



An Overview

United States Standards System
American National Standards Institute
American National Standards Process



Presented by:
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U.S. Standards System definitions



- **Standard:** characteristics, performance, terms
- **Standardization:** blanket term for standards *and* conformity assessment
- **Conformity Assessment:** demonstration specified requirements are met
 - **Certification:** demonstration that a product, process, or person has fulfilled specified requirements (*ongoing maintenance*)
 - **Certificate:** emphasizes learning events and coursework completion (*issued once*)
 - **Accreditation:** third-party, independent, neutral attestation of competence of standards developers, certifiers, etc.
 - ANSI does not accredit people, products, or services

U.S. Standards System

guiding principles



- Standards should meet societal and market needs and should not be developed to act as barriers to trade

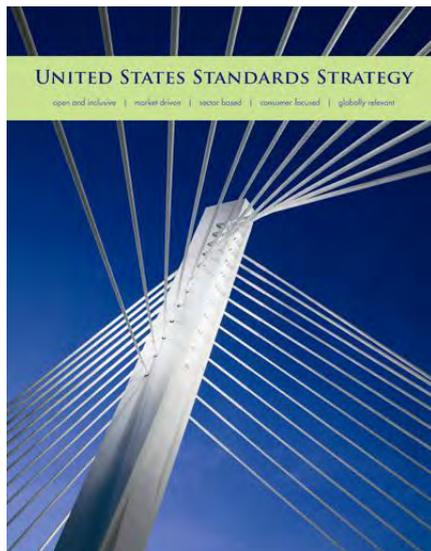
- The U.S. endorses the globally accepted standardization principles of the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement
 - Transparency
 - Openness
 - Impartiality
 - Effectiveness and relevance
 - Consensus
 - Performance-based
 - Coherence
 - Due process
 - Technical Assistance
 - Flexible
 - Timely
 - Balanced



U.S. Standards and Conformity Assessment System

reliable - flexible - responsive

- Market driven
- Flexible and sector-based
- Industry-led and government-supported



This system is designed to . . .

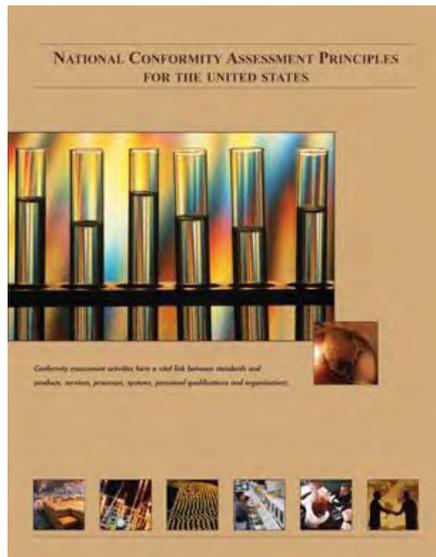
- **Support** a broad range of stakeholder engagement
- **Address** emerging priorities and new technologies
- **Allow** stakeholders to find the solutions that best fit their respective needs

As defined in the *United States Standards Strategy*
www.us-standards-strategy.org

U.S. Standards and Conformity Assessment System

reliable - flexible - responsive

- The National Conformity Assessment Principles (NCAP) for the United States document explains key aspects of compliance verification.



The NCAP is a guidance document that can be considered in conjunction with the *United States Standards Strategy*.

*National Conformity Assessment Principles
for the United States*

www.ansi.org/ncap



About ANSI





- The American National Standards Institute coordinates standards, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States of America
- Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization
- ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer (SDO)



ANSI's mission is to enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and ensuring their integrity.

