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Eighteenth Annual Report on Federal Agency Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and Conformity Assessment

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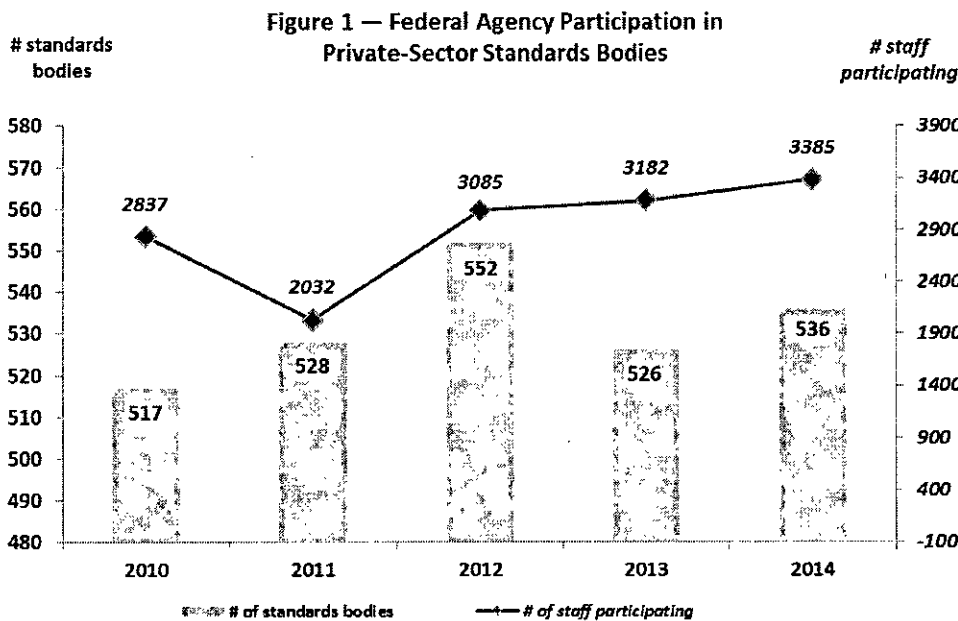
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The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) presents this summary report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with OMB Circular A-119 and Public Law 104-113, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA). As required by Section 9 of the Circular, this report, prepared by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), describes activities related to the use of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) reported by 24 Federal agencies during fiscal year (FY) 2014. These Federal agencies, listed in Appendix A, fulfilled the reporting requirements of both the OMB Circular A-119 and Section 12 (d) (3) of the NTTAA by providing information on their activities related to the use of voluntary consensus standards in regulation and procurement.

In FY 2014, no agencies reported issuing a new government unique standard (GUS) in lieu of VCS. One GUS was discontinued, resulting in a total of 52 GUSs used in lieu of VCS on record since reporting began in 1997. As noted in Appendix A, Federal agencies reported 221 new uses of VCS, up from the 206 new uses reported in FY 2013. The Department of Energy (DOE) accounts for the majority (53 %) of the reported new uses, with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) next at 20 %. Federal agencies reported substituting 11 VCS for GUSs. As illustrated by Figure 1, agencies reported 3,385 personnel participating in 536 standards



organizations, representing a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. In this reporting cycle, 12 of the agencies commented on the effectiveness of Circular A-119 policy in sustaining the commitment of the U.S. government to the activities of the private-sector-led VCS system.

Several trends over the past 18 years indicate the effectiveness of the NTTAA and Circular A-119 in encouraging a heightened awareness and acceptance of private-sector standards by Federal agencies:

1. continued adoption of VCS;
2. sustained review of opportunities to replace existing GUSs with VCS;
3. enhanced participation in the VCS development process;
4. minimized development of new GUSs in lieu of VCS.

These trends suggest that Federal agencies are more apt to consider using standards developed by the private sector to meet their regulatory and procurement needs.

Summary

This report fulfills the annual reporting requirements of both the NTTAA and OMB Circular A-119. Since the inception of this report over 18 years ago, Federal agencies report an overall low use of GUSs (52) in lieu of existing VCS. This reflects the success of the NTTAA in encouraging agencies to use VCS in lieu of GUSs and to engage with the private-sector standards system to address government needs.

In accordance to its coordination role as defined in the NTTAA and OMB A-119, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) continues to assist Federal agencies and their stakeholders with standards and conformity assessment information, program support, guidance, and policy concerns. NIST hosts <http://standards.gov>, offering ongoing practical guidance, tools such as the searchable Standards Incorporated by Reference database, and information needed by agencies to implement the NTTAA successfully as well as a means to report standards activities as required by the NTTAA and OMB Circular A-119. Agency individual reports may be found at <https://standards.gov/NTTAA/agency/index.cfm?fuseaction=agencyReports.main>.

**Appendix A: FY 2014 Federal Agency Information on Participation/Adoption of
Voluntary Consensus Standards Activities per OMB Circular A-119**

Agency ***	GUS used in lieu of VCS	VCS substituted for GUS	New VCS used this year	Employee participation in VCS bodies	VCS bodies with agency participation
USDA	1	0	1	22	26
DOC	0	0	0	577	135
DoD	*	11	18	n/a	91
DOE	0	0	117	427	107
ED	0	0	0	24	4
HHS	1	0	4	1220	159
DHS	0	0	45	91	35
HUD	2	0	0	9	8
DOI	0	0	0	166	87
DOJ	0	0	8	82	15
DOL	13	0	0	65	22
DOT	4	0	8	98	47
TRES	0	0	0	1	14
EPA	23	0	0	150	14
GSA	3	0	9	10	19
NARA	0	0	0	16	9
NASA	*	0	0	149	25
CPSC	2	0	5	38	10
FCC	0	0	0	28	13
FTC	0	0	0	0	0
NRC	2	0	6	192	16
GPO	0	0	0	9	5
ACCESS	1	0	0	7	12
NSF	0	0	0	4	1
Totals	52	11	221	3,385	**

*** Agencies reporting on a categorical basis per OMB Circular A-119, Section 12.**

**** Total not provided - a VCS body may have participation from more than one federal agency.**

*** Access Board (ACCESS); Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); Department of Agriculture (USDA); Department of Commerce (DOC); Department of Defense (DoD); Department of Education (ED); Department of Energy (DOE); Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Department of Justice (DOJ); Department of Labor (DOL); Department of the Interior (DOI); Department of the Treasury (TRES); Department of Transportation (DOT); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Federal Communications Commission (FCC); Federal Trade Commission (FTC); General Services Administration (GSA); Government Publishing Office (GPO); National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); National Science Foundation (NSF); Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).