



Standards Alliance: Phase 2

Quarterly Report

Q4 October 1st - December 31st 2025

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I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Program Name:	Standards Alliance: Phase 2
Activity Start Date and End Date:	July 12, 2019 – July 11, 2026
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
Agreement Number:	#7200AA19CA00012
Name of Subcontractors/ Subawardees:	NSF, IAPMO
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, West Africa (regional), Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Senegal, Indonesia, Indo-Pacific (regional)
Reporting Period:	Q4 October 1 st - December 31 st 2025

I.1 Program Description/Introduction

Standards form the foundation of world trade and the efforts of the Standards Alliance help to create fertile ground for reciprocal trade with the U.S. Through increased adherence and understanding of standards and conformity assessment principles, participating nations will become more stable and reliable markets for U.S. goods, be more prepared for bilateral trade agreements, and be more capable of protecting their citizens from hazardous goods.

The Standards Alliance Phase 2 (SA2) will engage target populations including, but not limited to, foreign government officials and ministries responsible for standards, trade, and consumer protection; foreign private sector; industry groups; civil society; consumer interest groups; business professionals; trade policy experts; and academia. The objective of this initiative is to build on the past successes, lessons learned and impact measured to-date from the first iteration of the Standards Alliance and to support the capacity of developing countries in the areas of legal and regulatory framework, standards development, conformity assessment procedures, and private sector engagement. Achieving these goals also help countries remove non-tariff barriers, and stimulate economic growth, while also preserving and expanding markets for U.S. companies through more predictable and transparent avenues for trade and investment in partner markets/regions.

The implementing partner for this cooperative agreement is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI's mission is to enhance U.S. global competitiveness and the American quality of life by promoting, facilitating, and safeguarding the integrity of the voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. ANSI's role as a coordinating body and the bridge between the private and public sectors uniquely positions the Institute to build partnerships and foster collaborative solutions that address both national and global priorities. ANSI is also a membership organization, providing members with the broadest access to up-to-date standards policy information and opportunities for participation, leadership, and influence. Finally, ANSI promotes the use of U.S. standards internationally, advocates U.S. policy and technical positions in international and regional standards organizations, and encourages the adoption of international standards as national standards where they meet the needs of the user community.

The Standards Alliance Phase 2 includes activities in markets representing a variety of geographical regions and levels of economic development, subject to the agreement of U.S. Government. In consultation with the U.S. government, and private sector experts, ANSI will select the countries/regions based on demonstrated commitment and readiness for assistance, as well as U.S. private sector interest and development impact. ANSI expects to engage at both the national and regional level where appropriate and to involve partners in the Latin America, Africa, Middle East/North Africa, and Indo-Pacific regions. SA2 focus on supporting U.S. leadership around Critical and Emerging Technologies, including Critical Minerals

Beginning in 2024, the SA2 activities have directly supported the USG objectives to advance U.S. leadership around CET and critical mineral standards to ensure national and economic security. This work underlines the commitment to the rules-based and private sector-led approach to standards development, leveraging the innovative power of the private sector with strategic government support via economic policies, public engagements, and investments in CET. The activities focus on emerging economies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and supports greater U.S. influence in related international standards activities. Implementation aims at counteracting potential unilateral standards imposition, and promoting integrity and transparency in the international standards system, ensuring that the U.S. private sector plays in key role in the development of those standards, ensuring U.S. exports facilitation and a more favorable US trade balance with partner countries. It also addresses goals such as improving capacity of countries to develop and implement standards, opening new markets and strengthening U.S. supply chains, and improving readiness to take part in digital transformation and adopt emerging technologies.

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative

The SA2 resumed implementation during the second quarter of 2025, following a suspension of activities pursuant to the Executive Order on [reevaluating and realigning the United States foreign aid](#) of January 20, 2025. All program activities and outreach ceased between February 26, 2025, when ANSI received a termination notice, and May 20, 2025, when ANSI received a Termination Recission. A contract modification allowing for activities to resume was also sent on June 6, 2025.