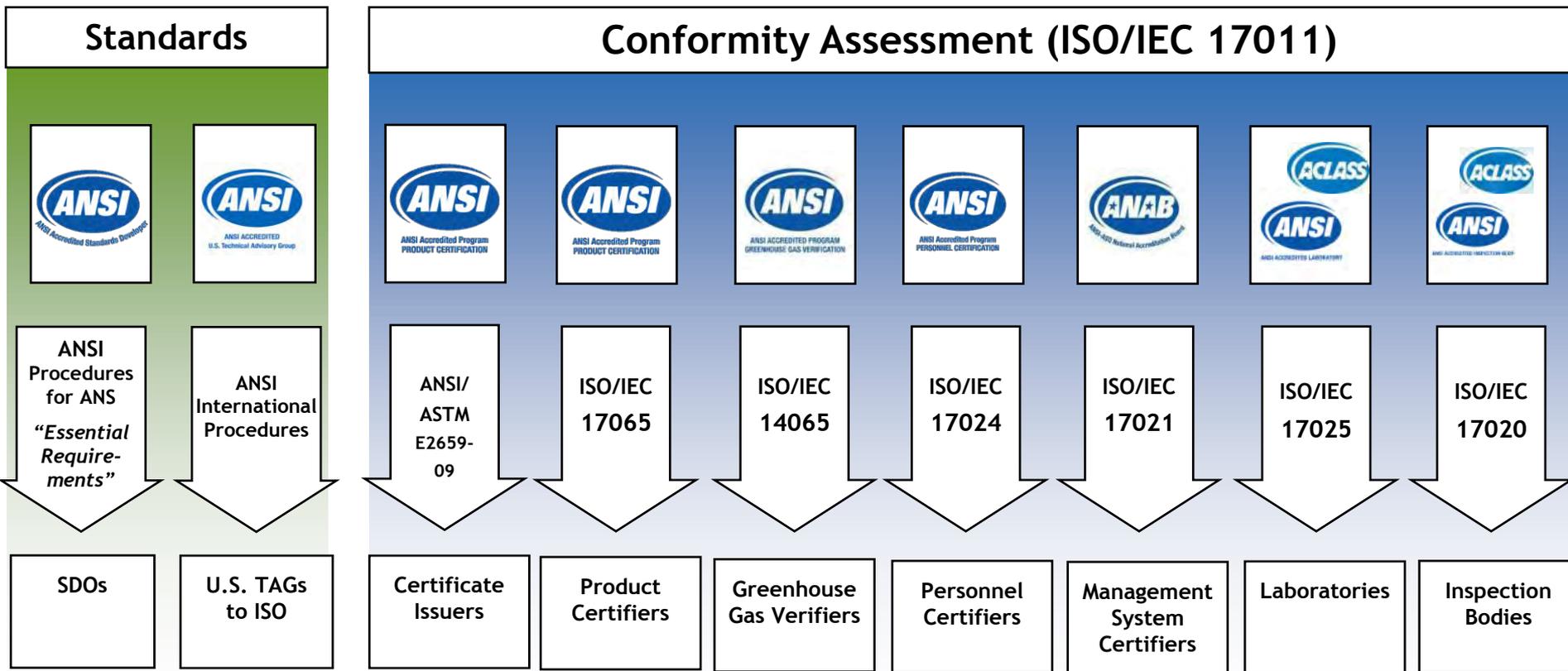




- Represents U.S. globally
- Ensures integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system
- Offers neutral forum
- Accredits standards developers and conformity assessment organizations
- Coordinates partnership between U.S. public and private sectors

U.S. Standardization System

ANSI's accreditation roles and responsibilities



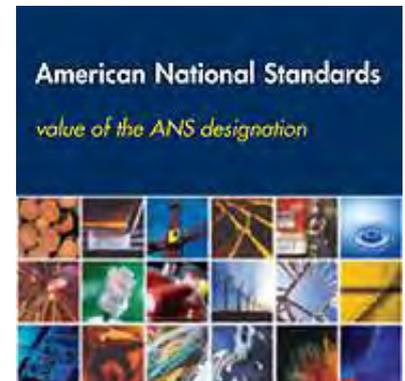


Domestic Standards Program

American National Standards (ANS)



