



Standards Alliance
Work Plan
Year One – 2014-2015
MEXICO

INTRODUCTION

The Standards Alliance is a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and USAID designed to assist developing countries in effectively implementing their commitments under the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement.

The main objectives of the overall Standards Alliance program include technical exchange of WTO TBT principles, encourage transparency in the development and alteration of technical regulations, and improve implementation of the TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards, with the larger goal of promoting trade and economic development.

Mexico's Secretariat of Economy/Secretaría de Economía has submitted a proposed statement of work for engagement under the Standards Alliance. ANSI conducted consultations in Mexico with the Secretariat of Economy as well as relevant organizations. The purpose of these consultations was to provide input into and help inform the work plan which will ultimately be agreed upon with ANSI and the Secretariat of Economy.

The Standards Alliance project for Mexico has the following objectives:

- Encourage implementation of good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation in North America, including the principles outlined in Chapter IX of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- Strengthen the capacity of national and regional government institutions, to support programs and projects related to standardization, certification and accreditation.

The specific program tasks under the Mexico Standards Alliance Project (described in more detail in the next section) include:

- Conduct a North American Conference in Mexico (including Mexico, Canada and the US) on the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation.
- Conduct a seminar focused on capacity building in conformity assessment aimed at training young professionals and new staff from the National Standards Bodies and Government Units of members of the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).
- Conduct an advanced Course for Regulators on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and TBT commitments in FTAs (including aspects of dispute settlement).

ACTIVITIES

In support of the overall project objectives listed above, this section outlines the activities that have already been identified to be carried out in the first year (2014-2015). To the extent possible, the activities listed include the full scope of work. Some activities may require further discussion between counterparts in Mexico and the U.S., and other activities may be added to the work plan upon mutual agreement, and pending availability of resources.

1. North American Conference on Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation

A 2.5-day conference (including Mexico, Canada and the US) will be held at the beginning of October 2014 on the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices and Regulatory Cooperation (including Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), Competition Assessment, Risk Assessment, Public Consultation, Conformity Assessment, Inspections, Enforcement, RIA Ex post, Governance of regulators, and evidence based regulation), Regulatory Cooperation in North America (such as Mutual Recognition Agreement, Harmonization, Regulatory Cooperation Councils, and Dialogue/Informal exchange of information) and the provisions in new trade agreements based on the disciplines of the Chapter IX of the NAFTA. This conference will take place in Mexico City, Mexico.

ANSI will work with the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico, and other counterparts in Mexico and Canada to facilitate the conference, including coordinating participation of U.S. experts from the public and private sector. The agenda for the conference will be mutually agreed upon by the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

2. Advanced course for regulators on the WTO TBT Agreement and TBT commitments

A 2-day advanced Course for Regulators on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and TBT commitments in FTAs (including aspects of dispute settlement) will be conducted in Mexico. Speakers would include US, Mexico and Canada regulators that cover TBT, and the course would include an academic review of jurisprudence on how to address TBT disciplines. Discussion would include evolution of agreements, how NAFTA provided for regulatory cooperation, the study of conformity assessment and regulator choice for conformity assessment.

ANSI will work with the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico, and other counterparts in Mexico and Canada to facilitate the course, including coordinating participation of U.S. experts from the public and private sector. The agenda for the course will be mutually agreed upon by the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The location will be outside Mexico City in Mexico.

3. Capacity building in conformity assessment for COPANT members

Conduct a 3-4 day seminar focused on capacity building in conformity assessment aimed at training young professionals and new staff from the National Standards Bodies and Government Units. The training would take place during the week of the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) General Assembly in Mexico on April 13-17, 2014, and would include relevant participation from COPANT member bodies.

SCHEDULE

The schedule envisioned for the implementation of the activities described above is shown below.