
American National Standards Institute

Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards

Approved by the ANSI Board of Directors
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Foreword

The voluntary standards system in the United States consists of a large number of standards developers that write and maintain one or more national standards. Among them are professional societies, trade associations, and other organizations. Thousands of individuals, companies, other organizations (e.g., labor, consumer, and industrial) and government agencies voluntarily contribute their knowledge, talent, and effort to standards development.

Many standards developers and participants support the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as the central body responsible for the identification of a single, consistent set of voluntary standards called American National Standards. ANSI approval of these standards is intended to verify that the principles of openness and due process have been followed in the approval procedure and that a consensus of those directly and materially affected by the standards has been achieved. ANSI coordination is intended to assist the voluntary system to ensure that national standards needs are identified and met with a set of standards that are without conflict or unnecessary duplication in their requirements.

ANSI is the U.S. member of non-treaty international standards organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) through the United States National Committee, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT). As such, ANSI coordinates the activities involved in U.S. participation in these groups.

The National Policy on Standards for the United States and ANSI's plan for its implementation, as well as experience gained from the application of the previous edition of the ANSI Procedures for Management and Coordination of American National Standards (December 5, 1974, Revised March 31, 1977), contributed to the development of these procedures that provide criteria, requirements, and guidelines for coordinating and developing consensus for American National Standards.

The Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards were approved by the ANSI Board of Directors on March 26, 1982. A subsequent revision of the provisions on interpretations of American National Standards was approved by the Board of Directors on March 30, 1983. A further revision was approved by the Board of Directors on September 9, 1987, and provided updated references, refinement of the canvass procedures, and the addition of new information pertaining to Standards Planning Panels, Standards Advisors, draft standards for trial use, substantive changes, and commercial terms and conditions.

A revision approved by the Board of Directors on September 9, 1993 added four new Annexes, "Policy on Reaffirmation of American National Standards", "The Three Methods of Consensus", "Procedures for the Synchronization of the National and International Standards Review and Approval Processes" and the "Metric Policy." It also incorporated a number of clarifications.

As a result of the review by the Blue Ribbon Panel of the American National Standards Board of Directors, an additional revision was initiated. This review identified a number of areas, particularly with respect to the criteria for approval and the appeals process, where revisions would more accurately and more appropriately reflect the role of the Institute. The ability to grant authority to qualified accredited standards developers to apply the American National Standard designation without Board of Standards Review approval was also proposed by the Blue Ribbon Panel. These revisions were subject to public review, review by the Executive Standards Council and the Board of Standards Review and were approved by the Board of Directors on March 22, 1995. The availability of the ability to apply the ANS designation without BSR review is not intended to replace the current three methods of accreditation. In addition, standards developers who have been granted this ability may still submit standards for approval by the BSR.

Following the March 22, 1995 revision of the procedures, several additional revisions were made to the *ANSI Procedures*. In particular, the patent policy (section 1.2.11) was revised to indicate that the actual terms and conditions do not have to be filed, and the definition of "commercial term" (section 1.2.10) was clarified. Also, the criteria for reaffirmations (section 1.3.1.2) were changed so that standards undergoing an update of references may be processed as a reaffirmation instead of a revision as long as the referenced standards were themselves reaffirmations and not revisions. Other revisions include changes to section 1.2.13 concerning record retention, changes to section B.2.1 concerning the formation of the canvass list, and changes to section 1.2.7 concerning the notification of right to appeal. These revisions were approved on or before March 1997 by the ANSI Board of Directors.

Between March 1997 and April 1998 a number of revisions to these procedures were made as a result of ongoing reengineering at the Institute. These revisions streamline processes, clarify intent, place responsibility for actions where it is most appropriate, and are consistent with the strategic direction of the ANSI Federation. In particular, the role of the BSR with regard to Audited Designators was revised (section 1.3), the PINS policy was revised (section 1.2.6), clarification that developers are required to notify in writing objectors of the disposition of the objections and the reasons therefore (section 1.2.7) was added, the requirement that developers have a metric policy as a requirement of accreditation was added (section 2.2), the processes associated with the notification and withdrawal of overage standards were revised to clarify that accredited standards developers have the responsibility for monitoring and taking action on approved American National Standards (section 4.4.1), the appeals process associated with a request for the withdrawal of an American National Standard was streamlined (section 4.4.3), the option to request arbitration with AAA rather than appeal to the ANSI Appeals Board was eliminated, and two new annexes – one concerning a recommended agreement between the secretariat and the committee of an accredited standards committee, and a second containing the Policy on Voting on Standards via Letter Ballot - were added. These revisions and additions were approved on or before April 1998 by the full ANSI Board of Directors or by the National Issues Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors.

American National Standards Institute Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards

1 Due process and criteria for approval and withdrawal of American National Standards

1.1 Applicability

These requirements apply to activities related to the development of consensus for approval, revision, reaffirmation, and withdrawal of American National Standards.

1.2 Due process requirements

Due process means that any person (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest has a right to participate by: a) expressing a position and its basis, b) having that position considered, and c) appealing if adversely affected. Due process allows for equity and fair play. The following constitute the minimum acceptable due process requirements for the development of consensus.

1.2.1 Openness

Participation shall be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the activity in question. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Participation shall not be conditional upon membership in any organization, nor unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements.

Timely and adequate notice of any action to create, revise, reaffirm, or withdraw a standard, and the establishment of a new consensus-developing group or canvass list shall be provided to all known directly and materially affected interests. Notice should include a clear and meaningful description of the purpose of the proposed activity and shall identify a readily available source for further information.

1.2.2 Balance

The standards development process should have a balance of interests and shall not be dominated by any single interest category.

Dominance means a position or exercise of dominant authority, leadership, or influence by reason of superior leverage, strength, or representation to the exclusion of fair and equitable consideration of other viewpoints. The requirement implicit in the phrase "shall not be dominated by any single interest category" normally will be satisfied by the historical criteria for balance; that is a) no single interest category constitutes more than one-third of the membership of a committee dealing with safety or b) no single interest category constitutes a majority of the membership of a committee dealing with product standards.

Unless it is claimed by a directly and materially affected person that a single interest category dominated the standards development process, no test for dominance is required.

1.2.3 Interest categories

The interest categories appropriate to the development of consensus in any given standards activity are a function of the nature of the standards being developed. In defining the interest categories appropriate to a standards activity, consideration shall be given to at least the following:

- a) producer;
- b) user;
- c) general interest.

Where appropriate, more detailed subdivisions should be considered.¹

Appropriate, representative user views shall be actively sought and fully considered in standards activities. Whenever possible, user participants shall be those with the requisite technical knowledge, but other users may also participate. User participation should come from both individuals and representatives of organized groups. There are several user categories.

1.2.3.1 User-consumer

Where the standards activity in question deals with a consumer product, such as lawn mowers or aerosol sprays, an appropriate consumer participant's view is considered to be synonymous with that of the individual user – a person using goods and services rather than producing or selling them.

1.2.3.2 User-industrial

Where the standards activity in question deals with an industrial product, such as steel or insulation used in transformers, an appropriate user participant is the industrial user of the product.

1.2.3.3 User-government

Where the standards activity in question is likely to result in a standard that may become the basis for government agency procurement, an appropriate user participant is the representative of that government agency.

1.2.3.4 User-labor

Where the standards activity in question deals with subjects of special interest to the American worker, such as products used in the workplace, an appropriate user participant is a representative of labor.

1.2.4 Written procedures

Written procedures shall govern the methods used for standards development and shall be available to any interested person.

1.2.5 Appeals

The written procedures shall contain an identifiable, realistic, and readily available appeals mechanism for the impartial handling of substantive and procedural complaints regarding any action or inaction (see 6).

1.2.6 Notification of standards development

Notification of standards activity shall be announced in suitable media as appropriate to demonstrate provision of opportunity for participation by all directly and materially affected persons. At the initiation of a project to develop or revise an American National Standard, notification shall be transmitted to ANSI using the Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) form, or its equivalent, for listing in *Standards Action*. A PINS form may be submitted, but is not required, at the initiation of a project to reaffirm or withdraw an American National Standard. In addition, proposals for new American National Standards and proposals to revise, reaffirm, or withdraw approval of existing American National Standards shall be transmitted to ANSI for listing in *Standards Action* in order to provide a opportunity for public comment. The comment period shall be a minimum of sixty days, unless the full text of the revision(s) can be published in *Standards Action*, in which case the comment period may be a minimum of thirty days. The same comment periods shall apply wherever listing for comment in *Standards Action* is required by these procedures. Such listing may be requested at any stage in the development of the proposal, at the option of the standards developer, and may be concurrent with final balloting. However, any substantive change (see 1.2.9) subsequently made in a proposed American National Standard requires listing of the change in *Standards Action*.

1.2.7 Consideration of views and objections

Prompt consideration shall be given to the written views and objections of all participants, including those commenting on the listing in *Standards Action*. An effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and

¹ Further subdivisions that may be used to categorize directly and materially affected persons consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

a) Consumer; b) Directly affected public; c) Distributor and retailer; d) Industrial/commercial; e) Insurance; f) Labor; g) Manufacturer; h) Professional society; i) Regulatory agency; j) Testing laboratory; k) Trade association.

each objector shall be advised in writing (including electronic communications) of the disposition of the objection and the reasons therefor. In addition, each objector shall be informed that an appeals process exists within procedures used by the standards developer.

When this process is completed in accordance with the written procedures of the standards developer, the standards developer may consider any comments received subsequent to the closing of the public review and comment period, or shall consider them at the next review.

Unresolved objections and any substantive change (see 1.2.9) made in a proposed American National Standard shall be reported to the consensus-developing group or canvass list in order to afford all members or canvasees an opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote.

1.2.8 International standards

Developers of American National Standards shall take international standards into consideration and shall, if appropriate, base their standards on international standards.

U.S.TAGs exist for most standards projects for which the United States has evidenced substantial interest. These groups may be contacted for information and advice through their administrators, who are on record at ANSI.

The reasons for not basing an American National Standard on an international standard include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) national security requirements;
- b) the prevention of deceptive practices;
- c) the protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, or the environment;
- d) fundamental climatic or other geographic factors;
- e) fundamental technological problems.

1.2.9 Substantive change

A substantive change in a proposed American National Standard is one that directly and materially affects the use of the standard. Examples of substantive changes are below:

- a) "shall" to "should" or "should" to "shall";
- b) addition, deletion or revision of requirements, regardless of the number of changes;
- c) addition of mandatory compliance with referenced standards.

1.2.10 Commercial terms and conditions

Provisions involving business relations between buyer and seller such as guarantees, warranties, and other commercial terms and conditions shall not be included in an American National Standard. Generally, it is not acceptable to include proper names or trademarks of specific companies or organizations in the text of a standard. Where a sole source exists for essential equipment or materials, it is permissible to supply the name and address of the source in a footnote or informative annex as long as the words "or the equivalent" are added to the reference. In connection with standards that relate to the determination of whether products or services conform to one or more standards, the process or criteria for determining conformity can be standardized as long as the description of the process or criteria is limited to technical and engineering concerns and does not include what would otherwise be a commercial term or proper name.

1.2.11 ANSI patent policy - Inclusion of Patents in American National Standards

There is no objection in principle to drafting a proposed American National Standard in terms that include the use of a patented item, if it is considered that technical reasons justify this approach.

If the Institute receives a notice that a proposed American National Standard may require the use of a patented invention, the procedures in 1.2.11.1 through 1.2.11.4 shall be followed.

1.2.11.1 Statement from patent holder

Prior to approval of such a proposed American National Standard, the Institute shall receive from the identified

party or patent holder (in a form approved by the Institute) either: assurance in the form of a general disclaimer to the effect that such party does not hold and does not currently intend holding any invention the use of which would be required for compliance with the proposed American National Standard or assurance that:

- a) a license will be made available without compensation to the applicants desiring to utilize the license for the purpose of implementing the standard; or
- b) a license will be made available to applicants under reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination.