- Currently there are 226 ANSI-accredited standards developers (ASD)
 - Only ASDs may submit standards for approval as ANS
 - Not all standards developed by these organizations are submitted for consideration as ANS
 - There are over 10,000 ANS
 - All ASDs are subject to ANSI's neutral third-party oversight including a routine audit of ANS and an annual compliance review of accredited procedures
- Learn more: www.ansi.org/ansvalue



Why ANSI Accredits SDOs



- Assures ANSI procedures are characterized by openness, due process, and consensus – *ANSI Essential Requirements*
- Adds value to, and safeguards integrity of, national standards
- Ensures willingness to coordinate and cooperate with other ASDs in an effort to minimize conflict and duplication
- Maximizes market and regulatory acceptance

Advantages of Accreditation



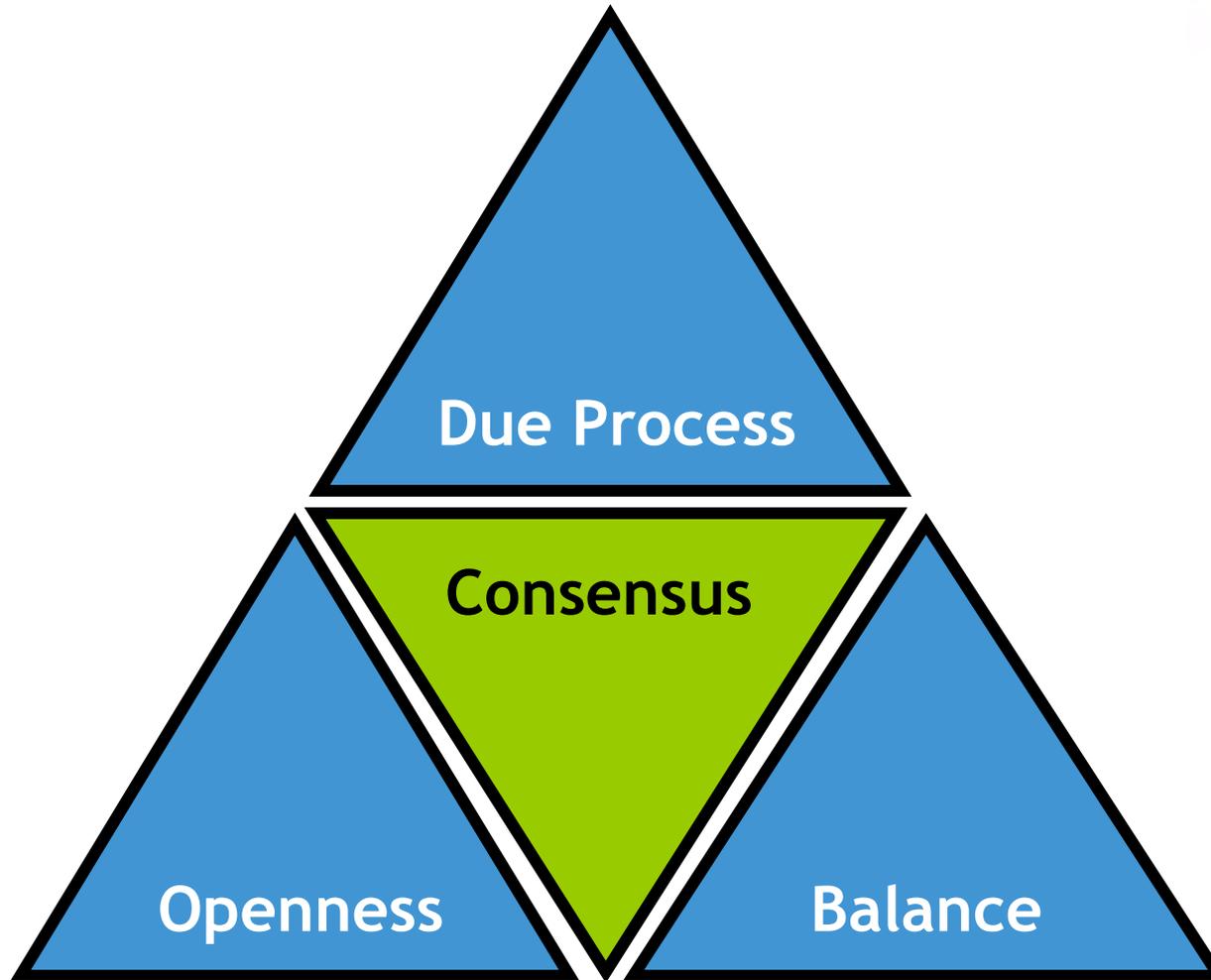
- Must be an ASD to submit a candidate ANS for approval
- Use of ANS designation = credibility, consensus, open standards development process
- Provides some legal insulation: may reduce anti-trust and product liability exposure
- Shorthand to government: *ANSI Essential Requirements* mirror National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) and OMB A119

