Standards Action)
  • “BSR” in the designation of a standard on ANSI’s website, indicates that the standard is proposed as an ANS, but not yet approved as such
How to search for American National Standards (ANS)?

• Downloadable lists of: ASDs (with contact info), ANS and proposed ANS
  • www.ansi.org/asd
  • https://www.ansi.org/resource-center/standards-action
  ➢ Contact an ASD directly, identify an ANS or proposed ANS

• www.ansi.org/StandardsAction – ANSI Standards Action
  • Published every Friday & it’s free
  • Project initiation notices (PINS), Open public comment opportunities, recently approved ANS, Recruitment announcements, Public notices +

• http://ibr.ansi.org/ - ANSI IBR Portal
  • Posting of some standards referenced in regulations or urls to link to developer sites where drafts/standards may be posted for review

• https://webstore.ansi.org/ – ANSI Webstore
  • Many ANS (and other standards) available for sale
How to participate?

• Apply for membership on the ANS consensus body (voting group): apply to the ASD directly
  • some ASDs also offer participation on one or more sub-groups
  • reasonable fees for participation may apply (fees vary)

• Submit public review comments during an open ANSI public review period (www.ansi.org/standardsaction):
  • submit comments to the ASD directly and you may copy psa@ansi.org
  • some ASDs post public review drafts online during an open comment period while others charge a fee to obtain a copy of a draft to defray development and production costs
  • electronic submittal of public comments may be required in a specific format or via an online system
  • comment deadline dates apply and are enforced
How to participate?
More options...

• Submit proposal to develop an ANSI or revise an existing ANSI
  • Submit to the ASD in accordance with its procedures

• Research other options that may be available through the ASD including:
  • Informational member, observer, etc.
  • Liaison, Affiliate, etc.
  • Working group or task group or drafting group participation, etc. (contributor, but non-voting option)
ANS Participation tips...
Be informed and prepared

• Review and familiarize yourself with the ANSI Essential Requirements (www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements)

• Obtain a copy of the ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer’s (ASD) accredited procedures
  • Check online or contact ASD staff directly

• Review the sponsoring ASD’s website (websites are included at www.ansi.org/asd)

• Identify a staff person/E-mail at the developer who is able to serve as a resource, e.g., “committee secretary” or “liaison”
ANS Participation tips...
Be pro-active and timely

• Review ANSI Standards Action (www.ansi.org/standardsaction) each Friday to see what standards are being proposed (Information Concerning) or open for public review (Call for Comment)
  • Some limited revisions are published in Standards Action itself (up to 5 pages)

• Understand which portions of a standard are under review (not always the entire document)
  • Sometimes only a few sections or a very limited revision, etc.
ANS Participation tips...
Be pro-active and timely

• Adhere to **deadlines** and **formatting requirements**
  to ensure that your votes or comments are properly received and considered
  • When a public comment/public review period is
    announced in *Standards Action*, deadlines for commenting
    are specified and matter!
    • This is the only time when ANSI’s public comment
      consideration and response rules apply
  • If you are a voting member, submit votes by established
    deadlines
    • Respond to ballots per ASD’s instructions
ANS Participation tips...

Participate productively

- Participate in **good faith and in accordance with procedure**
  - Familiarize yourself with any applicable “Code of Conduct”

- If you have a concern, speak with ASD staff to understand your rights to **informal dispute resolution** options and, if needed, appeals rights
  - all ASDs offer a **procedural appeals** option
  - to preserve your right to appeal a **procedural issue** to ANSI concerning a specific ANS, you must conclude the procedural appeals process at the ASD first

- For information about ANSI’s appeals options, go to [www.ansi.org/ASD](http://www.ansi.org/ASD) for guidance documents or [psa@ansi.org](mailto:psa@ansi.org)
Let’s circle back to ANSI’s role...
If you are interested in participating in the development of a specific standard, then contact the sponsoring ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) directly.