1.2.11.2 Record of statement

A record of the patent holder's statement shall be placed and retained in the files of the Institute.

1.2.11.3 Notice

When the Institute receives from a patent holder the assurance set forth in 1.2.11.1 a) or b), the standard shall include a note as follows:

NOTE – The user's attention is called to the possibility that compliance with this standard may require use of an invention covered by patent rights.

By publication of this standard, no position is taken with respect to the validity of this claim or of any patent rights in connection therewith. The patent holder has, however, filed a statement of willingness to grant a license under these rights on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions to applicants desiring to obtain such a license. Details may be obtained from the standards developer.

1.2.11.4 Responsibility for identifying patents

The Institute shall not be responsible for identifying all patents for which a license may be required by an American National Standard or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of those patents that are brought to its attention.

1.2.12 Consideration of standards proposals

Prompt consideration shall be given to proposals made for developing new standards, or revising or withdrawing existing American National Standards.

1.2.13 Records

Records shall be prepared and maintained to provide evidence of compliance with these procedures. Records concerning new, revised, or reaffirmed American National Standards shall be retained for one complete standards cycle, or until the standard is revised. Records concerning withdrawn standards shall be retained for at least five years from the date of withdrawal.

1.3 Criteria for approval and withdrawal of American National Standards

A standard developed by an accredited standards developer may be approved as an American National Standard in accordance with either 1.3.1 (Approval by the Board of Standards Review), or 1.3.2 (Approval without BSR review). In either case, the due process and consensus criteria outlined in clause 1 of these procedures shall apply. In addition, approval assures the user that each American National Standard is generally acceptable to the directly and materially affected interest categories that participated in the development of consensus for the standard.

"Consensus" means substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interest categories. 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.

1.3.1 Approval by the Board of Standards Review

Approval and withdrawal of an American National Standard by the ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR) is based on the evidence submitted that the requirements set forth below have been met. The BSR also acts on the revision and reaffirmation of an existing American National Standard.

The ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR) shall review standards submitted to ANSI with unresolved objections on record. This includes negative consensus body votes as well as public review comments. Standards submitted without objections shall be administratively approved by the BSR. There is no basis on which to disapprove such standards if they are submitted by an accredited standards developer that has certified compliance with ANSI requirements. The BSR does not have jurisdiction over the standards of Audited Designators unless an Audited Designator chooses to submit one or more standards to the BSR for approval.

1.3.1.1 Criteria for approval

With respect to any proposal to approve, revise or reaffirm an American National Standard for which one or more unresolved objections have been reported, the BSR shall evaluate whether:

- a) the standard was developed in accordance with the procedures upon which the developer was granted accreditation, with particular attention given to whether due process was followed, consensus was achieved, and an effort was made to resolve any objections to the standard;
- b) any appeal to the standards developer with respect to the standard was completed;
- c) notice of the development process for the standard was provided to ANSI in accordance with PINS or its equivalent;
- d) any identified significant conflict with another American National Standard was resolved;
- e) other known national standards were examined with regard to harmonization and duplication of content;
- f) the proposed American National Standard was provided to the administrator(s) of the appropriate U.S. TAG (see 1.2.8);
- g) ANSI's patent policy is met (see 1.2.11), if applicable;
- h) ANSI's policy on commercial terms and conditions is met (see 1.2.10), if applicable.

If the BSR determines, based on the weight of the evidence presented, that the above-stated criteria have been satisfied, the standard shall be approved as an American National Standard. The BSR shall deny approval, if, based on the weight of the evidence presented, the BSR determines that the American National Standard:

- a) is contrary to the public interest;
- b) contains unfair provisions;
- c) is unsuitable for national use;
- d) has a conflict with an existing American National Standard.²

Standards approved as American National Standards shall be designated, published, and maintained in accordance with clause 4. No substantive change (see 1.2.9) that has not been afforded due process in accordance with these procedures may be made in an approved American National Standard.

The BSR shall not approve standards that duplicate existing American National Standards unless there is a compelling need (see 3.6).

1.3.1.2 Criteria for reaffirmation

The due process and consensus requirements contained in 1.2 apply to reaffirmations as they do to all approval actions related to American National Standards. The procedures used for reaffirmation of an American National Standard by an accredited standards developer shall be implemented according to the developer's ANSI-approved procedures. Reaffirmations shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

Reaffirmations shall be accomplished without any substantive change to the main text of the standard. All non-substantive changes in the main text of the standard shall be explained, or noted, in a foreword. An American National Standard undergoing an update of references to standards necessary to implement the American

² As used here, the term "conflict" refers to a situation where, viewed from the perspective of an implementor, the terms of one standard are inconsistent with the terms of another standard such that implementation of one standard necessarily would preclude proper implementation of the other standard in accordance with its terms.

National Standard shall be processed as a revision unless the updated reference is only a reaffirmation of the referenced standard. Any substantive changes in such references requires processing as a revision.

In the case of a proposal for reaffirmation of an existing American National Standard for which one or more unresolved objections have been reported, the BSR shall consider evidence that the criteria above have been met.

Subclause 4.1 requires that the date of approval of an American National Standard shall be included in the standard, preferably on the cover. For reaffirmation, the date of ANSI reaffirmation shall be included in the standard along with the date of the original ANSI approval. The designation of ANSI approval shall clearly indicate if the approval is a reaffirmation.

1.3.1.3 Criteria for withdrawal

In accordance with clause 4.4 of these procedures, an American National Standard shall be automatically withdrawn five years following approval, unless an extension has been granted by ANSI. An American National Standard may also be withdrawn at the request of its accredited standards developer provided that the developer complied with its own procedures in making this request.

Except as provided in 1.3.2.6, an application for withdrawal of an American National Standard may also be submitted by any materially interested party. The application shall be accompanied by a filing fee. This fee may be waived or reduced upon sufficient evidence of hardship. In the event that the request for withdrawal previously has not been provided to the accredited standards developer for their consideration, the secretary shall refer the request for withdrawal to the accredited standards developer for review and comment. The following shall then apply:

- a) if the accredited standards developer concurs with the proposed withdrawal, the withdrawal shall be processed in accordance with the approved procedures of the accredited standards developer;
- b) if the accredited standards developer does not concur with the proposed withdrawal, the accredited standards developer shall inform the proponent and include reasons. The proponent shall advise the secretary of the BSR within 30 days whether they wish ANSI to continue to process the proposed withdrawal. If the proponent requests continuance of the withdrawal process, the matter shall be referred to the BSR for decision on subsequent action.

Accordingly, such requests shall be considered by the BSR only upon a showing that one or more of the following conditions applies:

- a) a significant conflict with another American National Standard remains;
- b) ANSI's patent policy was violated (see 1.2.11);
- c) ANSI's requirements for designation, publication, and maintenance were violated;
- d) an American National Standard is contrary to the public interest;
- e) an American National Standard contains unfair provisions;
- f) an American National Standard is unsuitable for national use.

If the BSR determines, based on the weight of the evidence presented, that one or more of the above-stated criteria have been satisfied, approval of the standard as an American National Standard shall be withdrawn. If the BSR determines, based on the weight of the evidence presented, that none of the above-stated criteria have been met, then approval of the standard as an American National Standard shall be maintained. The decision of the BSR in this regard shall not be appealed to the BSR, but may be appealed to the ANSI Appeals Board pursuant to section 11, Appeals Process, of the *Appeals Board Operating Procedures*.

1.3.1.4 Final notice

Notice of the BSR's final action on all standards shall be published in *Standards Action*.

1.3.2 Approval without BSR review

1.3.2.1 Introduction

A voluntary consensus standards developer who has been accredited by ANSI and who has demonstrated a "consistent record of successful voluntary standards development" may apply to ANSI at any time seeking the authority to designate its standards as American National Standards without approval by the BSR.

1.3.2.2 Application

The applicant shall provide the information specified in a form developed by ANSI for this purpose. A notice announcing the application shall be published in *Standards Action* with a call for comment. Simultaneously, an initial audit of the applicant shall be scheduled, in accordance with the *ANSI Auditing Policy and Procedures*. At the conclusion of these actions, the Executive Standards Council (ExSC) shall consider the information supplied by the applicant, any comments and responses received, the audit results, and the initial audit responses, and will make a decision concerning the disposition of the application. In making a decision on such an application, the ExSC may request any additional information reasonably necessary to clarify issues raised by the application. Thereafter, ANSI shall either approve the application as submitted, approve the application contingent on receipt of certain additional assurances, or deny the application. Any decision to deny the application may thereafter be appealed by the applicant to the ANSI Appeals Board. When an application has been finally approved by ANSI, a notice so indicating shall be made in *Standards Action*.

1.3.2.3 Criteria for approval

In determining whether an accredited standards developer has achieved a "consistent record of successful voluntary standards development," ANSI shall consider all evidence reasonably bearing on the issue, including the extent of the notice provided by the applicant concerning its development activities and the integrity of the other due process safeguards used by the applicant in conducting its work. A presumption shall exist that this test has been satisfied where a) the developer has been involved in voluntary standards development work for at least five (5) years, b) during that period, the BSR has approved at least ten of the developer's standards or if ten standards have not been approved, standard(s) totaling at least 100 pages and c) no standard submitted by the developer during the five (5)- year period was finally denied American National Standard status by ANSI due to a failure to adhere to the principles and procedures upon which the developer's accreditation was based. The inability of an applicant to make use of this presumption shall in no way preclude consideration of its application based on all the relevant evidence.

Upon a final decision to grant an accredited developer's application, the developer shall enter into a written agreement with ANSI, which shall include commitments by the developer to meet the requirements listed below. The agreement shall be for a term of no longer than two (2) years. Any additional terms included in the agreement may be modified as circumstances require with the prior approval of ANSI's President (as long as such additional term(s) do not conflict with any of ANSI's procedures and policies) and the developer.

The developer shall:

- a) retain membership in ANSI and pay dues to ANSI in accordance with the policies established by ANSI's Board of Directors;
- b) conduct its activities at all times in conformity with the criteria upon which it was accredited;
- c) submit to audits of its operations by ANSI to demonstrate compliance with terms of the delegation and pay the fees associated therewith (see the *ANSI Auditing Policy and Procedures* for further details on the audit requirements);
- d) provide information required by ANSI in connection with PINS or its equivalent, in a timely manner;
- e) promptly notify ANSI each time that a standard is designated as an American National Standard without BSR review;
- f) not designate as an American National Standard any standard if it:
 - 1) is contrary to the public interest;
 - 2) contains unfair provisions;
 - 3) is unsuitable for national use;
 - 4) has a conflict with an existing American National Standard.

If a standard is subsequently determined to have been in conflict with an existing American National Standard at the time of approval, the American National Standard designation shall be withdrawn;

- g) promptly notify ANSI of any suit or claim made against the developer arising from a standard designated as an American National Standard without BSR review, and provide periodic updates sufficient to apprise ANSI of the status of any such suit or claim;
- h) indemnify ANSI in connection with any suit or claim that may be made against ANSI arising from a standard designated as an American National Standard without BSR review,³ which indemnity must include a commitment to advance all reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in connection with investigating or defending any such suit or claim;⁴
- i) consider an American National Standard designation for all of its standards (where permitted by *ANSI Procedures*); and
- j) immediately cease to apply the ANSI designation to any standard approved after the developer has been notified by ANSI that its accreditation has been suspended and/or withdrawn.

In addition, the Agreement shall provide for termination by ANSI upon any material breach of its terms by the developer, following notice and an opportunity to cure any such breach. The developer shall have the right to appeal any such decision pursuant to ANSI's appeals procedures.

1.3.2.4 Renewals

Successive applications to renew a developer's right to designate its standards as American National Standards without BSR review may be made without limitation and shall be reviewed and decided on the same basis as an initial application, except that in connection with any renewal ANSI shall consider whether during the preceding period the developer has properly fulfilled its obligations as set forth above.

