



# **ANSI Accreditation Process for Product Certification Programs**

**International Workshop on Mutual  
Recognition**

**Agreements for Telecommunications  
Equipment**

**National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Gaithersburg, MD U.S.A.**

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# ANSI's Roles and Responsibilities



- to accredit U.S. Standards Developers, U.S. Technical Advisory Groups and Conformity Assessment programs
- to ensure integrity of the U.S. voluntary consensus standards system
- to provide regional and international access
- to offer a neutral policy forum
- Accredit certification programs

# ANSI and Conformity Assessment

- ANSI provides conformity assessment accreditation programs
  - specifically designed to demonstrate the competence of bodies that certify products or personnel in accordance with requirements of an international standard
- Support ISO CASCO efforts to create and promote conformity assessment standards requirements in support of the equivalence of CA processes and results



# Overview / History

- ANSI Accreditation Program issued the first accreditation in 1972
- ISO/IEC Guide 65 accreditation criteria
- Recognized by NIST/NVCASE since June 2000 to accredited TCBs
- Accreditation of Telecom Cert Bodies started in the year 2000
- Recognized by NIST/NVCASE since October 2003 to Accredited TCBs in accordance with Industry Canada Requirements under APEC TEL MRA -*IDA Singapore {In Process}*
- Recognized by Safe Quality Food Institute to operate the pilot accreditation program to accredited CB's on Food Safety

# What is the Goal of ANSI's Accreditation program?

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Results of ANSI accredited programs accepted as satisfying customer and regulatory requirements worldwide

# Who Writes the “Rules”?

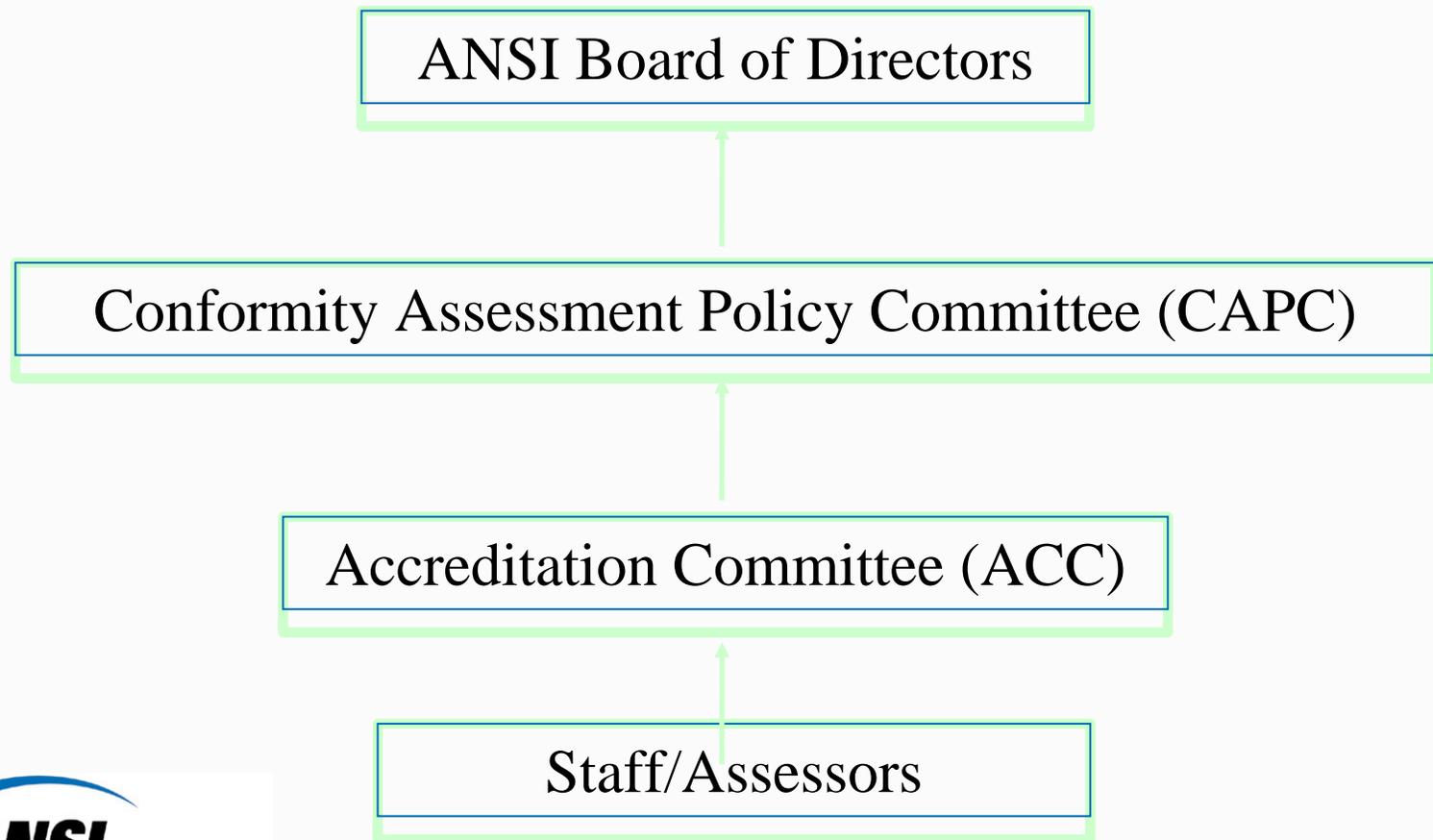
- ***ISO*** - International Organization for Standardization Member Bodies participating from more than 100 Countries
- ***ISO/CASCO*** - Conformity Assessment Committee Participants from 80 Member Bodies

