



American National Standards Institute

HOMELAND SECURITY STANDARDS PANEL

Accomplishments of the Panel at its Four-Year Anniversary

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) was launched on February 5, 2003, in direct response to needs expressed for standards and conformity assessment programs in this critical area. The *National Strategy for Homeland Security* (2002) identified the need for standards to support homeland security and emergency preparedness; however, a January 2, 2003 Congressional Research Service report stated:

“Neither the federal government, nor the nongovernmental sector presently has a comprehensive, consolidated program for developing new preparedness standards.”

The ANSI-HSSP is a public-private partnership with the mission to identify existing consensus standards, or, if none exists, assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and those sectors requesting assistance to accelerate development and adoption of consensus standards critical to homeland security. The ANSI-HSSP promotes a positive, cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors in order to meet the needs of the nation in this critical area.

Specific homeland security issues are addressed via ANSI-HSSP Plenary meetings and Workshops. These Workshops bring together subject matter experts to (i) identify existing standards and conformity assessment programs, (ii) determine where there are gaps, and (iii) make recommendations for addressing these gaps. Further details on the Panel's structure, participants, documents, and more are available on its Website (www.ansi.org/hssp).

This document provides a summary of ANSI-HSSP's accomplishments during its first four years of existence. It builds upon the items that appeared in the three-year accomplishments report, incorporating additional ones from this past year. These accomplishments include the production of Workshop reports and recommendations, promoting the crucial role that standards play in the overall homeland security effort, providing a forum for networking between and among government and private sector security experts, and helping to broker relationships/partnerships for on-going homeland security initiatives. At the conclusion of this document, details are provided on future Panel activities.



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Acknowledgements

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- **Mr. Dan Bart**, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and **Ms. Mary Saunders**, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), for their dedicated leadership as co-chairs of the Panel these past four years.
- **Dr. Bert Coursey**, Standards Executive, DHS S&T Office of Standards, for the crucial support and guidance that he and his department have offered in the area of homeland security standards, as well as his efforts to insure consistent use of appropriate standards within DHS.

The Forum for Information Sharing and Coordination

- The ANSI-HSSP comprises a comprehensive and cross-sector body of homeland security experts involved in standardization. Successful partnerships with various security initiatives have further solidified the Panel's reputation as the place for initial consideration of high-level standards matters across the broad spectrum of homeland security areas. The five Plenary meetings held to date have allowed the ANSI-HSSP participants and invited stakeholders to meet, strategize, and share information on key homeland security standards issues and efforts underway. The unique forum that the Panel provides has led to many instances where groups were able to learn of complementary efforts and make contacts that led to future collaboration and partnerships. Examples of these collaborations include the combining of efforts for security-related conferences and initiatives, and participating in the work of the technical committees of standards developers. The ANSI-HSSP also provides DHS with a single forum where Department officials can interact with the broad homeland security standards community.
- The ANSI-HSSP Secretary serves as a resource for homeland security standards inquiries, not only to provide answers or further contacts for specific standards questions, but also to connect people and groups working on the same standards issues when similar queries are received.
- With support from DHS, ANSI has developed the Homeland Security Standards Database (www.hssd.us), a comprehensive resource for homeland security standards information. The HSSD contains thousands of standards records categorized via a DHS-developed taxonomy. ANSI-HSSP Workshops provide important data for the HSSD, along with submissions from standards developers and end users. The information in the HSSD continues to evolve and ANSI has engaged in partnerships with other on-line homeland security systems to share and leverage homeland security information. This database provides critically needed guidance to state and local first response agencies that need standards for an overwhelming array of new security, personal protective, and communication products.

Support to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- The last two ANSI-HSSP Plenary meetings demonstrate the strong partnership between the Panel and DHS. The September 2005 Plenary meeting, attended by then DHS S&T Directorate Under Secretary Dr. Charles McQueary, was planned closely with the S&T Directorate's Office of Standards not only to bring together the homeland security standards community, but also to facilitate contacts between

security user requirements forums and standards developers. The user requirements forums that participated at that meeting, and that continue to work with the ANSI-HSSP, are: Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), Biometrics Consortium, The Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB), Council on Ionizing Radiation and Measurement Standards (CIRMS), the Process Control System Forum (PCSF), and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The September 2006 Plenary meeting, themed on emergency preparedness, provided DHS with the opportunity to brief the standards community, and receive feedback, on a number of preparedness activities, such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) and the Target Capabilities List (TCL).

- The mission of the DHS S&T Directorate's Office of Standards is to develop and coordinate the adoption of national standards and appropriate evaluation methods to meet homeland security mission needs. Based on recommendations from this Office, DHS has adopted a number of standards and guidelines to assist local, state, and federal procurement officials and manufacturers. Included in this list are American National Standards from ANSI-accredited standards developing organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) on personal protective equipment for first responders, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) on radiological and nuclear detection equipment, and the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) on biometrics. Both NFPA and IEEE are members of the ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee.
- In addition to working with DHS via Panel Workshops and Plenary meetings, the ANSI-HSSP is a participant in the DHS Standards Council and is active each year in the DHS *National Preparedness Month*, helping to bring the standards component to this effort.