1.3.2.5 Requirements

With respect to submitting American National Standards to ANSI without BSR approval, the qualified applicant shall agree to provide the following:

- a) title and designation of the American National Standard;
- b) indication of the type of action (that is, approval of a new American National Standard or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of an existing American National Standard);
- c) two copies of the final American National Standard;
- d) identification of the accredited method used and declaration that applicable procedures were followed;
- e) a declaration that the standard is within the scope of the previously registered standards activity;
- f) a declaration that other known national standards have been examined with regard to harmonization and duplication of content;
- g) a declaration that no significant conflicts with another known American National Standard have been identified;
- h) a statement that the American National Standard has been provided to the administrator(s) of the appropriate TAG(s) (see 1.2.8);
- i) a declaration that all appeal actions related to the approval of the proposed standard have been completed;
- j) a declaration that the criteria contained in the ANSI patent policy have been met, if applicable;
- k) approval date of the American National Standard.

1.3.2.6 Complaints

³ The sufficiency of the indemnity will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in light of the assets of the applicant. ANSI reserves the right to deny approval to any applicant should ANSI determine an offer of indemnity to be insufficient.

⁴ It is understood that, absent a conflict of interest, the developer may designate its own attorneys as the attorneys for ANSI as well.

Any complaint, (whether expressed as a complaint, appeal, or request for withdrawal of ANSI designation) concerning any actions or inactions, including approval or disapproval of an American National Standard, by an Audited Designator shall be governed by the provisions of the *ANSI Auditing Policy and Procedures*, clause 5.3, Audits scheduled as the result of formal complaints.

2 Accreditation of American National Standards Developers

2.1 General

A standards developer whose procedures meet the requirements of due process and criteria for approval and withdrawal of American National Standards in clause 1 may apply to ANSI for accreditation. To be accredited, the standards developer's procedures and practices for standards development shall meet the criteria for accreditation in 2.2. A standards developer may be accredited to use one or more recognized methods of developing evidence of consensus -- Accredited Organization Method, Accredited Standards Committee Method, and Accredited Sponsor using the Canvass Method.

2.1.1 Standards developers using the Accredited Organization Method shall prepare and submit procedures that meet the requirements found in the *ANSI Procedures*. These procedures may be based upon Annex A.

2.1.2 Standards developers using the Accredited Standards Committee Method shall either prepare and submit procedures that meet the requirements found in the *ANSI Procedures*, or shall adopt the Model Procedures (see Annex A), and may submit any other documentation in response to Annex H.

2.1.3 Standards developers using the Canvass Method shall use the canvass procedures provided in Annex B.

2.2 Criteria for accreditation

Accreditation shall be based on compliance with the following criteria:

- a) the operating procedures used for the development of evidence of consensus for approval, revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of standards as American National Standards shall conform to the due process requirements of 1.2;
- b) with respect to American National Standards or candidates therefor, the applicant shall agree to:
 - 1) provide continuity of administrative oversight and support of its standards activities;
 - 2) provide for designation, publication, and maintenance of the standard(s) produced (see part 4);
 - 3) provide for an appeals mechanism;
 - 4) cooperate with ANSI in standards planning and coordination activities of mutual interest;
 - 5) advise ANSI of the initiation and scope of new standards activities expected to result in Candidate American National Standards;
 - 6) advise ANSI of the initiation of activities related to revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of American National Standards;
 - 7) consider applicable international standards (see 1.2.8);
- c) as appropriate to the extent to which the applicant is involved with standardization, the applicant shall consider participation in international standards activities through ANSI;
- d) with respect to submitting proposed American National Standards to ANSI for BSR approval, the applicant shall agree to provide the following:
 - 1) title and designation of the proposed American National Standard;
 - 2) indication of the type of action requested (that is, approval of a new American National Standard or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of an existing American National Standard);
 - 3) two copies of the final proposed American National Standard;

- 4) identification of the accredited method used and declaration that applicable procedures were followed;
 - 5) a declaration that the proposed standard is within the scope of the previously registered standards activity;
 - 6) a declaration that other known national standards have been examined with regard to harmonization and duplication of content;
 - 7) a declaration that no significant conflicts with another known American National standard have been identified;
 - 8) a statement that the proposed American National Standard has been provided to the administrator(s) of the appropriate US TAG (see 1.2.8);
 - 9) a summary of the voting, including abstentions and unreturned ballots in each interest category;
 - 10) a declaration that all appeal actions related to the approval of the proposed standard have been completed;
 - 11) a declaration that the criteria contained in the ANSI patent policy have been met, if applicable;
 - 12) identification of all unresolved negative views and objections, with names of the objector(s), and a report of attempts toward resolution;
 - 13) a roster of the standards committee or canvass list;
 - 14) applicable ANSI fees for maintenance of accreditation;
- e) the applicant shall advise ANSI of its policies regarding the use of international system of units (SI) in standards, record retention, and interpretation of American National Standards.

2.3 Application

Application to ANSI for accreditation shall be in writing and shall include copies of the pertinent standards developing procedures and other documentation demonstrating compliance with the criteria specified in 2.2. If more than one set of standards developing procedures is used by an applicant, each procedure requires separate review for accreditation. The applicant shall submit its scope and a description of its present program of standards activities, including, as applicable, the scopes of standards committees, and a list of candidate American National Standards for designated standards board coordination (see clause 3). Also included shall be a statement concerning national and international coordination efforts.

A notice announcing the application for accreditation shall be published in *Standards Action* with a call for comment. Copies of the pertinent standards developing procedures shall be available from the applicant, upon request.

Following the comment period, the ExSC shall consider the information supplied by the applicant and any comments and responses received, including reports on coordination from the appropriate standards board(s), planning panel(s), and the BSR. The ExSC shall determine whether accreditation should be approved. The applicant must meet all of the criteria in 2.2 before accreditation can be granted. If, during the course of the accreditation process, the developer makes a change to their originally submitted scope or to their originally submitted operating procedures, an additional announcement shall be published in *Standards Action*. If, however, the developer makes changes to the originally submitted operating procedures at the specific direction of the ExSC or their designee in order to bring their procedures into compliance with the *ANSI Procedures*, an informational announcement shall be placed in *Standards Action* without additional public review. Accreditation will not normally be granted to an applicant whose candidate American National Standards clearly duplicate existing American National Standards or where sufficient evidence of need for the proposed standards development activity can not be demonstrated. In the event that accreditation is not granted, the ExSC shall advise the applicant of the reasons, and the applicant shall have the opportunity to reapply. Upon accreditation, the applicant shall be notified and a notice shall appear in *Standards Action*.

2.4 Maintenance of accreditation

The ANSI Audit Director, under the supervision of the ExSC, shall arrange for audits of accredited standards

developers at selected intervals or, at the request of the ExSC, due to special circumstances (BSR request, appeals action, etc.) to confirm adherence to the criteria for accreditation and to confirm that the procedures and practices of the accredited standards developer continue to be consistent with those which formed the basis for accreditation. The ANSI Audit Director shall report the audit findings to the ExSC.

Accredited standards developers granted authority to designate their standards as American National Standards without BSR approval shall submit to a regular audit in accordance with 1.3.2.3.

When ANSI issues revised or additional criteria for accreditation, the accredited standards developer shall comply with them within a reasonable time period designated by the ExSC in order to maintain accreditation.

Whenever any revision is made to a standards developer's procedures on record at ANSI, the ExSC shall be notified and provided with a detailed description of the changes. If the changes are considered by the ExSC to be non-substantive, the standards developer will be notified and, upon such notification, may begin to operate under the revised procedures.

If the changes are considered by the ExSC to be substantive, notice of these changes shall appear in *Standards Action* with a call for comment. Copies of the revised procedures shall be made available by the applicant to any party, upon request.

Following the comment period, the ExSC shall consider the comments received, the latest status reports, the latest audit of the accredited standards developer, and any available additional information to determine whether to continue the accreditation. Notice of continuance shall be sent to the accredited standards developer and shall appear in *Standards Action*.

When the ExSC requests an accredited standards developer to revise its approved procedures to bring them into compliance with the *ANSI Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards*, the ExSC shall decide on a case-by-case basis whether reaccreditation, including public review, is also required.

2.5 Withdrawal of accreditation

If the conditions upon which accreditation was granted are not maintained, the accredited standards developer shall be advised and requested to take corrective action. If such action is not taken within the time period designated by the ExSC, notification of the intent to withdraw accreditation shall be given, stating the conditions which require correction. The ExSC is authorized to withdraw accreditation upon thirty days written notice unless corrective action has been taken. The standards developer shall be notified of withdrawal of accreditation and a notice shall appear in *Standards Action*.

3 Planning and Coordinating American National Standards

3.1 Introduction

ANSI's planning and coordinating activities depend on the cooperation and participation of standards developers and affected interests. Various methods are used to plan and coordinate voluntary standards activities. A considerable amount of planning and coordinating activity routinely takes place at the standards development level by the standards writing committees or their subgroups.

Where several standards developers and other interests are involved in major new, or nationally critical, areas of standardization, ANSI acts to assist the concerned interests to identify national standards needs and to generate joint plans for providing American National Standards to meet those needs. ANSI's planning and coordinating activities include identifying and assessing resources available for the development of needed standards; establishing priorities; generating voluntary, coordinated plans for standards development; minimizing duplication; avoiding the promulgation of conflicting American National Standards; and assuring opportunity for participation by all directly and materially affected interests.

3.2 Purpose

Planning and coordinating activities are intended to support the development of a single consistent set of American National Standards (appropriately aligned with international standards) in order to competently and

economically address the needs for national standards on a timely basis under generally recognized principles of due process.

3.3 Organization

Overall responsibility for ANSI's national and international planning and coordinating functions is assigned by the Board of Directors to the Executive Standards Council (ExSC). The ExSC delegates specific activities as opportunity and needs arise, establishing standards boards, and committees (see annex C), as appropriate.

3.3.1 Standards boards

A standards board is a standing organization within ANSI, established by and reporting to the ExSC, with planning and coordinating responsibilities on a continuing basis for a defined scope of activity, usually in an industrial sector. For its operating procedures, see clause C.1 of annex C.

3.3.2 Standards planning panels

Standards planning panels are ad hoc groups formed by the ExSC to address the needs and coordination of standards in areas not covered by standards boards or where several standards boards have an interest.

3.3.3 ExSC committees

The Executive Standards Council may establish committees as needed, to address specific and immediate planning and coordinating issues. The scope, membership, functions, and reporting mechanism of ExSC committees shall be defined by the ExSC.

3.3.4 Standards advisors

The Executive Standards Council may appoint Standards advisors in standardization fields not covered by existing standards boards, ExSC committees, or standards planning panels (see annex D).

3.4 Project registration

Project registration is designed to provide a central data bank of information relative to voluntary national standards, both during development and after approval and publication. It is useful for providing direct information to all interested parties and is a key element in planning and coordination.

3.4.1 Data input

The ExSC, after consultation with standards developers, shall establish a mechanism to enable standards developers to provide ANSI with information with respect to their standards activities and standards publications. Such information shall be added to a data bank of standards information.

3.4.2 Data availability

Information from the data bank on standards and standardization projects shall be available to users for a scheduled fee to compensate for administrative costs.

3.4.3 Notification of standards activities

To ensure that all interested parties are made aware of new activities, ANSI will announce new standards development projects in *Standards Action*. ANSI standards boards shall be alert to possible overlap with other national and international standards activity.

3.4.4 Draft standards for trial use

Draft standards intended for subsequent submittal to ANSI for approval as American National Standards may be published by accredited standards developers for trial use and comment in trade or technical journals, or as separate publications for a period of up to three years. The availability of draft standards may be registered with ANSI and announced in ANSI's *Standards Action*, other appropriate media and, if practical, may be listed in ANSI's catalog.

