

AN OVERVIEW

of the *United States Standards Strategy*

As competition for technology-driven advantages intensifies—and economic, security, and public health challenges continue to raise the stakes at home and around the globe—the push to develop globally accepted standards is greater now than ever before. An open, rules-based standards system is critical to fostering innovation and an environment that reflects changing needs in the global marketplace. Maintaining the integrity and impartiality of international standards development processes is a priority.



The American National Standards Institute (ANSI)—in its role as coordinator of the U.S.

private-sector voluntary standardization system and the official U.S. representative in regional and non-treaty international standards development bodies—brought together diverse interests from industry, government, standards developing organizations, consortia, consumer groups, and academia to update the *United States Standards Strategy (USSS)*.



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The *USSS* sets a strategic vision to support **U.S. competitiveness, innovation, health and safety, and global trade**, guiding how the U.S. develops and uses standards, and participates in the international standards development process.

The U.S. standards system is based on a public-private partnership and embraces the participation of all affected stakeholders, making it dynamic, flexible, and responsive to market needs.

PRINCIPLES OF STANDARDIZATION

The *USSS* affirms that standards should meet societal and market needs and should not be developed to act as barriers to trade. The U.S. standards system is based upon the following set of globally accepted principles for standards development:



TRANSPARENCY



OPENNESS



IMPARTIALITY



EFFECTIVENESS AND RELEVANCE



CONSENSUS



PERFORMANCE BASED



COHERENCE

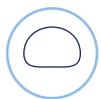


DUE PROCESS



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition, U.S. interests strongly agree that the standardization process should be:



FLEXIBLE



TIMELY



BALANCED

A ROADMAP FOR ACTION: 12 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Flexible and dynamic like the U.S. standardization system itself, the *USSS* can be used by diverse stakeholder communities to meet their organizational objectives. The *USSS* details 12 strategic initiatives and supporting tactics that industry, government, standards developing organizations, consortia, consumer groups, academia, and other groups can implement to help:

- 1 Strengthen participation by government in the development and use of voluntary consensus standards through public-private partnerships
- 2 Address the environment, health, safety, and sustainability
- 3 Improve the responsiveness of the standards system to the interests of consumers
- 4 Promote consistent worldwide application of internationally recognized principles in standards development
- 5 Encourage common approaches by governments to the use of voluntary consensus standards as tools for supporting regulatory needs
- 6 Prevent standards from becoming technical trade barriers to U.S. products and services
- 7 Promote understanding of how U.S. voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven standards benefit businesses, consumers, and society
- 8 Improve tools for the efficient and timely development and distribution of voluntary consensus standards
- 9 Promote cooperation and coherence in standards activities
- 10 Promote and encourage a standards-literate workforce
- 11 Respect diverse funding models for the U.S. standards system
- 12 Address the need for standards in support of emerging national priorities

REFLECTING CHANGING NEEDS AND PRIORITY AREAS

First published in 2000 as the *National Standards Strategy for the United States*, the *USSS* is updated every five years to assure that it continues to meet the needs of diverse U.S. interests and that it reflects technological advancements, industry growth areas, national and international priorities, and updates to relevant U.S. government policy. The result is a dynamic framework that reflects the diversity of the U.S. standardization system itself.



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