U.S.-SADC Exchange on Good Regulatory Practice

An overview of ANSI, the U.S. standards system and its support for technical regulations

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Presentation Objectives

- Introduction to ANSI
- Overview of the U.S. system for standards and conformity assessment
- Discussion of how standards support technical regulations in the U.S.
The American National Standards Institute leads standards, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States of America.

Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization.

ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer.
The ANSI Federation represents more than 125,000 companies and organizations and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

Members of the ANSI Federation include . . .

- Academia
- Individuals
- Government
- Manufacturing
- Trade Associations

- Professional Societies
- Service Organizations
- Standards Developers
- Consumer and Labor Interests
- and many more
- Represents U.S. globally
- Ensures integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system
- Offers neutral forum
- Accredits standards developers and conformity assessment organizations
- Coordinates partnership between U.S. public and private sectors
- U.S. member of ISO
- U.S. member of the IEC, via ANSI’s U.S. National Committee
- a U.S. member of IAF and ILAC
- member of regional forums in the Pacific Rim and the Americas
- liaison with groups in Europe, Africa and the Middle East
- bilateral agreements with other national standards bodies
U.S. Standardization System
ANSI’s accreditation roles and responsibilities

Overview of ANSI, the U.S. standards system and its support of technical regulations
The U.S. System: standards in the U.S. and American National Standards

- In the U.S. alone, there are more than 100,000 standards
- These documents are being developed by:
  - standards developing organizations (SDOs)
  - over 500 consortia
- Currently there are approximately 234 ANSI-accredited standards developers
  - Not all standards developed by these organizations are submitted for consideration as ANS
- Over 11,000 approved American National Standards
U.S. Standardization System
examples of ANSI-accredited SDOs and U.S. TAGs

- ASTM International
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- International Code Council
- American Dental Association
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Protection Association
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
- IEEE Standards Association
- Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
- Society of Automotive Engineers
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Petroleum Institute
- And more than 200 additional organizations

Overview of ANSI, the U.S. standards system and its support of technical regulations
U.S. Standards System

guiding principles

- Standards should meet societal and market needs and should not be developed to act as barriers to trade

- The U.S. endorses the globally accepted standardization principles of the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement
  - Transparency
  - Openness
  - Impartiality
  - Effectiveness and relevance
  - Consensus
  - Performance-based
  - Coherence
  - Due process
  - Technical Assistance
  - Flexible
  - Timely
  - Balanced
# U.S. Standards System

**different tools for globally relevant standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Participation (one country one vote)</th>
<th>Direct Participation</th>
<th>Consortia</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Treaty Organizations</td>
<td>- Nationally Accepted</td>
<td>- Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-Treaty Organizations</td>
<td>- Internationally Accepted</td>
<td>- IGRS, W3C, etc.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Examples**

- ISO, IEC, ITU, CODEX, etc.
- ASTM International, ASME, SAE, etc.
The U.S. System for Standards and Conformity Assessment System: a comparison with many other economies

Many other economies
*Top Down*
Standards bodies drive standardization activities

United States
*Bottom Up*
Standards users drive standardization activities

- Emphasizes private-sector **standards solutions**
- Relies on private-sector **compliance verification** for both regulatory and non-regulatory functions
The U.S. System: a public-private partnership

- No single government agency has control over standards
  - Each agency determines which standards meet its needs

- National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)
  - Encourages government agencies to:
    - Use pre-existing private sector standards when regulating
    - Participate in the development of private sector standards
  - Directs NIST to coordinate federal standards and conformity assessment activities

- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119
  - Provides federal agencies with guidance on how to implement the requirements of the NTTAA
Why rely on the private sector?

**BENEFITS TO PRIVATE SECTOR**
- Decreased burden of compliance with regulations
- Decreased cost of goods and services
- Encourages innovation and economic competition
- Facilitates international trade and avoids unnecessary obstacles to trade

**BENEFITS TO REGULATORS**
- Eliminates cost of developing standards
- Easier to enforce
- Allows for timely and effective solutions to legitimate regulatory concerns
## U.S. Standards System
examples of roles and responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinate U.S. system and policy development</th>
<th>ANSI</th>
<th>Standards Developers</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Consumers</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>NIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independently runs standards development activities</td>
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<td>Coordinates and monitors USG use of and participation in VCS activities</td>
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<td>Legal metrology and WTO-TBT enquiry point</td>
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<td>Provides technical input for standards development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participates in U.S. policy development</td>
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