The following statement, or equivalent, shall be included on the front cover of the draft standard:

"Publication of this draft standard for trial use and comment has been approved by (insert name of accredited standards developer). Distribution of this draft standard for comment shall not continue beyond () months from the date of publication. It is expected that following this () month period, this draft standard, revised as necessary, will be submitted to the American National Standards Institute for approval as an American National Standard. Suggestions for revision should be directed to"

3.5 Requests for new projects

Any direct and materially affected person may request ANSI to consider the need for development of a national consensus standard or a group of standards. Such requests shall be communicated to an appropriate standards developer and announced in *Standards Action*. As appropriate, ANSI shall take action to consider the request and any comment received to identify:

- a) views on the need for the standard(s);
- b) organizations(s) already engaged in developing the standard(s);
- c) one or more accredited standards developers interested in developing the standard(s);
- d) other directly and materially affected interests.

If warranted by the findings, ANSI shall request an appropriate accredited standards developer to develop the needed standard(s). All such actions shall be announced in *Standards Action*.

3.6 Coordination and harmonization

Coordination usually can be accomplished by standards developers through the implementation of one or more of the following:

- a) clear delineation of scope, purpose, and intended application of each standard;
- b) public notice of standardization activities;
- c) joint and cooperative activities of the individual organizations, including liaison representation;
- d) organization of an independent but representative body acceptable to the involved parties to coordinate standards needs and projects and to develop standards as required;
- e) liaison between national standards developers and the organization responsible for the U.S. position on corresponding international standards;
- f) use of the ANSI project registration system.

To achieve a consistent set of American National Standards and to represent the United States in non-treaty international standards activities, it is necessary for ANSI to harmonize ongoing standards activity, minimize duplication, and avoid the promulgation of conflicting American National Standards.

The ExSC and its standards boards shall be alert to duplication of national standards activities. The ExSC or its standards boards shall notify standards developers of any identified potential or existing duplication of standards developing activities and request the standards developers involved to coordinate their activities and report the results.

Potential or existing conflicts identified or brought to the attention of the ExSC or its standards boards shall be investigated and harmonization initiated, if warranted. This process usually consists of:

- a) appointing an ad hoc group to investigate and report whether harmonization is necessary. The ad hoc group reports on the purpose and application of the standards as well as the structure and issues that led to the conflict;
- b) inviting the organizations involved to develop a harmonization plan, if it is determined that harmonization is necessary. The plan may include liaisons, joint committees, ad hoc groups, or other activities;
- c) publishing the results of harmonization efforts in *Standards Action* or elsewhere, as appropriate.

4 Designation, publication, maintenance, and interpretation of American National Standards

4.1 Designation of American National Standards

A standard that is approved as an American National Standard shall have its cover or title page marked with an approval logo⁵ furnished by ANSI or the words “an American National Standard.” The ANSI approval logo and the words “an American National Standard” shall not be used to identify any standard that has not received ANSI approval or been approved by an accredited standards developer who has been granted authority to designate its standards as American National Standards. The date of approval as an American National Standard shall be included in the published standard, preferably on the cover.

Portions of the document that are not part of the American National Standard (such as forewords, prefaces, annexes, interpretations, etc.) shall be clearly identified at the beginning of each such clause, or such information shall be overprinted on the cover page.

American National Standards shall be identified by a unique alphanumeric designation in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a) a designation assigned by the standards developer and adopted by ANSI for all new, revised, and reaffirmed standards. For example: ANSI/IEEE 123-1982;
- b) the committee designation shall be used on standards developed by an Accredited Standards Committee (ASC). For example: ANSI X3.1-1982;
- c) multiple designations should be avoided. If a standard has multiple designations, an attempt shall be made by those concerned to arrive at a single designation.

4.2 Publication

American National Standards shall be published and made available as soon as possible, but no later than six months after approval as an American National Standard. The standards developer shall publish the standard or shall grant the right of publication to ANSI.

If an American National Standard is not published within six months following its approval, the standards developer may request an extension of this deadline from the ExSC or its designee. Such a request shall be in writing, shall supply the reason for the delay, and shall indicate a firm final date for publication. At its discretion, the ExSC or its designee may grant an additional period of time for publication.

The ExSC or its designee shall publish a notice in *Standards Action* of intent to withdraw approval if the standards developer a) fails to publish the standard or fails to grant ANSI the right to publish within six months after its approval as an American National Standard and does not request an extension of the deadline despite follow-up or b) fails to meet the extended deadline. (See 1.3.1.3.)

4.3 Style of publication

When the standards developer does not have its own style of publication it is recommended that the standard be prepared in accordance with the *ANSI Style Manual for Preparation of Proposed American National Standards*.

4.4 Maintenance of American National Standards

American National Standards shall be kept current and relevant by means of timely revision or reaffirmation. Obsolete standards shall be withdrawn. Standards developers are permitted two options – periodic maintenance or continuous maintenance – as outlined below.

4.4.1 Periodic maintenance of American National Standards

Within four years after approval of an American National Standard the standards developer shall initiate the necessary action to reaffirm, revise, or withdraw the American National Standard.

⁵ An ANSI logo is available from the Publications Department.

4.4.1.1 In the event that an American National Standard is not reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn within five years after its approval, the standards developer may request an extension of time to reaffirm or revise the standard, or shall withdraw the standard. The extension of time shall be submitted to ANSI within thirty days following five years after the approval date of the American National Standard. Requests for extensions shall demonstrate that work is under way that will lead to revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal. The extension may be granted by the ExSC or its designee.

If the extension is granted and the American National Standard is not reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn within the extension period, the standards developer may request a second extension. A request for a second extension shall be authorized by a majority vote of the standard committee or canvass list concerned. Second requests for extensions shall indicate the length of the extension required and shall provide the program and schedule of work. The ExSC or its designee shall review such requests and may grant the extension.

No extension of time beyond ten years from the date of approval shall be granted for action on a standard.

4.4.1.2 In the event that an American National Standard approved by a standards developer who has been granted authority to designate its standards as American National Standards is not reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn within five years after its approval, the standards developer shall follow its own procedures to ensure that work is proceeding and shall notify the Institute and provide the estimated time of completion. In no case shall a standard maintain the American National Standards designation beyond ten years from the date of approval.

4.4.2 Continuous maintenance of American National Standards

The standard shall be maintained by an accredited standards developer. A documented program for periodic publication of revisions shall be established by the standards developer. Processing of these revisions shall be in accordance with these procedures. The published standard shall include a clear statement of the intent to consider requests for change and information on the submittal of such requests. Procedures shall be established for timely, documented consensus action on each request for change and no portion of the standard shall be excluded from the revision process. In the event that no revisions are issued for a period of four years, action to reaffirm or withdraw the standard shall be taken in accordance with 4.4.1 and 4.4.3.

4.4.3 Withdrawal

If any extension is denied, the ExSC or its designee shall inform the standards developer of the reasons for the denial. If the standards developer fails to comply with 4.4.1, the ExSC or its designee shall recommend withdrawal of approval of the American National Standard to the Board of Standards Review.

If the standards developer publishes any revision of an American National Standard and does not submit the revision for approval as an American National Standard, the BSR shall consider withdrawal of ANSI approval of the existing American National Standard.

Notice of intent to withdraw ANSI approval shall be published in *Standards Action* and shall include the reason for withdrawal.

4.5 Interpretations

Official interpretations of American National Standards shall be made only by the accredited standards developer responsible for maintenance of that standard. ANSI shall not issue, nor shall any person have the authority to issue, an interpretation of an American National Standard in the name of the American National Standards Institute. Requests for interpretations addressed to ANSI shall be referred to the responsible standards developer.

5 Synchronous procedures

When it is the desire of an Accredited Standards Developer and an Accredited U.S. TAG to participate in the development of an international standard with the intention of processing the ISO or IEC standard as an American National Standard, the procedures of annex F may be used in order to ensure that the national and international review and approval processes are synchronized to the greatest extent possible.

6 Appeals

6.1 Introduction

The provision for appeals is important for the protection of directly and materially affected interests and of standards developers (see 1.2) and is required as a part of due process (see 1.2.5). This clause gives general criteria regarding the right to appeal, to whom appeals are made, what may be appealed, and the appeals mechanism.

6.2 Right to appeal

6.2.1 Appeals against standards developers

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction by a standards developer with regard to the development of a proposed American National Standard or the revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of an existing American National Standard, have the right to appeal. The burden of proof to show adverse effect shall be on the appellant. Appeals of actions shall be made within reasonable time limits; appeals of inactions may be made at any time. Appeals shall be directed to the standards developer responsible for the action or inaction in accordance with the appeals procedure of the standards developer. ANSI will not normally hear an appeal of an action or inaction by a standards developer relative to the development of an American National Standard until the appeals procedures provided by the standards developer have been completed.

Appeals regarding Audited Designators shall be subject to the provisions in 1.3.2.6 of these procedures.

6.2.2 Appeals against ANSI

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction by ANSI have the right to appeal. Appeals of actions shall be made within reasonable time limits; appeals of inactions may be made at any time. Such appeals shall be directed to ANSI in accordance with the procedures of the appropriate ANSI board or council (e.g., Board of Standards Review, Executive Standards Council).

6.3 Criteria for appeals mechanism

The following general criteria shall apply to any appeals mechanism provided pursuant to these procedures:

- a) appeals shall be addressed promptly and a decision made expeditiously;
- b) the right of the involved parties to present their cases shall not be denied;
- c) appeals procedures shall provide for participation by all parties concerned without imposing an undue burden on them;
- d) consideration of appeals shall be fair and unbiased and shall fully address the concerns expressed;
- e) records of appeals shall be kept and made available to the involved parties.

7 Amendments

Recommendations of the Executive Standards Council to the Board of Directors to amend these procedures requires a two-thirds vote of approval by letter ballot of the Council following a call for comment in *Standards Action*.

The Board of Directors may, in accordance with the ANSI Bylaws, make changes in these procedures at any time after consultation with, or upon recommendation of, the Executive Standards Council.

Annex A - Model procedures for an Accredited Standards Committee

Normative for those Accredited Standards Committees that adopted Annex A as their procedures

A.1 General

These procedures meet the requirements for due process and development of consensus for approval of American National Standards as given in Clause 1 of the *ANSI Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards*.

A.2 Organization of the committee

The Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) shall consist of its consensus body and secretariat. The ASC shall have a title, scope, and an interest classification system for its members. The membership shall be sufficiently diverse to ensure reasonable balance without dominance by a single interest category in accordance with Clause 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 of the *ANSI Procedures*.

A.3 Responsibilities

A.3.1 Consensus Body

The consensus body shall be responsible for:

- a) Proposing American National Standards within the scope of the ASC;
- b) Voting on approval of proposed American National Standards within the scope of the ASC;
- c) Maintaining the standards developed by the ASC in accordance with Clause 4.4 of the *ANSI Procedures*;
- d) Adopting ASC policy and procedures for interpretations of the standard(s) developed by the consensus body (see A.11.3 herein);
- e) Responding to requests for interpretations of the standard(s) developed by the consensus body (see A.11.3 herein);
- f) Adopting ASC procedures and revisions thereof;
- g) Other matters requiring consensus body action as provided in these procedures

A.3.2 Secretariat

The secretariat shall be responsible for:

- a) Applying for ASC accreditation by ANSI and maintaining accreditation in accordance with ANSI requirements, including submission of the consensus body roster;
- b) Overseeing the consensus body's compliance with these procedures;
- c) Maintaining a roster of the consensus body and a list of standards for which the consensus body is responsible;
- d) Providing a secretary to perform administrative work, including secretarial services; preparation of meeting notices and the handling of meeting arrangements; preparation and distribution of meeting agendas, minutes, ballots, and draft standards; and maintenance of adequate records;
- e) Submitting candidate standards approved by the consensus body, with supporting documentation, for ANSI review and approval as American National Standards;
- f) Performing other administrative functions as required by these procedures ;
- g) The administrative secretariat shall provide a written agreement to ANSI defining explicit division of these responsibilities if composed of more than one organization (i.e., co-secretariats).

