

SUMMARY REPORT

Survey on Overarching U.S. Policy Priorities Regarding Standards, Conformity Assessment and Technical Regulations in China

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ABOUT THE SURVEY



Overview

In October 2006, a questionnaire to evaluate U.S. stakeholder priorities on standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations in China was launched under the auspices of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) China Program.

Nearly 800 ANSI members and constituents representing a wide cross-section of companies, standards developing organizations, trade associations, professional societies, government agencies and other stakeholder groups with an interest in China were invited to participate. Roughly five percent (5%) of the surveys issued were completed and returned.

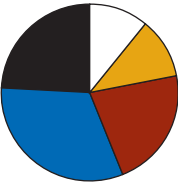
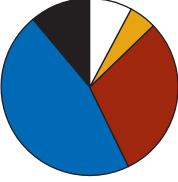
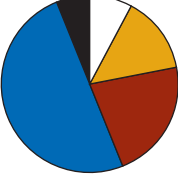
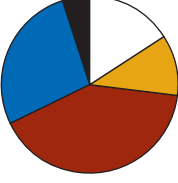
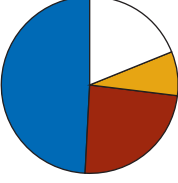
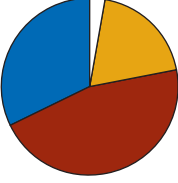
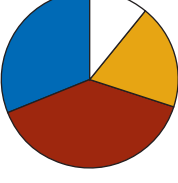
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest on each of seven overarching policy concerns in China (see listing below and detail on following page). These issue statements were developed with input from the Institute's members and other interested parties during the first three quarters of 2006.

Responses were tracked on a five point scale ranging from "not concerned" to "this is my highest priority." Responses are enumerated below; a graphical representation is shown on the following page.

Respondents were also invited to identify additional overarching issues or concerns that should be addressed by ANSI. Most responses were related to, or extensions of, the original seven issues. Concerns with language and cultural barriers between the U.S. and China were also raised.

The results of this survey will help to shape the development of ANSI policies and strategies addressing standards-related activities with China. Nearly 80% of the survey respondents indicated their strong commitment to working with the Institute to address these issues.

Overarching Policy Concerns in China	Not Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Concerned	Very Concerned	Highest Priority
Certification and testing requirements	11%	11%	22%	32%	24%
Transparency	8%	5%	30%	46%	11%
Intellectual property and standardization policies	8%	14%	22%	50%	6%
Chinese participation and investment in global standards processes	16%	11%	41%	27%	5%
Chinese interagency coordination	19%	8%	24%	49%	0%
U.S. messages and positions	3%	19%	46%	32%	0%
Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) requirements	11%	19%	39%	31%	0%

Overarching Policy Concerns in China (as stated in survey)	Response Summary
<p>Certification and testing requirements</p> <p>China currently requires that most certification and testing for regulatory compliance be performed in China, by Chinese laboratories and certification bodies. These requirements not only create unnecessary burdens for a broad scope of U.S. manufacturers exporting to China, but also deny market access to a key segment of the Chinese market for U.S. testing and certification services.</p>	
<p>Transparency</p> <p>U.S. companies encounter significant difficulty learning about current and proposed standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment requirements for the Chinese market. In some cases, U.S. companies do not learn of new or amended technical regulations until their shipments are held at Chinese customs. Under these circumstances, U.S. companies are unable to either anticipate changes or influence the development of standards and technical regulations.</p>	
<p>Intellectual property and standardization policies</p> <p>As China revises its laws and policies relating to standardization, intellectual property and antitrust/anti-monopoly, U.S. concern is mounting that converging policies could hinder U.S. organizations' ability to protect patented technology in the standardization process and, ultimately, to innovate and compete in the Chinese market. Reliable information is currently limited on these concerns.</p>	
<p>Chinese participation and investment in global standards processes</p> <p>Although China's official coordinator for standardization, the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) is heavily invested in international processes, other ministries are attempting to develop "home grown" standards. [NOTE: While Chinese policies continue to give preference to standards developed within ISO and IEC, there are steadily increasing occurrences of Chinese use and adoption of other internationally-recognized specifications as "Advanced Foreign Standards."]</p>	
<p>Chinese interagency coordination</p> <p>U.S. companies frequently report inconsistent, or even conflicting, policies and requirements on standards, conformity assessment and technical regulation among national-level ministries, as well as from provincial and local-level officials.</p>	
<p>U.S. messages and positions</p> <p>The United States is currently fragmented in its communications about standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations to the Chinese government and its communications about China's related activities to the U.S. government. As a result, the U.S. standards community is not effectively advocating for its common interests or concerns, and is portraying itself as inconsistent, uncoordinated and confused.</p>	
<p>Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) requirements</p> <p>Concern is mounting that certain of China's specific EHS-related requirements are being carried out in a non-transparent manner. This may include technical requirements that are more trade restrictive than necessary, are not equally enforced for domestic products and imports, or which demand overly burdensome testing and certification requirements. Specific examples include China's proposed regulations on energy efficiency and new restrictions on hazardous substances (RoHS).</p>	

Not Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Concerned	Very Concerned	Highest Priority
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE

Throughout its history, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has maintained as its primary goal the enhancement of global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and promoting their integrity. The Institute provides a forum for hundreds of ANSI-accredited standards developers that work cooperatively to develop American National Standards (ANS).

ANSI is the official U.S. representative to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), via the U.S. National Committee.

Comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations, the ANSI Federation represents the diverse interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

ABOUT THE ANSI CHINA PROGRAM

Significant benefit can be gained in both the U.S. and China when there is cooperation during the development, approval and implementation of standards and related compliance programs.

In general, ANSI outreach programs are intended to foster discussions between the Institute's members and constituents and their counterparts in other countries (e.g., companies, trade associations, government and non-government institutes, etc.).

In China, the Institute is focused on identifying opportunities — both venues and audiences — where ANSI and its members can meet with their counterparts to discuss and resolve the standards-related technical and policy issues that are impacting cross-border trade between the two nations. ANSI works with peer organizations such as the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA) and others to arrange and facilitate many of these meetings.

Domestically, ANSI will identify, develop or otherwise provide the information and resources that its members need to engage more effectively with their contacts in China.

