Department of Defense (DoD) Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Report

1. Please provide a summary of your agency's activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities" and the National Technology Transfer and Advance Act (NTTAA). The summary should contain a link to the agency's standards-specific website(s) where information about your agency's standards and conformity assessment related activities are available.

The primary goal of the Department of Defense (DoD) is to support our nations warfighter in the most efficient, effective, and cost-conscious manner possible while meeting mission objectives. Standards and standardization are essential elements to ensuring cost containment and operational effectiveness are achieved during the development and continued maintenance of DoD systems and subsystems. More information on the Defense Standardization Program can be found at https://www.dsp.dla.mil.

DoD relies on voluntary consensus standards (VCS) to gain access to cutting edge technologies within the global marketplace while reducing total acquisition costs. Currently, DoD has adopted 8,123 VCS approved for use within the Department of Defense. Each of these 8,123 VCS is cataloged with an adoption notice in the ASSIST database (https://assist.dla.mil), which gives visibility of the VCS so that others within DoD may use that standard in implementing their own systems or programs. Each adoption notice provides contact information for the adopting activity should any potential DoD users have questions regarding the technical content, or how to get a copy of the document. To promote the use of VCS by DoD, publishing an adoption notice is highly encouraged, but it is not a mandatory prerequisite for their use.

Therefore, the number of adoption notices for VCS is only a partial representation of their use in DoD. Many additional VCS documents are called out in DoD acquisitions and used in defense systems. Over 2500 VCS are cited as normative references in DoD standardization documents. Similarly, normative references to VCS are found in International Standardization Agreements and are used by DoD in the implementation of U.S.-ratified International Standardization Agreements. The extensive use of VCS allows DoD to gain access to cutting edge technologies and to be interoperable with our allies and partners.

In Fiscal Year 2022, DoD adopted 35 VCS in several areas, including: Construction Building Materials; Hardware and Abrasives; Paints, Dopes, Sealants and Adhesives; Non-Metallic Fabricated Materials; Electrical and Electronic Equipment Components; Electrical Connectors; Engine, Turbines, and Components; Pipe, Tubing, Hose and Fittings; Pumps and Compressors; Firefighting Equipment; and Glass Fabricated Materials. DoD also canceled 200 military unique documents and replaced 14 of them with VCS.

While DoD continues to support and use VCS for many different purposes, there are times where military unique requirements cannot be satisfied by VCS, and as such, DoD must continue to develop GUS to carry out its defense mission and meet warfighter needs. In FY 22, 34 documents were created based on military unique needs. These documents call out requirements for items used in weapon systems and other tactical military grade equipment that are unique to the department and not covered by VCS or available in the commercial marketplace. Wherever possible, DoD implements the

requirement to use VCS to avoid duplication. The Department actively encourages DoD to personnel participate in VCS bodies at all levels from policy to technical committees as means for adopting and referencing best practices and inserting technological innovation in weapon systems where practicable.

The Department continues to participate with other Federal Government Agencies in working to implement policies and procedures related to standardization and in particular the use of VCS. In addition, DoD has taken an active role by leading various sub-committees and panels looking into policy issues surrounding participation and use of VCS.

2.   Please list the government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2022. Please note that GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, thus the total number in your agency's report will include all GUS currently in use (previous years and new as of this FY):

This agency reports voluntary consensus standards usage on a categorical basis.