Responsibilities of Accreditation



- Compliance with *ANSI Essential Requirements* including periodic procedural audits
- Maintenance of American National Standards
- Cooperation with ANSI in standards planning activities
- International coordination, as appropriate

ANS Cardinal Principles



What Is Due Process?



- Any with a direct and material interest has a right to:
 - express a position and its basis
 - have that position considered
 - appeal if adversely affected

- Due process allows for equity and fair play
 - Fairness and consistency are safeguards

What Is Consensus?



- Substantial agreement by directly and materially affected interest categories
- More than a simple majority / numerical determination
- Not necessarily unanimity
- All views and objections must be considered, and an effort be made toward their resolution

What Is Openness?



- All who are directly and materially affected can participate
- No undue financial barriers
- Voting membership is not dependent on organizational membership
- Voting membership not unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications
- Public notice in suitable media required
 - Must give timely notice of new activity (*Standards Action*)
 - Describe purpose of activity clearly
 - More information easy to find / contact information

What's the Difference?

Balance and Lack of Dominance



- **Balance:** Participation from diverse interests shall be sought
 - Outreach to stakeholders required
- **Lack of Dominance:** Accredited procedures provide for safeguarding against the *exercise of undue influence*

ANS Development Cycle – Overview



PINS Announcement;
PINS Deliberation



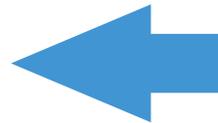
Public Review;
Consensus vote



Consideration of
Views & Objections;
Recirculation;
