

## The Chinese Standards System: Current Structure

*The Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China*, which was promulgated in 1989, provides a legal foundation for the process by which standards are developed and implemented in China. Generally speaking, China's standardization system can be characterized as "top-down," with the government playing a leading role in related activities. Basic information on the system, as currently structured, is included below and additional details are available on the [Standards Portal](#).

### *Classification of standards*

As currently structured, the Chinese standards system includes both mandatory and voluntary standards that are divided into four different levels of standards: national, industry, local, and enterprise standards. These levels are hierarchal, with national or "GB" standards at the top.

### *Key Organizations*

China's standards system is administered at the top by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), which is under the direct control of the State Council, the chief administrative authority of China.

The Standards Administration of China (SAC) reports to AQSIQ, and oversees most standards-related activities in China. Key responsibilities include:

- Development and implementation of state laws and policies related to standardization,
- Development, approval, publication, and promotion of national standards,
- Management of scientific and technical work related to standardization, including administration of technical committees,
- Registration of industrial and local standards,
- National representative to ISO, IEC, and other international and regional standards organizations, and
- WTO TBT National Enquiry Point.

## The Chinese Standards System: Reform Updates

### *Background on March 2015 State Council Notice*

The reform of the Chinese standards system has been underway for several years. ANSI is following the issue closely, since it will affect member activities in China.

On March 26, 2015 the State Council of the People's Republic of China issued the "Notice of the State Council on the Distribution of the Reform Plan for Deepening Standardization." ANSI has already provided several pieces of analysis on this development, including:

- An ANSI news article alerting members to the impending release of the March 2015 State Council Notice and its contents, [available here](#),
- An ANSI news article announcing the release of the State Council Notice, [available here](#), and
- An ANSI reference translation of the State Council Notice, [available to ANSI members only here](#).

The State Council Notice includes several major reforms to the Chinese standards system, including:

- Establishment of a central coordinating mechanism within the State Council
- Consolidation of mandatory standards
- Optimizing the structure for voluntary standards
- Fostering the formulation of social organization standards<sup>1</sup>
- Full implementation of the "self-declaration and disclosure of enterprise standards" pilot already underway

---

<sup>1</sup> The term "social organization standards" has also been translated as "consortia standards" and "association standards," and reflects ongoing discussion on the details of the reform by relevant Chinese standards organizations. ANSI will continue to monitor this discussion and update the translation as necessary.

- Further increasing China's impact and influence in international standardization

#### *Latest Updates*

On April 24, 2015, SAC released the "Key Points of National Standardization Work in 2015." The document outlines SAC's plans for carrying out the first phase of the standardization reform, sectors in which it will promote the development of national and international standards, and seek regional cooperation. In terms of carrying out the first phase of the standardization reform, the document commits SAC to the following next steps, among others:

- Speeding up the revision of *The Standardization Law*
- Developing a work plan for streamlining existing mandatory standards
- Optimizing the development and approval process for voluntary standards
- Identify pilot projects for the development of social organization standards and compile related best practices

The document is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#).

## Update on Standards Development Activities in China

### *Recently released Chinese National Standards*

Recently released Chinese national standards include the following:

- **Traditional Chinese medicine.** On May 29, 2015, AQSIQ and SAC announced the release of 3 standards for Chinese medicine. The full announcement is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#).
- **Safety specifications for baby and toddler textile products.** On May 26, 2015, AQSIQ and SAC announced the release of 2 new standards on safety specifications for baby and toddler textile products. The full announcement is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#).

### *Recently established technical committees*

Recently established technical committees include the following:

- **Optical Radiation and Laser Equipment.** On May 11, 2015, SAC announced the recent approval of an application from the China Machinery Industry Federation to establish a national technical committee for optical radiation and laser equipment.

The committee is coded as SAC/TC284/SC4 with the official name of Subcommittee 4 on Incoherent Optical Radiation Safety of National Technical Committee 284 on Optical Radiation Safety and Laser Equipment of Standardization Administration of China. The technical committee also functions as the national mirror committee of IEC/TC76/WG9. The full announcement is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#).

- **Knowledge Management.** On February 14, 2015, the National Technical Committee for Standardization of Knowledge Management was established. According to SAC Administrator Tian Shihong, the focus of the committee will be the development of an intellectual property management system to foster intellectual resources and technical innovation. More specifically, the committee will develop national standards on intellectual property, traditional knowledge and knowledge organization, and serve as the ISO national mirror committee for ISO/ TC 279 Innovation Management.