Upon reception of the aforementioned contract modification, ANSI developed a revised Work Plan for Year 7 of the SA2 (2025-2026) and shared this with the U.S. Government on June 12, 2025. The SA2 was subsequently transferred to the State Department for administration on July 10, 2025. Following the workplan development and transfer of administration to the State Department, the SA2 has resumed implementation of its activity around critical minerals. This is to continue supporting the USG's objective of increasing domestic mineral production as highlighted by the Executive Order of April 24, 2025 "Unleashing America's offshore critical minerals and resources" to further the national security and economic interest. The standards being developed impact the way these minerals are classified, sampled, tested and analyzed, traced and labeled. Since 2024, ANSI, as the U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has leveraged its unique position to facilitate broad U.S. participation in and leadership of ISO standards development around critical minerals.

ANSI's monitoring of the critical minerals standards landscape in the U.S. suggests that there is activity underway to solidify consensus on the U.S. strategy towards critical mineral standardization, particularly international standards. This activity plays a particularly critical role in sustaining support from allied countries and strengthening U.S. influence in international standards in this space; and therefore, has been the emphasis of the SA2 work during the last two quarters of the program's implementation.

GLOBAL

Development Objective #1: Countries have developed their national quality infrastructure

Activity #13 – Support for critical minerals standardization coordination

ANSI has continued to perform its administration of the US TAG to TC 82/SC 7 and TC 345 to build awareness that would enable allied developing countries to participate in standards development for critical minerals; and strengthen coordination within the U.S. stakeholder group, including U.S. government agencies, to align future work within ISO with U.S. strategy on critical minerals.

ISO/TC 82/SC 7 –

ANSI identified and onboarded a new TAG Chair that maximizes U.S. representation and advances public-private partnership. The U.S. Department of Energy's Senior Advisor for International Trade and Standards, Megan Barnhart, agreed to fill the role after the Albemarle-nominated TAG Chair stepped down due to his workload at Albemarle. The TAG is now active and voting on relevant issues.

A survey was also developed and shared with TAG members to learn about their expertise in ISO and to generate interest in the specific activities of the committee. The next TAG meeting is to be held in February.

Finally, ANSI continued to manage U.S. input on the active work program, including:

- ISO/AWI 25603 "Underground mine tailings backfill guidance"
- ISO/AWI 8238 "Sustainable mining and mine closure — Social aspects"
- ISO/AWI 25412 "Finding value in mining wastes"
- ISO/FDIS 20305 "Mine closure and reclamation — Vocabulary"

ISO/TC 345 –

A U.S. TAG meeting was held on December 1st, and six U.S. experts were nominated to the working group I (WGI) "Test Methods for Graphite Material."

ANSI continued to manage U.S. input on the active work program, including:

- ISO/AWI 25838 "Test methods for graphite – Determination of graphitization"
- ISO/AWI 25839 "Test methods for graphite – Determination of carbon content"
- ISO/AWI 25840 "Test methods for graphite – Determination of trace metal element content"

ANSI has also participated in the ICMSCG (ISO Critical Minerals Coordination Group) on behalf of both U.S. TAGs, both promoting our work and recruiting new members to join.

Activity #17 – Promoting international standards for Management Systems for UN Sustainable development goals through U.S. leadership

Activity discontinued in June 2025 in alignment with strategic priorities.

AFRICA

Development Objective #1: Countries have developed their national quality infrastructure

Activity #16 - Improving Point-of-Care Ultrasound Access (IPOCUSA): Better Maternal Outcomes through Ultrasound Education, Workforce Development, Policy Advocacy and Certification

Partner country: Kenya

Implementing Partner: The Inteleos Foundation

Activity discontinued in June 2025 in alignment with strategic priorities.

Activity #18– BW+ (Bottled Water Plus) - Bottled Water Certification Scheme for Senegal

Partner country: Senegal

Implementing Partner: NSF International

NSF worked internally on documentation and workshop materials. NSF reaffirms no external stakeholders were engaged.

Activity #18.1 - ISO 17065 Needs assessment/baseline – gap analysis

NSF completed the ISO 17065 assessment/baseline – gap analysis in consultation with ASN.

Activity #18.2 - ECOSTAND 022 review by NSF Laboratories, Auditing Staff and Standards team

The ECOSTAND 022 review by NSF Laboratories, Auditing Staff and Standards team is complete, but materials continue to be reviewed for inclusion in training materials.

