

United States Standardization System (Private Sector)

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What is a voluntary standard?

- Voluntary consensus standards are standards developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, both domestic and international. These standards include provisions requiring that owners of relevant intellectual property have agreed to make that intellectual property available on a non-discriminatory, royalty-free or reasonable royalty basis to all interested parties. (OMB Circular A-119, at page 27, February 1998)



Voluntary Standards

- What is the significance of a government agency's adoption of a voluntary standard, in whole or in part?
- What is the significance of a United States voluntary standard in the global marketplace?
- How does a United States voluntary standard become an international voluntary standard?
- What liability risks, if any, exist for failure to comply with a voluntary standard?



Private Sector Standardization Process & Procedures

- How is the development of a private sector (consortia or accredited) standard initiated?
- How does a standards group become accredited?
- What are the standardization methods for accredited standardization projects?
- Are accredited standardization projects open, transparent and conducted in a public forum?
- How does the interested public provide input to an accredited standardization project?
- When is a decision in an accredited standardization project final?
- Do accredited standardization projects offer a right of appeal?
- What is the significance of ANSI's final decision when a proposed standard is submitted for approval?
- What is the effective date of a private sector standard?
- Who owns the copyright to a private sector standard?



Choice of Standardization Process

- When should a private sector standard be developed?
- Which process should be used to develop a private sector standard (consortia or accredited)?
- When should a government standard (regulation) be developed in lieu of a private sector standard?



Review of Existing Standards

- How often should an existing private sector standard be reviewed?
- What procedures should be used to modify or amend an existing private sector standard?
- How often should an existing government standard be reviewed?
- What procedures should be used to modify or amend an existing government standard?



Testing, Certification & Conformity Assessment

- First party declaration (e.g., manufacturer)
- Second party declaration (e.g., testing conducted by retailer or user)
- Third party declaration (e.g., testing conducted by independent laboratory or government)
- Who accredits independent laboratories? (private firms which specialize in review and accreditation of laboratories or the government)