

Department of Defense (DoD) Fiscal Year 2023 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 7,822 VCS approved for use within the Department of Defense. Each of these 7,822 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 implementing 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 5,200 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 2023, we adopted 32 VCS in several areas, including: Soldering, Packing, Packaging, Preservation and Transportability, Human Factors, Electrical, Insulators and Insulating Materials, and Hoses and Flexible Tubing. DoD also canceled 187 military unique documents in that same timeframe and replaced 5 of those military unique items with VCS.

Our commitment to VCS continues to remain steadfast and strong. As an example, over the last several years, the Department of Defense actively been engaged with the National Security Council and other government agencies in developing the National Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technologies. This strategy—which was released in September 2023— will lay the groundwork for strengthening U.S. leadership and competitiveness in critical sectors. It works to especially strengthen our standing within the

international standards arena ensuring U.S. has an integral role to play in the development of international standards which in turn will lead to greater U.S. competitiveness. As stated above, Department has made a strong commitment to participating in the VCS process and using those VCS. This has enabled the Department to ensure we have the capabilities we need while at the same time saving taxpayer money, removing impediments to getting state of the art technologies into our weapon systems, and advancing U.S. economic interests both here and abroad.

2. Please list the government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2023. 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.