A.4 Officers

There shall be a chair and a vice-chair appointed by the secretariat from the individual members or representatives of the consensus body, subject to approval by majority vote of the consensus body. Each will serve until a successor is selected and ready to serve. The vice-chair shall carry out the chair's duties if the chair is temporarily unable to do so. The secretary shall be appointed by the secretariat.

A.5 Membership

Members of the consensus body shall consist of organizations (preferably national in scope), companies, government agencies, individuals, etc., having a direct and material interest in the activities of the ASC. The selection and addition of members, along with their interest category, shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the consensus body after the application has been processed in accordance with A.5.1. The termination of members shall be subject to approval by majority vote of the consensus body after a review of the membership in accordance with A.5.2.

A.5.1 Application

A request for membership on the consensus body shall be addressed to the secretariat and shall indicate the applicant's direct and material interest in the ASC's work, qualifications and willingness to participate actively. In addition, if the applicant is an organization, company, or government agency, it shall identify a representative (and an alternate, if desired).

A.5.1.1 Recommendation

In recommending appropriate action to the consensus body on applications for membership, the secretariat shall consider the:

- a) Need for active participation by each interest;
- b) Potential for dominance by a single interest category;
- c) Extent of interest expressed by the applicant and the applicant's willingness to participate actively;
- d) The representative identified by the applicant organization, company, or government agency.

A.5.1.2 Diverse interests

If distinct divisions of an organization demonstrate independent interests and authority to make independent decisions in the area of the activity of the ASC, each is permitted to apply for membership.

A.5.1.3 Combined interest

When appropriate, the secretariat may recommend that the applicant seek representation through an organization that is already a member and represents the same or similar interest.

A.5.2 Review of membership

The secretariat shall review the consensus body membership list annually with respect to the criteria of Clause A.5. Members are expected to fulfill obligations of active participation. Where a member is found in habitual default of these obligations, the secretariat shall direct the matter to the consensus body for appropriate action, which may include termination of membership.

A.5.3 Observers and individual experts

Individuals and organizations having an interest in the ASC's work may request listing as observers. The consensus body may also select individual experts to assist it. Individual experts shall serve for a renewable term of one year and shall be subject to approval by vote of the consensus body. Observers and individual experts shall be advised of the ASC's activities, may attend meetings, and may submit comments for consideration, but shall have no vote.

A.5.4 Interest categories

All appropriate interests that are directly and materially affected by the standards activity of the ASC shall have the opportunity for fair and equitable participation without dominance by any single interest. Each member shall propose its own interest category as appropriate and in accordance with the consensus body's established categories. (See clauses 1.2.2 and 1.2.3. of the *ANSI Procedures*).

The interest categories shall be established or revised by a vote of the consensus body. The rationale for the selection of categories shall be included in the consensus body ballot and submitted to ANSI as part of the accreditation requirements.

A.5.5 Membership roster

The secretariat shall maintain a current and accurate consensus body roster and shall distribute it to the members and their consensus body representatives at least annually, and otherwise on request. The roster shall include the following:

- a) Title of the ASC and its designation;
- b) Scope of the ASC;
- c) Secretariat: name of organization, name of secretary, and address(es);
- d) Officers: chair and vice-chair;
- e) Members: name of organization or agency, its representative and alternate (as applicable), addresses, and business affiliations; or name, address, and business affiliation of individual member(s);
- f) Classification of each member;
- g) Tally of classifications: total of voting members and subtotals for each interest category;
- h) For each subgroup: title, chair, and names and addresses of all members.

A.6 Subgroups created by the consensus body

When one or more subgroups (subcommittees, working groups, technical subcommittees, writing groups, etc.) are formed to expedite the work of the consensus body, their formation (and later disbandment) requires approval by a majority vote of the consensus body and appropriate public notice. The scope and duties delegated to the subgroup shall be approved at the time it is formed, and subsequent changes in scope or duties shall also require approval by the consensus body. The charge to the subgroup shall clearly state whether:

- a) The subgroup is responsible for the definitive content of one or more standards and for responding to views and objections thereon. Such subgroups shall maintain a membership roster in accordance with A.5.5(a) through A.5.5(g) and shall comply with the provisions in A.5.4, A.7.1, and Clause A.8 as applied to voting on the standard(s); or
- b) The subgroup is responsible for assisting the consensus body (e.g. drafting all or a portion of a standard, drafting responses to comments, drafting positions on international standards, or other purely advisory functions).

A.6.1 Chairperson and members of subgroups

The chair and members of a subgroup shall be appointed by the chair of the consensus body and confirmed by the consensus body. The scope, duties, and membership of all subgroups shall be reviewed by the consensus body annually. The officers and members of a subgroup need not be members of the consensus body.

A.6.2 Approval of standards

Draft standards and any substantive change (see Clause 1.2.9 of the *ANSI Procedures*) in the content of a standard proposed by a subgroup shall be referred to the consensus body for approval.

A.7 Meetings

Consensus body meetings shall be held, as decided upon by the consensus body, the chair, the secretariat, or by petition of five or more members, to conduct business, such as making assignments, receiving reports of work, considering draft standards, resolving differences among subgroups, and considering views and objections from any source. Meetings of subgroups may be held as decided upon by the members or chair of the subgroup.

A.7.1 Open meetings

Meetings of the consensus body and all subordinate bodies shall be open to all members and others having a direct and material interest. At least four weeks' notice of regularly scheduled meetings of the consensus body shall be given by the secretariat in ANSI's *Standards Action*; or in other media designed to reach directly and materially affected interests; or in both. The notice shall describe the purpose of the meeting and shall identify a readily available source for further information. An agenda shall be available and shall be distributed in advance of the meeting to members and to others expressing interest. The secretariat may maintain a mailing list of other interests.

A.7.2 Quorum

A majority of the members of the consensus body shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at a meeting. If a quorum is not present, actions shall only be taken subject to subsequent confirmation by letter ballot or vote at a future meeting.

A.8 Voting

A.8.1 Vote

Except in regard to votes on membership and officer-related issues, each member shall vote one of the following positions:

- a) Affirmative;
- b) Affirmative, with comment;
- c) Negative, with reasons (the reasons for a negative vote shall be given and if possible should include specific wording or actions that would resolve the objection);
- d) Abstain, with reasons.

For votes on membership and officer-related issues, the yes/no/abstain method of voting shall be followed.

A.8.1.1 Vote of alternate

An alternate's vote is counted only if the principal representative fails to vote.

A.8.1.2 Single vote

Generally, no representative shall have more than one vote. However, if two or more organizations appoint the same individual to represent each of them, that individual may cast a separate vote for each organization represented. The organizations shall confirm in writing to the secretariat that they are aware of and will accept the results. Additionally, representation of more than one organization by the same individual shall require approval by a majority of the consensus body, excluding the vote of that individual.

A.8.1.3 Voting period

The voting period for letter ballots shall end six weeks from the date of issue or as soon as all ballots are returned, whichever comes earlier. An extension may be granted at the chair's option, when warranted.

A follow-up letter requesting immediate return of the ballot shall be sent, as appropriate, to members and alternate members whose votes have not been received within ten working days before the ballot closes.

A.8.2 Actions requiring approval by a majority

The following actions require approval by a majority of the membership of the consensus body either at a meeting or by letter ballot:

- a) Confirmation of officers appointed by the secretariat;
- b) Formation of a subgroup, including its procedures, scope, and duties;
- c) Disbandment of subgroups;
- d) Addition of new consensus body members and designation of their interest categories;
- e) Approval of withdrawal of an existing standard.

A.8.3 Actions requiring approval by two-thirds of those voting

The following actions require a letter ballot or an equivalent formal recorded vote with approval by at least a majority of the membership and at least two-thirds of those voting, excluding abstentions:

- a) Adoption of ASC procedures, interest categories, or revisions thereof;
- b) Approval of a new standard or reaffirmation of an existing one;
- c) Approval of revision or addendum to part or all of a standard;
- d) Approval for submission to ANSI of change of ASC scope.

A.8.4 Authorization of letter ballots

A letter ballot shall be authorized by any of the following:

- a) Majority vote of those present at a consensus body meeting;
- b) The chair;
- c) The executive committee (if one exists);
- d) The secretariat;
- e) Petition of five or more members of the consensus body.

A.8.5 Other review

Proposals for new American National Standards or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of existing American National Standards shall be transmitted to ANSI for listing in *Standards Action* for comment.

The secretariat shall determine whether listing of proposed standards actions shall be concurrent with the final consensus body letter ballot and whether announcement in other suitable media is appropriate. The secretariat shall transmit a copy of the proposed new, revised, or reaffirmed standard to the administrator(s) of the appropriate USA Technical Advisory Group(s) at the same time.

Views and objections resulting from the above shall be dealt with in accordance with A.8.6. Any substantive change (see clause 1.2.9 of the *ANSI Procedures*) made in the proposed American National Standard shall be relisted in accordance with A.8.6.

A.8.6 Disposition of views and objections

When the balloting has been closed, the secretary shall forward the ballot tally to the chair of the consensus body or, if appropriate, of the subgroup; the chair shall determine whether the expressed views and objections shall be considered by correspondence or at a meeting.

Prompt consideration shall be given to the expressed views and objections of all participants, including those commenting on the listing in *Standards Action*. An effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and each objector shall be advised of the disposition of the objection and the reasons therefor. In addition, each objector shall be informed that an appeals process exists within procedures used by the standards developer.

Substantive changes (see clause 1.2.9 of the *ANSI Procedures*) required to resolve objections, and unresolved objections, shall be reported to the consensus body members in order to afford all members an opportunity to respond to them or to reaffirm or change their votes within four weeks.

When the above process is completed, in accordance with procedures of the standards developer, the standards developer may consider any comments received subsequent to the closing of the public review and comment period, or shall consider them at the next review.

A.8.7 Report of final result

The final result of the voting shall be reported, by interest categories, to the consensus body.

A.9 Submittal of standard

Upon completion of the procedures for voting, disposition of views and objections, and appeals, the proposed standard shall be submitted to ANSI by the secretariat.

The information supplied to ANSI by the secretariat shall include all relevant material required by ANSI as outlined in clause 2.2 of the *ANSI Procedures*. If the secretariat does not submit the proposal to ANSI within a reasonable period of time, any member(s) of the consensus body may make the submittal.

A.10 Termination of ASC

A proposal to terminate an Accredited Standards Committee may be made by a directly and materially affected interest. The proposal shall be submitted in writing to the ASC and to ANSI and shall include at least the following:

- a) Reasons why the ASC should be terminated;
- b) The name(s) of the organization(s) that will assume responsibility for maintenance of any existing American National Standard(s) that is(are) the responsibility of the consensus body.

If it appears, after review by ANSI and discussion among the proponent of the action, the secretariat, and the ExSC or its designee, that the desired objectives can best be reached by termination, the proposal and supporting documentation shall be submitted to the committee with a letter ballot to terminate the committee and transfer responsibility, as appropriate, for the affected standards. The proposal for termination of the ASC shall be announced for comment in *Standards Action*.

A.11 Communications

Correspondence of ASC officers should be on "ASC correspondence" letterhead.

A.11.1 Formal internal communication

If correspondence between subcommittees or between working groups of different subcommittees involves issues or decisions (i.e., non-routine matters) affecting other subcommittees, copies shall be sent to all affected subcommittee chairs, the secretariat, and the consensus body officers.

A.11.2 External communication

Inquiries relating to the ASC should be directed to the secretariat, and members should so inform individuals who raise such questions. All replies to inquiries shall be made through the secretariat.

A.11.3 Requests for interpretation of standards

Written inquiries requesting interpretation of the ASC's approved American National Standards shall be responded to in accordance with the policy of the ASC (see A.3.1(d)). Revisions to the standard resulting from requests for interpretations shall be processed in accordance with these procedures.

A.12 Appeals

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or may be adversely affected by a substantive or procedural action or inaction of the consensus body or the secretariat shall have the right to appeal.