Promotion of Homeland Security Standards

- The ANSI-HSSP strives to educate and promote the important role that standards play in the area of homeland security. These key roles of both the Panel and homeland security standards were cited in the *CRS Report for Congress - Homeland Security: Standards for State and Local Preparedness*. During this past year, the leaders of the Panel have delivered presentations focusing on the work of the Panel and homeland security standards at large conferences, smaller stakeholder meetings, and also to individual organizations that are new to the process and looking to

learn more about this subject matter. Through press releases and references in national reports, the work of the Panel has received nationwide press coverage in print and in on-line journals.

- The ANSI-HSSP newsletter and Website are two further means for providing information about homeland security standards. The Panel newsletter provides information primarily on homeland security standards and related news items pulled from the headlines and submitted by ANSI-HSSP participants. The Website provides resource pages with links to further homeland security information including information on the Panel and its Workshops, as well as a meeting calendar to track and help promote other events of interest to those in the homeland security community.
- Partnerships between the Panel and other homeland security initiatives are an important mechanism for the promotion of homeland security standards, enabling both parties to highlight each other's work and leverage resources whenever possible. For example, in the area of protecting critical infrastructure, the ANSI-HSSP works closely with The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) and its standards committee. Another example pertains to the area of risk assessment and management, where the Panel has a working relationship with the ASME-ITI Risk Assessment and Management for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP) project.
- ANSI featured homeland security as the theme of its 2003 World Standards Day Conference, highlighting this key standards area to the overall U.S. standards community.

Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity

- At the request of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, also known as the "9/11 Commission," the ANSI-HSSP organized a Workshop with the goal of identifying an existing standard, or creating the action plan for developing one, in the area of private sector emergency preparedness and business continuity. Following three meetings in 2004 with stakeholders from the private and public sectors, the workshop recommended the American National Standard NFPA 1600 - *Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs*. The recommendation from ANSI was included in the recommendations section of the final report published by the 9/11 Commission. NFPA 1600 has since been promoted by the Panel, referenced in national campaigns (e.g., DHS *Ready for Business*) and has been included in national legislation (e.g., Title XI of H.R. 1: *Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007* and Title VII of S. 4: *Improving America's Security Act of 2007*).

- As the U.S. member body representative in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ANSI led the ISO International Workshop Agreement (IWA) meeting on Emergency Preparedness. With support from ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee member New York University (NYU) International Center for Enterprise Preparedness (InterCEP), a three-day meeting was convened April 24-26, 2006 in Florence, Italy. More than seventy emergency management and business continuity professionals from sixteen countries gathered to discuss this subject matter and the role for standardization at the international level. Five prominent national standards/guidance documents from around the world were reviewed (including ANSI/NFPA 1600) and the final outcome was the publication of *ISO IWA 5:2006, Emergency Preparedness*. This publication has been utilized by the international committee ISO/TC 223 (*Societal Security*) as it further looks to develop an ISO standard on this subject matter.
- Following the events of Hurricane Katrina and in response to the federal aftermath reports that were issued citing lessons learned and recommendations to improve national preparedness, the ANSI-HSSP convened a Workshop to further examine emergency preparedness and the role for standards and conformity assessment programs. More than 100 experts from dozens of public and private-sector stakeholder organizations and the professional preparedness and business continuity community were involved in the eight-month effort to produce a final Workshop report. The Workshop once again concluded that the NFPA 1600 standard is the preeminent standard on this subject matter. The central outcomes of the Workshop report serve to not only further recognize the standard (through a comparison table of the standard's elements referenced against the key aftermath report lessons learned/recommendations), but to highlight the value of compliance with NFPA 1600 for both public and private-sector disaster/emergency management and business continuity programs. The report provides a set of targeted recommendations to the technical committee responsible for maintaining and updating NFPA 1600 to be considered during the standard's next review cycle. The Workshop report also identifies gap areas where further standards are needed to supplement the use of the NFPA 1600 standard for future disasters.

Enterprise Power Security and Continuity

- Many practical challenges exist related to keeping critical operations, equipment, or facilities powered when the electric grid is not available. Continual availability of electric power at the enterprise level is increasingly critical to operations that are essential for business functions, safety, and the public

well-being. In May 2006, the ANSI-HSSP published its final report from the Workshop on standardization for enterprise power security and continuity. The report captures all the relevant standards and guidance documents in the marketplace in this subject area, identifies gaps in standards and conformity assessment programs, makes a series of recommendations for addressing these gaps, and identifies further work that is needed on this subject.

Perimeter Security

- Perimeter security involves rapidly advancing technology that is needed to complement and enhance guards, gates, personnel verification, and other more traditional means of perimeter security. Both new and current technologies benefit from the role that standards can play in supporting the goal of protecting critical facilities. In January 2007, the final report was published from the Workshop on perimeter security standardization, which seeks to provide guidance and assistance to standards developing organizations (SDOs) who are involved in this area. The report provides some basic concepts and definitions for perimeter security, presents several models that provide a general conceptual framework for considering the need for standards for perimeter security, and concludes with a number of specific issues, factors, and recommendations that SDOs should consider in developing perimeter security standards.