Complete SDO Appeals



ANSI Appeals;
Publication



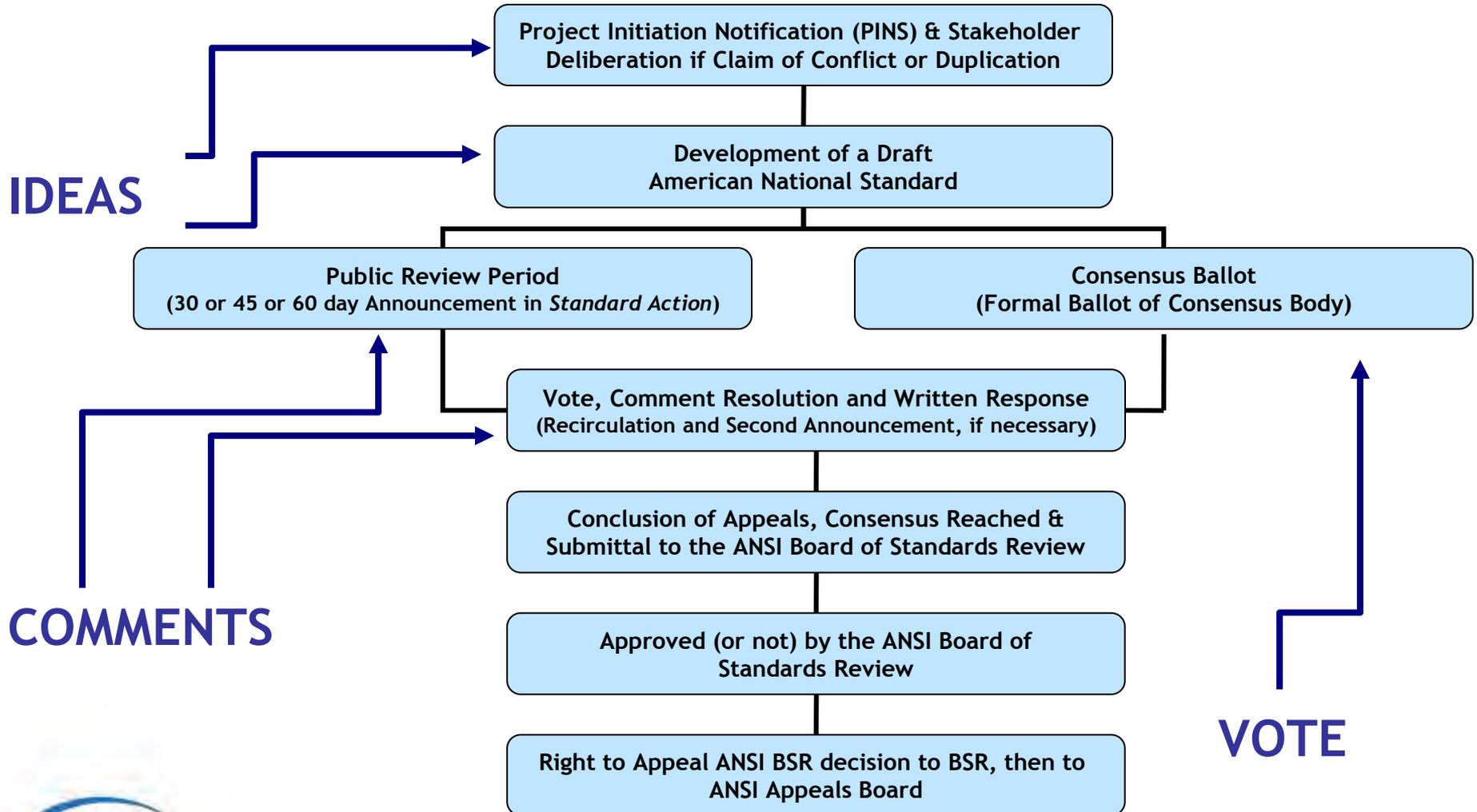
Approval



Review of
Due Process
Requirements



ANS Development Cycle – Detailed



Publication & Maintenance



- ANS are typically published **within 6 months** of approval
- ANS are required to be maintained on at least a 5-year basis
 - Some are open for revision on a continuing basis
 - Some are open on a more frequent cycle, for example, 2 or 3 years
- All ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers have a mechanism for the submission and consideration of proposed revisions or new work items

Openness and Participation



- The ANS process is open to all directly and materially affected parties
- The opportunity to participate in some meaningful way is required
- Participation is encouraged
 - Get involved early, let your voice be heard
 - Each standards developer has unique procedures – understanding them will make you a more effective participant



Participation Options



- Ways to participate
 - Voting Membership on a consensus (voting) body
 - Public Review Commenter
 - Drafting group (for some ASDs)

- ANSI Standards Action: www.ansi.org/standardsaction
 - Announces new projects, drafts for public review, many committee meetings, contacts at standards developers

- Who to call: www.ansi.org/asd

Online Resources



- ANSI Online: www.ansi.org
- ANSI Accreditation Programs: www.ansi.org/accreditation
- Public Review – ANSI Standards Action: www.ansi.org/standardsaction
- NSSN Search Engine for Standards: www.NSSN.org
- ANS Value: www.ansi.org/ansvalue
- ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers: www.ansi.org/asd
- Free training: www.standardslearn.org
- Questions: psa@ansi.org



for more information

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