A.12.1 Complaint

The appellant shall file a written complaint with the secretariat within thirty days after the date of notification of action or at any time with respect to inaction. The complaint shall state the nature of the objection(s) including any adverse effects, the clause(s) of these procedures or the standard that is at issue, actions or inactions that are at issue, and the specific remedial action(s) that would satisfy the appellant's concerns. Previous efforts to resolve the objection(s) and the outcome of each shall be noted.

A.12.2 Response

Within thirty days after receipt of the complaint, the respondent (chair or secretariat representative) shall respond in writing to the appellant, specifically addressing each allegation of fact in the complaint to the extent of the respondent's knowledge.

A.12.3 Hearing

If the appellant and the respondent are unable to resolve the written complaint informally in a manner consistent with these procedures, the secretariat shall schedule a hearing with an appeals panel on a date agreeable to all participants, giving at least ten working days notice.

A.12.4 Appeals panel

The appeals panel shall consist of three individuals who have not been directly involved in the matter in dispute, and who will not be materially or directly affected by any decision made or to be made in the dispute. At least two members shall be acceptable to the appellant and at least two shall be acceptable to the respondent. If the parties to the appeal cannot agree on an appeals panel within six weeks, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Standards Council or its designee, which shall appoint the members of the appeals panel.

A.12.5 Conduct of the hearing

The appellant has the burden of demonstrating adverse effects, improper actions or inactions, and the efficacy of the requested remedial action. The respondent has the burden of demonstrating that the consensus body and the secretariat took all actions in compliance with these procedures and that the requested remedial action would be ineffective or detrimental. Each party may adduce other pertinent arguments, and members of the appeals panel may address questions to individuals. *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest edition) shall apply to questions of parliamentary procedure for the hearing not covered herein.

A.12.6 Decision

The appeals panel shall render its decision in writing within thirty days, stating findings of fact and conclusions, with reasons therefor, based on a preponderance of the evidence presented to the appeals panel. Consideration shall be given to the following positions, among others, in formulating the decision:

- a) Finding for the appellant, remanding the action to the consensus body or the secretariat with a specific statement of the issues and facts in regard to which fair and equitable action was not taken;
- b) Finding for the respondent, with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections;
- c) Finding that new, substantive evidence has been introduced, and remanding the entire action to the

consensus body or the secretariat for appropriate reconsideration.

A.12.7 Further appeal

If the appellant gives notice that further appeal to ANSI is intended, a full record of the complaint, response, hearing, and decision shall be submitted by the secretariat to ANSI.

A.13 Parliamentary procedures

On questions of parliamentary procedure not covered in these procedures, *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest edition) may be used to expedite due process.

Annex B - Procedures for canvass by an accredited sponsor

Normative, for developers accredited using the Canvass Method

B.1 General

These procedures constitute the canvass method of developing evidence of consensus for the approval, reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of American National Standards. A standards developer who adopts these procedures may apply for accreditation as a sponsor under the canvass method. In addition to complying with the requirements for accreditation, the sponsor shall:

- a) develop a canvass list in accordance with clause B.2;
- b) have the canvass list reviewed by ANSI in accordance with clause B.3;
- c) conduct the canvass in accordance with clause B.4;
- d) attempt to resolve expressed views and objections in accordance with clause B.5;
- e) report the results of clause B.2 through B.5 to ANSI in accordance with clause B.6.

B.2 Development of canvass list

B.2.1 The sponsor shall develop a list of potential canvasees consisting of those persons (organizations, companies, government agencies, standards developers, individuals, etc.) known to be, or who have indicated that they are, directly and materially affected by the standard. The sponsor shall meet the requirements in 1.2.3 regarding dominance. No individual shall represent more than one canvasee.

B.2.2 In order to determine if potential canvasees are interested in participating, the sponsor should conduct a pre-canvass interest survey, in which the sponsor informs the potential canvasees in writing about the use of the canvass method for developing evidence of consensus, and, if the potential canvasees are interested in participating, obtains an appropriate interest category classification. The sponsor's letter should contain the title, designation, scope, description of the standard along with the history of its development, purpose and intended application of the standard, and an explanation of the ANSI function. The time for response shall be at least one month from the date of the sponsor's letter and shall be so noted in the letter. After having inquired whether the potential canvasees are interested, the sponsor shall send ANSI a copy of the letter, the list of potential canvasees contacted, and the proposed canvass list. All those who have agreed to participate shall be included on the canvass list, together with their agreed-upon interest categories. No interest category shall dominate the canvass list, in accordance with 1.2.2.

Once an interest survey has been completed for a standard, it need not be repeated for subsequent balloting of the document. In addition, the sponsor may conduct a single interest survey for a group or category of standards. A canvasee who has indicated a desire to be on the sponsor's canvass list for a particular category or categories of standards need only receive the draft document(s), letter ballot(s), and all appropriate information required in B.4.2.

B.3 Review of list of potential canvasees

B.3.1 Upon receipt of the sponsor's list of potential canvasees, ANSI shall announce the canvass in *Standards Action* with a call for comment to elicit additional canvasees not previously contacted.

The review period shall be thirty days from the date of publication. Any resulting proposals for addition to the canvass list shall be referred directly to the sponsor.

B.3.2 Concurrently, the list of potential canvasees shall be submitted to the Executive Standards Council or its designee for review. Included with the potential canvass list shall be a rationale for the terms used to define the interest category of each potential canvasee. Within thirty days, the sponsor shall be notified whether or not additional potential canvasees should be solicited for the canvass list. The sponsor shall document the disposition of all suggested additions to the canvass list resulting from this review, and provide this documentation to the body making the original recommendation with a copy to the BSR.

B.4 Conduct of canvass

B.4.1 The sponsor may begin to conduct the canvass at any time after submittal of the list of potential canvasees to ANSI, but canvasees subsequently added to the canvass list shall have the same amount of time to respond as do the other canvasees.

B.4.2 The sponsor shall transmit (unless previously supplied in a pre-canvass interest survey) at least the following information to all canvasees:

- a) the purpose and intended application of the standard;
- b) a brief history and explanation of how the standard was developed;
- c) an explanation of ANSI's function and the use of the canvass method in the voluntary consensus standards system for the purpose of seeking ANSI approval;
- d) a copy of the canvass list, consisting of the name of each canvasee, name and affiliation of contact, address, and category of interest;
- e) a copy of the complete proposed American National Standard or the relevant portion under consideration when the canvasee has previously received the complete standard;
- f) a letter ballot.

Upon request, the sponsor shall provide to the canvasee a reasonable number of copies of the document being considered, to allow for a speedy determination of position by the canvasee. Should the document contain material that is not to be considered for approval as an American National Standard, such as an introduction or annex, a clear statement shall be included indicating those portions of the standard that are to be considered for approval by ANSI.

The ballot form used by the sponsor shall provide opportunity for the canvasee to indicate its position (i.e., approval, objection (with reasons), abstention (with comment), or nonparticipation, with the advice that, in order to receive consideration, objections must be accompanied by supporting written reasons and, where possible, proposals for a solution to the problem raised. At least one follow-up shall be sent to canvasees not responding. The canvass ballot may be closed at the end of three months, or sooner if all canvasees have responded. An extension of up to three months shall be granted upon request from any canvasee giving a legitimate reason.

Those not on the canvass list who have a direct and material interest in the standard have an opportunity to participate in the review of the standard during the public review process, announced in *Standards Action*.

B.4.3 Approval of a new standard, revision or reaffirmation of an existing standard, or an addendum to part or all of an existing standard shall require approval by at least a majority of the canvass list and at least two-thirds of those voting, excluding abstentions.

B.4.4 Proposals for new American National Standards and proposals to revise, reaffirm, or withdraw existing American National Standards shall also be transmitted to ANSI for listing in *Standards Action* for comment. The sponsor shall determine whether such listing shall be concurrent with the canvass and whether announcement of the proposed action in other suitable media is appropriate. The sponsor shall transmit a copy of the proposed new, revised, or reaffirmed standard to the administrator(s) of the appropriate USA Technical Advisory Group(s) at the same time.

B.4.5 Views and objections resulting from the canvass (B.4.2 and B.4.3) shall be dealt with in accordance with clause B.5.

B.5 Disposition of views and objections

Prompt consideration shall be given to the expressed views and objections of all participants including those commenting on the listing in *Standards Action*. An effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and each objector shall be advised in writing of the disposition of the objection and the reasons therefor. In addition each objector shall be informed that an appeals process exists within procedures used by the standards developer.

Unresolved objections and any substantive change (see 1.2.9) made in a proposed American National Standard shall be reported to the canvass list in order to afford all canvasees an opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their positions within four weeks. Substantive changes made in a proposed American National Standard shall be listed in *Standards Action* in accordance with 1.2.6.

When the above process is completed, in accordance with written procedures of the standards developer, the standards developer may consider any comments received subsequent to the closing of the public review and comment period, or shall consider them at the next review.

B.6 Submittal of standard

Upon completion of the procedures for canvass, for disposition of views and objections, and for appeals, the proposed standard may be submitted to ANSI for approval.

The information to be supplied to ANSI shall include:

- a) title and designation of the proposed American National Standard;
- b) indication of the type of action requested (that is, approval of a new American National Standard or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of an existing American National Standard);
- c) two copies of the final proposed American National Standard;
- d) a declaration that the canvass procedures were followed;
- e) a declaration that the proposed standard is within the scope of previously registered standards activity;
- f) a declaration that there are no identified significant conflicts with another known American National Standard;
- g) a declaration that other known national standards have been examined with regard to harmonization and duplication of content;
- h) a statement that the proposed American National Standard has been provided to the administrator(s) of the appropriate USA Technical Advisory Group(s) (see annex E);
- i) a declaration that all appeal actions related to the approval of the proposed standard have been completed;
- j) a summary of the solicitations and the final positions of the participants in each interest category;
- k) identification of all unresolved views and objections, identification of the objectors, and a report of attempts toward resolution;
- l) the canvass list;
- m) documentation of the disposition of all suggested additions to the canvass list.

B.7 Appeals

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests, and who have been or will be adversely affected by a standard being canvassed or by the lack thereof, shall have the right to appeal any substantive or procedural actions or inactions of the sponsor.

The sponsor shall submit its written appeals mechanism to ANSI in applying for and continuance of its accreditation. The sponsor may choose to adopt clause A.12 of these procedures in its entirety in order to provide for the equitable process of appeals, and shall so inform the Executive Standards Council.

The sponsor shall provide or arrange for an impartial appeals body composed of at least three individuals knowledgeable as to the policy or other concerns related to the appeal. Such individuals must not have demonstrably real or apparent conflicts of interest with the subject of the appeal or the person filing the appeal.

The appeal must be filed in writing with the sponsor and a copy sent to ANSI. A summary of the nature of the appeal, and the decision and rationale thereof, shall be reported to the canvass list and ANSI.

B.8 Requests for interpretation of standards

Written inquiries requesting interpretation of the sponsor's approved American National Standards shall be responded to in accordance with the policy of the sponsor. Revisions to the standard resulting from requests for interpretations shall be processed in accordance with these procedures.

Annex C - Standards boards, standards planning panels, and ExSC committees

Normative, as applicable

C.1 Standards boards

A standards board is a standing organization within ANSI having planning and coordination responsibilities on a continuing basis for a defined scope of, under the purview of, and advisory to, the Executive Standards Council (ExSC).

C.1.1 Establishment of standards boards

Standards boards are established by and operate within a scope assigned by the ExSC. Every effort will be made to minimize the number of standards boards.

The establishment of a standards board may be requested by any directly and materially affected person. Notice of the request to form a board shall be published in *Standards Action* with a call for comment. The ExSC shall consider the request and the comments received and, based on the following, shall determine whether a standards board should be established:

- a) need for the proposed standards board;
- b) relationship to existing planning and coordination activities;
- c) scope of the proposed area of activity;
- d) extent of standardization activities, current and anticipated;
- e) interest and willingness of concerned interests to participate in and cooperate with the standards board.

