

**Informative Guidance – Part II: Select Q&A for the 2022 ANSI Essential Requirements**  
([www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements](http://www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements))

1. An ASD uses “Association” as one of their interest categories; can this remain?

Association/Government Agency/University: A special classification created to support organizational membership by professional associations and societies, industry consortia, regulators, government agencies and universities or university-based organizations (other than medical centers which are considered providers) demonstrating an interest in promoting the development, adoption or implementation of ASD Protocol Specifications. Member universities are encouraged to develop ASD-related programs and courses and to engage in informatics standards research.

**Response:** The example above seems to be a potentially acceptable interest category. First, each interest category definition has to be discretely defined, differentiating it from all other interest categories and if this is the case, then it can remain an option. The ASD should document for the record the basis for allowing a consensus body member with multiple interests to serve in a particular interest category as this would not be the expected norm. Some ASDs also have a formal process that allows another consensus body member to challenge interest classifications, so the record should reflect a fair and neutral assessment and decision-making process by the ASD.

2. “If a trade association participates on a consensus body, but that trade association represents manufacturers that are not associated with the manufacture of products related to the candidate standard, can that trade association be considered “General Interest”?

**Response:** Such a determination should be fact-specific and could be an option. The ASD should document for the record the basis for allowing a trade association (or consultant) to be classified as “General Interest”.

3. “We have a trade association member that represents several segments – they would not fit as a manufacturer although they have members that are manufacturers – they have glazing contractors and they are typically users – would the association become a User?”

**Response:** Such a determination should be fact-specific and consistent with the definitions of clearly defined interest categories. If clear alignment with an interest category definition is not apparent, the ASD should document for the record the basis for allowing a consensus body member to be classified in a particular interest category.

4. "To confirm, if a Consultant (User in our case) receives modest travel support from a "Producer" to attend meetings, but attests that they will vote/participate based on their own views/opinions and are not bound to the Producer, can we leave them as "Users" if that is how they declare? Or should we change them to a "Producer" since they receive funds for their travel? Currently we trust the people to declare appropriately, and only question them if we know they are receiving major support or have, in the past, voted that way. Does this make sense? The issue with travel funding is not insignificant, and some will not participate if they can't find someone to help with their costs."

**Response:** Such a determination should be fact-specific and consistent with the definitions of clearly defined interest categories. If clear alignment with an interest category definition is not apparent, the ASD should document for the record the basis for allowing a consensus body to be classified in a particular interest category.

5. *Although staff have not been able to find evidence of this person's submission of public comments, they submitted the following comments/questions as part of a 2022 Compliance webinar:*

When deletion of the interest categories - professional societies and trade associations - were proposed for deletion, we filed formal comments strenuously objecting to both of those deletions and for excellent reasons. How would you categorize ASSP or AIHA or Human Factors Society (to list just three of a very large number of these entities) as anything OTHER than a professional society? They are a viable, valid and valuable interest category. There are currently over 6000 licensed trade associations in the United States; while the "justification" just presented is true in many cases (that being that some trade associations predominantly represent the manufacturers of equipment, or users within the scope of the ASD, however, there are quite a number that represent many different interests and yet they too are considered a valuable resource for insight and input into the standards development process.

To be clear, we use consultant, like consulting engineer. They are designers (typically engineers). They are not really "consulting" to the producers, so consider my question above as "designers".

**Response:** It is important to note that deletion of the examples, i.e., Trade Associations and Professional Societies, does not mean that such organizations are not allowed to participate in the ANS process. (See first Q&A – ExSC\_022\_2022)

The ExSC views representatives of "Trade Associations" and "Professional Societies" as examples of participants who, for most standards (except perhaps, for example, standards about trade associations or professional societies, respectively) represent the interests of their organization's members. Accordingly, they should be classified – or reclassified -- as such, e.g, producer or user - in accordance with the interests they represent in relation to the nature of the standard.

Determinations concerning the classification of organizations such as those noted should be fact-specific in relation to the standard under development and in accordance with the ASD's

procedures. The ASD should document for the record the basis for allowing a Trade Association, Professional Society or Consultant to be classified as “General Interest” – as this would not be the expected norm.

Please also see ExSC\_022\_2022, specifically, Q13, Q16 and Q26.

To your note about “designer” interests, definitions of each interest category must be discretely defined and differentiate one from another. So if “designer” is relevant to the standard, it must be defined and then populated accordingly.

6. We have active consensus bodies where the some of the members selected Trade Association or Professional Society as their interest category. Do the changes discussed today impact existing committees? If yes, how long do we have to implement changes?

**Response:** ASDs are given one year to revise their procedures after the annual Compliance Form deadline. ASDs are expected to make good-faith and timely progress implementing revised procedures; issues that delay implementation should be documented.