China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) will serve as the secretary for the committee, while State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) will provide day-to-day management of the committee's work. The full announcement is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#).

## Other Policy Updates

### *AQSIQ Releases Draft Regulation for Comment on Consumer Product Recalls*

AQSIQ recently released for public comment the draft regulation "Administration of Consumer Product Recalls." The draft regulation includes the following key aspects:

- It represents China's first unified approach to the recall of consumer products. Previous policies have addressed specific products or industries, while this regulation would cover all consumer products manufactured or sold in China.
- Article 4 indicates that manufacturers hold primary responsibility for recalls; however, producers and suppliers, among others, are also listed on the chain of responsibility.
- The draft regulation provides for the equal treatment of imported and domestically manufactured products. In the case of imported products, importers hold primary responsibility for recalls.

- Recalls will be administered based on the principle of risk management. Risk categories will be developed and adjusted by AQSIQ.

The announcement (in Chinese) with a link to the full draft (also in Chinese) is [available here](#).

Comments are welcome through July 15, 2015, and can be submitted through the following means: (i) by logging on to the AQSIQ web site; (ii) by email ([zhglc@aqsiq.gov.cn](mailto:zhglc@aqsiq.gov.cn)); or (iii) by mail. Please see the announcement for submission details.

ANSI's members were first alerted to the opportunity to comment on the updated Chinese draft through the ANSI Regional Standing Committee – Asia Pacific (RSC-AP) and the ANSI Consumer Interest Forum (CIF). To join this group, please contact [JRoop@ansi.org](mailto:JRoop@ansi.org).

### *Updated Draft of China RoHS II issued for Public Comment*

On May 18, 2015 China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) issued for public comment a

revised “Management Methods for the Restriction of the Use of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Products,” an update to the existing regulation sometimes referred to as “China RoHS.”

The public comment period for the draft regulation ended on June 17, 2015. Among the changes to the existing regulation included in the draft are changes to the scope of affected products and labeling requirements, and modifications to the provisions on conformity assessment procedures, which will be implemented under the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA).

The official announcement is [available \(in Chinese\) here](#). An English language translation and summary has been prepared by Foley & Lardner LLP and is [publicly available here](#).

ANSI follows RoHS-related developments around the world. Members were alerted to the opportunity to comment on the updated Chinese draft through the ANSI RSC-AP.

*Draft Foreign NGO Management Law Issued for Public Comment*

In April 2015 the National People’s Congress released the draft Foreign Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Management Law. Public comments were invited through June 4, 2015.

The Draft Law seeks to establish a regulatory framework for non-mainland non-profit organizations to obtain a legal status in China. The Law provides guidance on representative offices, temporary activities, conduct, facilitation measures, and supervision and management.

If finalized in its current form, the law could have implications for ANSI and its members. For this reason, the draft law was brought up within ANSI’s International Policy Committee (IPC), which decided that ANSI staff should submit comments.

On June 4, ANSI staff submitted comments on the draft law that acknowledged the importance of the law and its goals, but noted concern with the broad scope and overly burdensome provisions. In particular, ANSI recommends reconsidering the definition of the NGO included in Article 2 and 3 of the law to exclude organizations like ANSI.

The full letter is [available to ANSI members only here](#).



### About this Publication

The ANSI in China newsletter is distributed to the membership and constituency of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). There are two versions. The first is written in Mandarin Chinese with content targeted toward a China-based audience of both ANSI members and partner organizations. The second is written in English with content targeted toward a U.S.-based audience of ANSI members only.

The U.S. version of the ANSI in China newsletter provides updates on technical activities, policy decisions, trade matters, and other information of interest to ANSI members operating in or interacting with China. Some articles may be based on articles from the ANSI website, [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org), and some may be contributed by authors who are not ANSI staff.

The U.S. version will be available on ANSI's SharePoint site. The first issue will be publicly available. Subsequent editions will only be available with an ANSI member username and password.

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by the authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect ANSI opinions or positions.

### Contribute

Contributions are gladly accepted for review and possible publication, subject to revision by the editors. Submit proposed news items to:

[china@ansi.org](mailto:china@ansi.org)

Published in ANSI's NYC Office  
25 West 43rd Street, Fourth Floor  
New York, NY 10036