If you are also interested in working together as part of a broad public-private partnership to develop standards-based solutions to all kinds of challenges, then please consider joining ANSI.
ANSI Members...

• Support a strong U.S. public-private partnership – diversity of public and private sector representatives
• Network with strategic thinkers
• Contribute to solutions for standardization and conformity assessment issues of national importance
• Learn more about standards and conformity assessment and how they influence trade, the national economy and the public interest every day
• Gain exposure to standardization and conformity assessment issues that affect trade, business, consumer protection, the environment, and everyday life – domestic & international
• membership@ansi.org or www.ansi.org/membership
• Monthly ANSI Membership webinar: https://www.ansi.org/membership/overview-webinar
ANSI Engagement Vehicles

Accreditation, ANSI
Standards Developers
U.S. Technical Advisory Groups to ISO

Accreditation, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)
Product Certification Bodies
Personnel Certification Bodies
Management Systems Registrars
Forensic Test and Calibration Service Providers
Inspection Bodies and Laboratories
Greenhouse Gas Verification Bodies
Certificate Programs
Reference Material Producers, and more...

Coordination Activities
Standardization Coordination / Collaboratives
Member Forums / Issues-Based Meetings
Workshops and Networks

International Connectivity and Policy
International Trade Policy
Advocacy and Business Facilitation
Secretariat and U.S. TAG Management
ISO and IEC P-Member Support
Regional and Bilateral Activities in Asia Pacific / Americas / Europe / Africa
China Programs
International Development Activities

Legal Issues
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
Patents
Copyrights
Legal Issues Forum

Government Outreach and Relations
Congressional Presentations
Legislative Issues Monitoring
Monitor Federal Policy/Regulatory Proposals
Joint ICSP/GMF Meetings
IBR Standards Portal
Government Relations and Public Policy Update

Consumer Outreach and Relations

Sales Marketing and Distribution
Retail and Subscription Publications Sales
Advertising, Marketing, and Distribution
Social Media and Networking Activities
Customized Digital Rights Management (DRM) Solutions
Partner Solutions

Editorial and Publishing Services
News Publications, Press Releases, Periodicals

Education and Training
Instructor-Led In-Person, Webinar, and Online Training

Registration Programs
Helpful Resources...

- ANS Process Overview: [https://www.ansi.org/] (1st tab on the left)
- ANSI COVID-19 webpage with links to related ASD and ANSI initiatives: [https://www.ansi.org/COVID-19/]
- ANSI Essential Requirements: [www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements]
- List of approved ANS and proposed ANS: [www.ansi.org/asd]
- List of ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers: [www.ansi.org/asd]
- ANSI Standards Action (weekly information about proposed and approved ANS): [www.ansi.org/standardsaction]
- Summary of ANS process steps: [www.ansi.org/anskeysteps]
- ANS Value Brochure: [www.ansi.org/ansvalue]
- Standards Boost Business: [www.standardsboostbusiness.org]
- Online and in-person training options: [www.standardslearn.org]
- Staff are available via [psa@ansi.org]
Questions?
Some closing thoughts...
ANSI and the US Standards System represent...

- A **public-private partnership** developing strategies and standards-based solutions for a strong nation and a safer, healthier world...
  - **STRENGTH** – openness, fairness and diversity make the US standards system strong
  - **INNOVATION** – standards spur and support innovation
  - **ACTION** – standards are responsive to human and market needs
  - **GROWTH** – standards facilitate economic growth and keep us competitive
  - **PRODUCTIVITY** – standards promote and support productivity
  - **SOLUTIONS** – standards-based solutions address issues of national, regional and international importance
  - **PARTNERSHIP** – everyone has a voice and all are welcome
  - **COLLABORATION** – stakeholders work together to develop solutions

- Interested in case studies? See [www.standardsboostbusiness.org](http://www.standardsboostbusiness.org)
Now more than ever...we hope that you will decide to participate in standards development and be part of the innovative solutions being developed every day...

Thanks so much for your interest...please keep my contact information if ANSI can be of help to you or your organization...