Each standards board should be of such size and scope as to promote prompt attention to and coordination of standards development programs. Notice of the establishment of a new standards board shall be published in *Standards Action* with advice that requests for membership be directed to the ExSC.

C.1.2 Scope

The scope of a standards board and any modification of it recommended by the board itself shall be submitted to the ExSC for approval.

C.1.3 Functions

In addition to those responsibilities identified elsewhere in these procedures, in the *ANSI Procedures for U.S. Participation in the International Standards Activities of the ISO (ANSI International Procedures)*, and the activities delegated to it by the ExSC, each standards board shall have the following responsibilities within the scope assigned to it by the Executive Standards Council:

- a) establish overall planning and coordination responsibilities regarding both national and international standards activities;
- b) establish and maintain mechanisms to ensure familiarity with the ongoing standards activities of the ISO and IEC and for effective coordination of domestic and international activities, the establishing of appropriate liaisons with U.S. Technical Advisory Groups for ISO TCs and SCs of interest, with the U.S. National Committee (USNC) Executive Committee, and with related U.S. Technical Advisors and U.S. Technical Advisory Groups for IEC TCs and SCs of interest;
- c) develop and maintain status reports of on-going standardization activities and notify appropriate standards developers, and cognizant U.S. ISO and IEC interests of existing potential conflicts and overlapping activities;
- d) contribute to and utilize its portion of ANSI's project registration activity;
- e) plan standards activities to ensure that the need for standards (including regulatory standards) are identified and addressed through the voluntary system;

- f) stimulate the work of standards developers so that such work is completed expeditiously and is timely and adequate;
- g) encourage all organizations engaged in U.S. standards-writing activities to obtain ANSI accreditation and to operate within the American National Standards system;
- h) review the standards activity of applicants for accreditation and the initiation of new standards activities by accredited standards developers;
- i) review the relevant qualifications of applicants for accreditation as ISO U.S. Technical Advisory Group Administrators, recommend approval to the ExSC of TAG Administrators and membership lists for ISO U.S. Technical Advisory Groups and recommend the U.S. TAG to the ExSC for accreditation. Review the relevant qualifications of applicants for IEC U.S. Technical Advisory Group Administrators and, where appropriate, recommend TAG Administrator assignment for IEC Technical Advisory Groups to the USNC/IEC Executive Committee;
- j) recommend to the cognizant authority, the addition of directly or materially affected interests to the Technical Advisory Group rosters for ISO and IEC TAGs;
- k) encourage resolution of conflicts and coordination with the goal of achieving a single consistent set of American National Standards harmonized as much as possible with the corresponding international standards. Report coordination problems to ExSC;
- l) review canvass lists for candidate American National Standards, and recommend the addition of directly and materially affected interests not already participating;
- m) in accordance with clause 4 of the *ANSI Procedures* approve requests for extensions and recommend the withdrawal of standards;
- n) advise other ANSI boards, councils and committees, as necessary, on national and international voluntary standards policies, procedures, and issues, and coordinate areas of mutual concern;
- o) consider suggestions regarding *ANSI Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards* and transmit them, with recommendations, to the ExSC;
- p) recommend to the cognizant authority the formation of the appropriate mechanism to allow for U.S. involvement in the work of the relevant ISO or IEC Technical Committee or Subcommittee, or both;
- q) submit recommendations to the appropriate standards developer or ANSI body (e.g., ExSC, IAC, BSR) concerning coordination of national and international standards activities; compliance with *ANSI Procedures* and the *ANSI International Procedures* or other relevant actions.

A standards board shall not itself develop standards, establish standards developing committees, nor serve as secretariat for an Accredited Standards Committee. Standards boards do not have authority over the activities of Accredited Standards Developers and serve in a purely advisory capacity.

C.1.4 Organization

Each standards board shall consist of a chair, one or more vice-chairs, a secretary, and members.

C.1.4.1 Term of office

The initial chair and one or more vice-chairs of the standards board shall be appointed by the ExSC for a one-year term; thereafter, they shall be elected by the standards board from the membership for two-year terms. The chair and any vice-chairs may serve for a total of two consecutive two-year terms. The secretary shall be a member of the ANSI staff and shall have no vote.

C.1.4.2 Nominations and elections

Not later than September 1 of alternate years, the chair of each standards board shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three members from among the voting membership of the board for the purpose of nominating, from the voting membership, candidates for officers for the following calendar year. The nominating committee shall report to the secretary of the standards board by October 1. The secretary shall notify the standards board of the nominating committee's report and shall indicate that five or more voting members may make additional nominations from the voting membership of the board for submittal to the secretary by November 10 of the same year. The secretary of the board shall mail to each voting member a ballot containing the names of

all candidates, those submitted by the nominating committee being so indicated. The candidates receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

C.1.4.3 Membership

Membership on standards boards shall consist of persons (organizations, companies, government agencies, individuals, etc.) directly and materially affected by the activities of the board and shall (except by special action) be members of ANSI.

Such persons may include:

- a) accredited standards developers having standards activities within the scope of the standards board;
- b) standards users such as regulatory agencies, organizations, and companies;
- c) individuals;
- d) other interests, as needed;
- e) liaison with other ANSI boards, councils, and committees.

There shall be no dominance by any single interest category. All members are subject to approval by the ExSC upon recommendation by the standards board.

Members (other than individuals) shall designate a representative, and may designate alternates where necessary, who shall serve at the discretion of the member, subject to replacement at any time. Each member shall have one vote that shall be cast by the representative or, in the absence of the principal representative, by the alternate. No individual shall represent more than one member. The standards board membership list (including the scope, officers, members, and names and affiliations of representatives and alternates) shall be transmitted to the ExSC annually.

C.1.4.4 Observers⁶

Organizations, governmental bodies, companies, and individuals may apply to the Executive Standards Council for acceptance as observer members of a standards board. Observers shall be kept advised of the activities of the board, may attend meetings, and may offer advice and guidance. Observers shall have no vote.

C.1.4.5 Subgroups

Standards boards may organize subgroups as necessary. The scope, membership, functions, and reporting mechanism of subgroups shall be defined by the standards boards. The chair and vice-chair of the standards board shall be chair and vice-chair of the board's executive committee, if one exists.

C.1.5 Meetings

Standards boards shall meet at least once a year and may meet more often at the discretion of the chair or upon petition by five or more members.

Notice of the time and place of each meeting and an agenda of the principal items to be considered shall be distributed to the members, representatives, and alternates at least four weeks in advance of any meeting. Final action shall not be taken at any meetings on matters not specified in the agenda. Proposed action on new business may be submitted to letter ballot of the entire board by approval of a majority of those present at the meeting.

The presence of at least half the voting members on the board shall constitute a quorum at meetings.

C.1.5.1 Voting at meetings

The board shall act by a majority vote of the members present or represented at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that the vote favoring action is not less than 33% of the total board membership. In the absence of a quorum or approval by at least 33% of total board membership, proposed actions may be submitted to letter ballot of the entire board by approval of a majority of those present.

C.1.5.2 Minutes

⁶ Contact ANSI for fee schedule.

The secretary of the standards board shall prepare minutes of standards board meetings. Subject to approval by the standards board, the minutes shall stand as official records of the actions taken at meetings. The minutes shall be distributed to the standards board members, the ExSC, observers, others attending the meetings, and, upon request, to other interested persons.

C.1.6 Letter ballots

The standards board by majority vote at a meeting (C.1.5.1), or the chair of the standards board may authorize letter ballots. The chair shall authorize a letter ballot on the request of five or more board members.

All members or representatives shall exercise their voting privileges within prescribed time limits. The results of all letter ballots shall remain confidential to the officers of the standards board until the ballot has been closed.

Letter ballots shall be closed one month following the date of issue, unless an extension is authorized by the chair. When the ballot has been closed, the secretary shall forward the ballot tally to the chair, who shall determine whether consideration of any view or objection shall be by telephone, correspondence, or at a meeting. If the Chairperson determines that the ballot shall be discussed at a meeting, the ballot results, including any objections and other relevant information, shall be provided to the standards board. All views and objections accompanying votes shall be carefully considered, resolution attempted, and final disposition of the ballot taken at the meeting. If resolution is to be considered by correspondence, all views and objections accompanying votes, as well as all attempts toward resolution, shall be provided to the standards board in the form of a 14-day recirculation ballot. This ballot shall provide all members with an opportunity to change their original votes based on the ballot results. If comments or objections are to be considered by telephone, any agreements or changes in votes are to be documented in writing by the commenter. The final ballot results shall be reported to all concerned.

Action by letter ballot requires approval by at least two-thirds of those returning ballots, excluding abstentions, and must represent at least a majority of the board.

When a member fails repeatedly to return ballots by the ballot due date, the member shall be advised and questioned relative to continued participation on the standards board. The ExSC shall take appropriate action on cases referred to it by a standards board.

C.1.7 Reports to the Executive Standards Council

By March 1, each standards board shall submit to the ExSC a list of current officers and members and an annual report summarizing its activities for the previous year. The annual report shall review the activity and projects of standards developers whose standards fall within the scope of the standards board and shall include plans of the standards board for the next twelve months with particular attention to the standards requiring action because of their five-year review status.

C.1.8 Dissolution of standards boards

The ExSC may disband a standards board on its own initiative or upon request from the standards board.

C.2 Standards planning panels

Standards planning panels are ad hoc groups formed by the ExSC to address the needs and coordination of standards in areas not covered by standards boards or where several standards boards have an interest.

C.2.1 Establishment of ANSI standards planning panels

The Executive Standards Council shall be responsible for the establishment of standards planning panels (SPP). ExSC consideration of the establishment of an SPP shall be based on the proposed title, scope and purpose of the proposed SPP and its need vis-à-vis standards boards or other ExSC committees. It shall also include an evaluation of the necessity of establishing such a panel, based in part on the reaction of concerned interests, the national needs, coordination with other activities, and the resources and priorities of ANSI and its members. A standards planning panel shall be established for a two-year term, renewable upon demonstration of sufficient need.

C.2.2 Organization of a standards planning panel

Following the ExSC authorization for the establishment of a standards planning panel with its initial title, scope,

purpose, length of time within which to complete the identified purpose, and proposed membership, the ExSC shall announce its intent to form an SPP in ANSI's *Standards Action*. The ExSC shall appoint the members on the basis of their ability to make a major contribution to the functions of the panel. Requests for new membership shall be referred to the ExSC. The ExSC shall appoint the initial chair of the SPP (1-year term) and the SPP itself shall thereafter elect from its members the subsequent chairpeople (1-year terms) by majority vote. The secretary shall be assigned from ANSI staff and shall have no vote.

C.2.3 Functions of a standards planning panel

A standards planning panel shall not itself write standards but shall (within its scope and purpose):

- a) define the problem(s);
- b) determine whether standards can solve or help solve the problem(s);
- c) identify the subject and scope of needed standards;
- d) determine priorities for the development of needed standards;
- e) determine whether standards projects are already underway covering the scope of needed standards;
- f) coordinate the actions of standards developing organizations undertaking such projects;
- g) develop a schedule for the timely development and promulgation of needed standards.

The ExSC shall disband a standards planning panel upon completion of its task.

C.2.4 Actions of a standards planning panel

Actions of a standards planning panel shall be by majority vote of the full membership. Actions or inactions may be appealed to the Executive Standards Council.

C.2.5 Reports

A standards planning panel will report to the Executive Standards Council at least annually or upon request from the ExSC. This report may include a request for the SPP to remain in existence for an additional two year term, upon demonstration of sufficient need. When a standards planning panel disbands, a final report shall be submitted to the ExSC. This report should summarize the accomplishments of the standards planning panel and make recommendations relative to the disposition of any additional work identified.

C.3 ExSC committees

The Executive Standards Council may establish committees as needed to address specific and immediate planning and coordinating issues. The scope, membership, functions, and reporting mechanism of ExSC committees shall be defined by the ExSC.