Emergency Communications

- Communications in an emergency situation are critical for the safety of citizens and protection of critical infrastructure, as well as for response and recovery efforts. Two meetings have been convened for the Workshop on emergency communications standardization, which agreed to focus on standards for emergency communications in the categories of:
 - (i) individuals/organizations-to-individuals/organizations (including employer-to-employee, employer-to-employer, and employer-to-customer),
 - (ii) individuals/organizations-to-government, and
 - (iii) government-to-individuals/organizations.

Government-to-government emergency communications are being addressed by other programs such as DHS SAFECOM. The final report from this Workshop is expected soon, but needs to incorporate many developments such as the release of an Executive Order on Public Alerts and Warning Systems in June 2006; the passage of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act (WARN Act), which was enacted on October 13, 2006 and the FCC's creation of the Commercial

Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee (CMSAAC); and legislation to create the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) within DHS.

- A breakout session on Citizen Preparedness was held in conjunction with the kick-off meeting of the emergency communications Workshop. The discussions from that session led to the creation of the citizen preparedness resource Webpage on the ANSI-HSSP Website.

Training Programs for First Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction Events

- To assist the first responder community, a Workshop was established to focus on standards that support training programs and can be used to help measure their effectiveness. Three meetings were held and the final Workshop report was published in February 2006. This report contains a standards matrix that organizes existing standards by first responder category, cross-referenced against the DHS Target Capability List (TCL). The report also examines the important role that accreditation and certification to identified standards play in this area.

Biological and Chemical Threat Agents

- Biological and chemical threat agents are clearly an important concern for the nation's homeland security. Three meetings were held on this subject and the Workshop's final report was published in December 2004. This 400-page final report contains the listing of relevant published standards and projects under development in the areas of biological and chemical threat agents, categorized by a subject-specific taxonomy developed by Workshop participants.

Biometrics

- Biometric technologies are key to homeland security, as they are becoming the foundation of many highly secure identification and verification solutions. In April 2004, the final report from the Workshop on biometric standardization was published. In addition to highlighting existing standards and projects under development, the report contained five key issues related to biometric standardization and conformity assessment and recommendations for addressing these issues.
- Biometric-enabled technologies also are beginning to play a key role in identity management, which is itself the topic of another ANSI standards panel, the Identity Theft Prevention and Identity Management Standards Panel (IDSP), launched

by ANSI and the Better Business Bureau in 2006. Prevention of identity theft goes hand in hand with maintaining security for critical infrastructures and services. Biometrics are also a key enabler in the area of credentialing of personnel and access control for incident sites.

International Security Initiatives

■ The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Strategic Advisory Group (SAG-S) on Security oversees standardization activities in ISO, IEC, and ITU-T relevant to the field of security. This group provides advice and guidance to the leadership bodies of these international standards organizations relative to the coordination of work relevant to security, and in particular, identifies areas where new standardization initiatives may be warranted. As ANSI was

a leader in the formation of this group, the U.S. was asked to provide its chairman and the ANSI-HSSP Steering Committee serves as the body to provide input to the U.S. SAG-S representatives. The U.S. plays an active role in this international body, providing leadership on subgroups and introducing new areas for further exploration.

■ Recognizing that security standardization is a global effort, the ANSI-HSSP has incorporated international outreach into its activities. In addition to the ISO/IEC/ITU-T initiative referenced above, partnerships have been forged with such entities as the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and its working group on "Protection and Security of the Citizen," and Standards Australia's National Centre for Security Standards (NCSS). ANSI has hosted delegations from a number of nations to discuss international security standards efforts, and ANSI-HSSP leaders are active participants in events such as the ANSI and European Standards Organizations (ESO) meetings.

Looking Forward



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Embarking on its fifth year, the ANSI-HSSP will continue to examine the vast landscape of homeland security standardization to identify areas where accelerated development and adoption of homeland security standards are necessary to meet national needs. The continuing commitment of ANSI and the standards community to this effort is emphasized in the *United States Standards Strategy*, which highlights the importance of standards coordination in areas of emerging national priorities, such as homeland security. At the September 2006 ANSI-HSSP Plenary meeting and through subsequent meetings with stakeholders, a number of potential new areas of exploration were proposed. The following new ANSI-HSSP Workshops are anticipated to be launched in 2007:

- Transit Security Standardization
- Security/Emergency Preparedness Standardization for Persons with Disabilities
- Standardization for Credentialing/Access
- Standardization for the Mobilization of Private Sector Resources to Disasters

ANSI-HSSP participants are encouraged to continue to participate actively and submit ideas for new areas and ways that the Panel can continue to serve the homeland security standards community effectively. Much progress has been made in the area of homeland security standardization, but there is a great amount of work left to be done to continue the support of this critical national priority.