

Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2024 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 nation's warfighter in the most efficient, effective, and cost-conscious manner possible while meeting mission objectives. Standards and standardization are essential elements to ensure 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 7,798 VCS approved for use within the Department of Defense. Each of these 7,798 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 however the VCS is not adopted. 664 VCS are cited as normative references in over 5,800 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 (adopted and not adopted) allows DoD to gain access to cutting edge technologies and to be interoperable with our allies and partners.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we adopted 31 VCS in several areas, including: Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Rolled or Cold Finished Bar, Rod, and Wire; Welding, Soldering, and Brazing; Hydraulic Systems; Systems and Software Engineering; Product Support Analysis; and Screw Threads. DoD also canceled 243 military unique documents in that same timeframe and replaced 11 of those military unique items with VCS.

2. Please record any government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) during FY 2024. Please note, GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, and you do not need to report your agency's use of a GUS where no similar VCS exists.

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