The chair of the ExSC shall appoint the committee chair and members, with the approval of the ExSC.

C.3.1 Functions

An ExSC committee shall function within the scope and purpose assigned by the Executive Standards Council.

C.3.2 Notification

Notice of the creation of an ExSC committee shall appear in *Standards Action* for comment.

C.4 Appeals

Persons who have directly and materially affected interests and who have been or will be adversely affected by any substantive or procedural action or inaction by a standards board, standards planning panel or ExSC committee have the right to appeal to the ExSC within thirty days following notification of specific action, or at any time with respect to inaction.

The appeal shall be in writing and shall include a statement as to why the action should be modified or taken. The ExSC shall hear the appeal at its earliest practicable meeting after the date of request for appeal. The appellant and others concerned shall be notified of the hearing at least fifteen working days in advance of the date set for hearing the appeal.

The ExSC having heard an appeal may take action in accordance with the voting requirements given in the operating procedures of the Executive Standards Council. The secretary of the ExSC shall promptly notify the appellant and others concerned of the Council's decision. Any action or inaction of the ExSC may be appealed to the ANSI Appeals Board.

C.5 ExSC review

The ExSC shall annually review all standards boards, standards planning panels and ExSC committees to determine the need to continue, redirect, or disband them and to review their membership and scope. As part of this review, the ExSC may require written reports, as necessary. Where appropriate, meetings may also be arranged to accomplish this review.

Annex D - Standards advisors

Normative, as applicable

D.1 General

In standardization fields not covered by existing standards boards, ExSC committees or standards planning panels, the ExSC may appoint individuals to serve as standards advisors, each of whom would have competence in one or more technical areas of standards development, application and coordination. Standards advisors will be called on to advise ExSC, other ANSI boards or councils, and ANSI staff with regard to matters of coordination, harmonization, standards needs, etc. Advisors shall not be responsible for making decisions in standards issues, but shall serve, rather, as information sources.

D.2 Appointment of standards advisors

Standards advisors are appointed by the ExSC on the basis of individual qualifications including experience, technical competence, impartiality, diplomatic abilities, knowledge of the voluntary consensus system, etc. Standards advisors shall be appointed for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for reappointment for three consecutive terms.

Annex E - The three methods of consensus development

Informative

Three methods have been accepted by ANSI to determine the existence of consensus. The three methods of consensus ensure openness and due process consistent with the *ANSI Procedures* and are deemed to be equivalent in their final results. The general aspects of each method are described below.

E.1 Accredited organization method

The organization method is most often used by associations and societies that have, among other activities, an interest in developing standards. Although participation on the consensus body is open to all interested parties, members of the consensus body often participate as members in the association or society. The organization method is the only method of consensus development in which the standards developer must develop its own operating procedures. These procedures must meet the general requirements of 2.2 of the *ANSI Procedures*. By choosing to use this method, flexibility is provided, allowing the standards developer to utilize a system that accommodates its particular structure and practices.

E.2 Accredited standards committee method

Accredited standards committees are standing committees of directly and materially affected interests created for the purpose of developing a document and establishing consensus in support of this document for submittal to ANSI. The committee method is most often used when a standard affects a broad range of diverse interests or where multiple associations or societies with similar interests exist. The committee serves as a forum where many different interests, without a common membership in an organization or society, can be represented. Accredited standards committees are administered by a secretariat, an organization that takes the responsibility for providing administrative oversight of the committee's activities and ensuring compliance with the pertinent operating procedures. An accredited standard committee may adopt the procedures provided in annex A of the *ANSI Procedures*, or may develop its own operating procedures consistent with the requirements of 2.2 of these procedures.

E.3 Accredited canvass method

A standards developer using the canvass method identifies, to the extent possible, those who are directly and materially affected by the activity in question and conducts a letter ballot or "canvass" of those interests to determine consensus on a document. Additional interest in participating on a canvass is sought through an announcement in *Standards Action*. Although canvass developers provide ANSI with internal procedures used in the development of the draft American National Standard, the due process used to determine consensus begins after the draft standard has been developed. Standards developers using the canvass method must use the procedures provided in annex B of the *ANSI Procedures*.

Annex F - ANSI Procedures for Synchronization of the National and International Standards Review and Approval Processes

Normative, as applicable

F.1 Introduction

When it is the desire of an accredited standards developer and accredited Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to participate in the development of an International Standard with the intention of processing the ISO or IEC standard as an American National Standard, the following procedures may be used in order to ensure that the national and international review and approval processes are synchronized to the greatest extent possible. The use of the procedures for synchronization of national and international standards is voluntary and an accredited standards developer and/or an accredited TAG may cease the processing of a draft American National Standard under these procedures at any time by providing written notification to ANSI.

The American National Standard shall adopt in whole the International Standard, but may have an American National Standard cover. It may also include an appropriate explanatory foreword identifying the accredited standards developer that processed the standard as an American National Standard and listing its membership at the time of the standard's adoption. Any references contained in the International Standard are primary and must remain unchanged in the American National Standard. However, an accredited standards developer may submit in the foreword or another non-normative part of the American National Standard a list of standards in which the accredited standards developer has determined to be technically equivalent to the referenced International Standards. Similarly, the accredited standards developer may include a list or conversion table of American units of measure equivalent to those in the International Standard.

NOTE — The ISO or IEC designation may only be used in the designation of the American National Standard if there are no deviations from the International Standard.

F.2 Processing of draft standards as national and international standards

Specific procedures to be followed are:

- a) as soon as the determination is made that a given international project/standard will be a candidate for approval as an American National Standard, the appropriate U.S. TAG and the ANSI accredited standards developer shall notify ANSI. This notification shall include a PINS form for announcement in *Standards Action* and authorization for ANSI staff to submit the Committee Draft (CD) and Draft International Standard (DIS) texts for national public review at the appropriate times;
- b) since technical changes can most readily be accommodated at the time of the international CD ballot, the initial ANSI public review shall occur at this time. When the CD is circulated for ballot, the responsible ANSI staff person will complete a BSR-8 form and the CD will be announced in *Standards Action* for a two-month public review period. This action shall be taken immediately in order to permit the national and international comment/ballot periods to coincide. The *Standards Action* announcement shall request that comments be sent to the USA TAG Administrator, with copies to the accredited standards developer and the ANSI BSR center. Comments received within the specified national comment period shall be considered by the USA TAG and the TAG shall notify the commentors as to the disposition of their comments. The TAG shall attempt to resolve all comments, working with the accredited standards developer. It is recognized that comments may be received during the public review period but after the TAG has formulated the U.S. position on the CD. Any such comments will be considered when the TAG is formulating its position on a subsequent CD or on the DIS. The same procedure will apply in the event of subsequent CD ballots;
- c) when the International DIS is circulated for ballot, ANSI staff will initiate another national two-month public review period, similar to that of step b) above. The same procedures will apply to subsequent DIS ballots;
- d) upon completion of the DIS ballot, if it is determined that the published International Standard will not differ

substantively from the DIS text, the accredited standards developer shall submit a BSR-9 form with the normal consensus documentation required for the formal submittal of a candidate American National Standard. The BSR-9 form shall state that the published International Standard is to be adopted in whole as an American National Standard;

-or-

- d₂) upon completion of the DIS ballot, if it is determined that the published International Standard will differ substantively from the DIS text, the accredited standards developer shall submit the proposed text of the International Standard to ANSI accompanied by a BSR-8 form, and another two-month national public review period shall be conducted. After the public review, the accredited standards developer shall submit a BSR-9 form with the normal consensus documentation required for the formal submittal of a candidate American National Standard. The BSR-9 form shall state that the published International Standard is to be adopted in whole as an American National Standard.

F.3 Guidelines for using the ANSI Procedures for Synchronization of National and International Standards Review and Approval Processes with the canvass method

The following guidelines serve as an explanation of how the ANSI Procedures for Synchronization of the National and International Standards Review and Approval Processes are applied when an accredited standards developer operating under the canvass method, and an Accredited TAG Administrator submit a standard to be processed simultaneously as an international and national standard.

- a) upon receipt by ANSI of the PINS and waiver forms, an announcement of the intent to initiate canvass shall be placed in *Standards Action*;
- b) when the CD is circulated for ballot, the responsible ANSI staff person will complete a BSR-8 form and the CD will be announced in *Standards Action* for a two-month public review period. In addition, if the canvass list has not been circulated to the relevant standards board(s) for review and comment, it will be circulated at this time;
- c) when the International DIS is circulated for ballot, ANSI staff will initiate another national two-month public review period. In addition, the accredited standards developer will be notified of the circulation of the DIS text and shall immediately conduct the canvass ballot.

Annex G - Metric policy

Normative

Units of the International System of Units (SI), the modernized metric system, are the preferred units of measurement in American National Standards.

Annex H – Accredited Standards Committee Agreement

Informative

It is suggested that the responsibilities of an Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) which are listed below be addressed by the secretariat and the consensus body through an approved agreement either incorporated as ASC policies and procedures, or as a separate written agreement.

- a) The nature of the accreditation and under what circumstances the secretariat and the consensus body can separate. If they separate, include the status of the accreditation.
- b) The specifics of any co-secretariat arrangements.
- c) The procedures by which an ASC is terminated.
- d) Responsibility for revisions to the ASC procedures, title and scope.
- e) Responsibility for and decisions regarding the publishing of the standards, revisions, and addenda (see clauses 4.2 and 4.3 of the *ANSI Procedures*);
- f) Who holds the copyright on contributions, drafts and approved American National Standards, and determines any royalty or exploitation rights arrangements or licensing arrangements.
- g) Whether the Secretariat or consensus body will or will not, and to what extent, provide indemnification in connection with potential liabilities arising out of their standards development process and any approved American National Standards resulting therefrom.h) Who determines the scheduling of consensus body meetings (i.e., frequency and location) and the review/revision cycle of American National Standards.
- i) How the ASC's activities will be funded.
- j) The conditions under which an ASC accepts proprietary standards for consensus approval (i.e. copyright, maintenance, funding, etc.).
- k) Dispute resolution (i.e., utilize a neutral mediator or forum, such as ANSI; meetings between the secretariat and members of the consensus body; etc.).

This agreement also may include other matters relevant to the efficient operation of the ASC which are not explicitly covered in these procedures.

Annex I - Policy on Voting on Standards via Letter Ballot

This annex contains a policy approved by the ExSC and the ANSI Board of Directors.

1. Accredited Standards Developers (ASDs) shall not change a vote unless instructed in writing (including electronic communications) to do so by the voter. It is never appropriate for an ASD to inform voters that if they are not heard from, their negative vote will be considered withdrawn and their vote will be recorded as an abstention or an affirmative. All negative votes that are not changed at the request of the voter shall be reported to the BSR as outstanding negatives, and recorded as such.
2. ASDs shall consider all negative votes accompanied by any comments whatsoever. This includes negative votes accompanied by comments concerning potential conflict or duplication of the draft standard with an existing American National Standard and negative votes accompanied by comments of a procedural or philosophical nature. These types of comments shall not be dismissed due to the fact that they do not necessarily provide alternative language or a specific remedy to the no vote. An attempt shall be made to resolve the issue(s), and the results shall be provided to the consensus body to provide them with the opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote. If a negative vote is not changed in writing (including electronic communications), it shall be reported and recorded as such.
3. ASDs are not required to consider negative votes without comments. The ASD shall indicate conspicuously on the letter ballot that negative votes must be accompanied by comments and that votes unaccompanied by comments will be recorded as "negative without comments" without further notice to the voter. If clear instruction is provided on the ballot, and a negative vote unaccompanied by comments is received notwithstanding, the vote may be counted as a "negative without comment" for the purposes of establishing a quorum. The ASD is not required to solicit comments from the negative voter. The ASD is not required to conduct a recirculation ballot of the negative vote. The ASD is required to report the no vote as a "negative without comment" when making their final submittal.
4. The ASD shall maintain records of evidence regarding any change of an original vote.