Activity #18.3 - Review, development, and translation of training materials for ISO 17065

NSF was unable able to communicate with stakeholders to initiate workshop preparations. Workshop delivery is dependent on NSF's ability to conduct outreach.

Without contacting external stakeholders, NSF and ASN developed a baseline list of Senegal regulators, operators, laboratories, and manufacturers to be invited to the training.

NSF continued to develop documents and training materials in alignment with ASN feedback, which was provided over this quarter. NSF clarified technical aspects sampling and added recommend practices based on NSF's experience.

INDO-PACIFIC

Development Objective #1: Countries have developed their national quality infrastructure

Activity #7 – Increase the Flow of WASH Services

Partner country: Indonesia

Implementing Partner: IAPMO

Activity #7.1 – Initiate development of new Indonesian national standard related to water faucets, based on existing international standards.

IAPMO intends to support the mandatory adoption of SNI I22: 2022. As previously reported, the Ministry of Industry determined that it cannot make SNI I22:2022 mandatory and IAPMO cannot proceed with developing the RIA until the standard has been normalized with Indonesian manufacturers. IAPMO has been unable to engage with stakeholders due to project restrictions from the Department of State.

2.2 CET Related Activities Implementation Progress

Development Objective #1: Countries have developed their national quality infrastructure

Activity #19 – Support U.S. leadership in Standards for Critical and Emerging Technologies

With the contract modification restarting the SA2 program received under Q2, 2025 ANSI was able to resume supporting this activity aiming at promoting a U.S. private sector led approach for international standards development and assist professionals from allied under-represented regions by providing training and support to participate effectively in global standards-setting activities. These include support to NSBs in Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, as well as engagements with Mexico on AI. Additionally, the work plan includes activities partnering with organizations such as ITC, JTCI, and academia across the suggested regions.

Implementation of CET activities began in Q4 2024 with hosting two events that contributed towards:

- Shedding light on the Standards Alliance Phase 2.0 CET scope and the stakeholders' engagement process
- Presenting case studies on success stories of countries and private sector engagement with the standards alliance projects.
- Engaging a broader audience by presenting at World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) meeting at the WTO headquarters in Geneva

The main objectives of this activity were reaffirmed under the revised Annual Work Plan for SA2 shared June 12, 2025 with the USG.

However, ANSI at the request of the US State Department did not resume planning for this activity under Q4 2025 as their internal review process of programs transferred to them was still ongoing. As per communication from the US Department of State in January of 2026, this activity was given authorization to resume implementation and so it is expected that during the next quarterly report more information on this activity will be shared.

2.3 Implementation Challenges

While administration of the program has officially shifted to the Department of State, due to changes in organizational leadership, implementation of new activities has been on hold through

Q4 2025. This has resulted in additional delays that may limit the ability of the program to build on additional outputs that require time to be implemented.

3. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Activity #	Sub activity #	Country	Meeting/ Event	Date
I3		Global	Meeting of ISO TC/345	I December, 2025
I3		Global	ISO TC82 SC7 Meeting	

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED

Performance Indicator #2: Number of trainings conducted about the value of using their national quality infrastructure

Under this reporting period for this performance indicator there was a total of 1 training targeted which was exceeded with a total of 2. A breakdown is presented below.¹

Activity #I3 – Support for critical minerals standardization coordination

For Activity I3, the team participated in the meeting of ISO TC 345 and the meeting of ISO TC82 SC7; putting the activity above the targeted number.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

Activity #I3 – Support for critical minerals standardization coordination

Having an appropriate list of experts on hand who might be willing to take over in case of an unexpected change in leadership is a need that has made itself known this quarter. As companies and experts volunteer for these positions, when workload and priorities shift it can cause delays

¹ Activities not mentioned under this section did not select it for their implementation or are no longer under implementation.

in implementation, and when an expert steps down finding the appropriate expert to take over takes time. Preemptively managing potential changes in leadership by having a short list of willing experts will likely ensure a smoother transition and faster implementation of workflows.

6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER, INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Under Q1 2026 the SA2 expects will be resuming implementation of activities #7, 18, and 19 aiming to carry out trainings before the end of the first quarter for activities #7 or 18 and develop and more detailed implementation plan for activity #19. Implementation of activity #13 will also continue as defined by the Year 7 Annual Work Plan during Q1 of 2026.