In conjunction with the International  
Electro technical Commission - IEC

# Accreditation Program Elements

- Accessible to all stakeholders
- Mechanism for program review and revision
- Promotion of program and participation nationally and internationally
- Public Notice and Information
- Use International Guides and Standards

# ORGANIZATION



# Accreditation Requirements

- ISO/IEC 17011 – Conformity Assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
- ISO/IEC Guide 65 General Requirements for bodies operating product certification Systems
- References:
  - ISO/IEC 17025
  - ISO/IEC 17020
  - ISO/IEC guides related to accreditation and product certification
  - Relevant product standards

# Top Level ANSI Accreditation Documents

- **ANSI-ACP-CA-001:** Policy and Criteria for Accreditation of Certification Programs
- **ANSI-ACP-CA-002:** Manual of Operations for Accreditation of Certification Programs
- **ANSI-ACP-CA-003:** Operating Procedures of the Accreditation Committee

# ANSI-ACP-CA-001 (Policy and Criteria for Accreditation of Certification Programs)

1. Requirements for ANSI as Accreditation Body
2. Requirements for Assessment

ISO/IEC 17011 – Conformity Assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

# ANSI-ACP-CA-002 (Manual of Operations for Accreditation of Certification Programs)

1. This Manual of Operations contains detailed procedures for accrediting programs under the ANSI Policy and Criteria for Accreditation of Certification Programs (CA-001). It sets forth the duties and obligations of the parties involved and the necessary inspection and monitoring procedures required to ensure initial and continuing compliance with provisions of the accredited programs, ANSI Policy, and other requirements contained in this document.

# ANSI-ACP-CA-003 (Operating Procedures of the Accreditation Committee)

## Responsibilities

- Policy matter formulation relating to accreditation program operations
- Review and approval of assessment criteria and procedures
- Reviewing the process of evaluation
- Supervising the implementation of accreditation program policies
- Render decisions on granting, maintaining, extending, reducing, suspending and withdrawing accreditation

# Accreditation Committee (ACC)

## ■ Membership

- Conformity Assessment 6
- Industry 6
- Government 4
- Consumers 2

# Accreditation Process

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- Preliminary Letter of Application
- Application

# Accreditation Process

## Application

- Completed application and documentation
- Review of acceptability of application
- Announcement application - Standards Action
- **Evaluation Task Group**
- Provide Initial Assessment Plan
- Preparation for Assessment
- **Initial Assessment/Witness Assessment**

# Accreditation Process

Documents reviewed by ETG

- a) Preliminary Evaluation Report;
- b) Plan for Initial Assessment ;
- c) Initial Assessment;
- c) ANSI Assessment Report;
- d) Witness Assessment Report on Certification Body;
- e) Non-conformity/Corrective Action Record;
- f) Report of the Evaluation Task Group;

# ISO/IEC Guide 65 Requirements

- Organization - *Legal Entity, Management, etc.*
  - Conflict of Interest/Impartiality
  - Personnel - *Qualifications, Selection, etc.*
  - Process - *Application, Evaluation, etc.*
  - Technical - *ISO/IEC Guides 23, 17025, 17020 and 62*
  - Other - *Records, Complaints, Appeals, etc.*
- (Next Step: Implementation of IAF Guidance of ISO/IEC Guide 65)***

# Accreditation Process

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- Assessment Report
- Accreditation Committee Renders Decision
- 2-year cycle -- Surveillance & Reassessment

# Accreditation Decisions

- Resolution of Non-Conformities
- Evaluation Task Group Report
- Accreditation Committee Renders Decision
  - Appeal Decision
- Announcement of Accreditation
- Surveillance (Continuing Accreditation)

# Accredited Certification Programs

- TCB Programs
  - 17 current accreditations
  - 2 applications pending
  
- Other Program scopes
  - 18 current accreditations
  - 12 applicants in process

# Surveillance Assessment

To ensure

- Continuing compliance with ANSI requirements
- Evaluate the implementation and verify the effectiveness of corrective actions initiated to resolve non-conformities found previously
- ISO/IEC 17011 Clause 7.11 Reassessment and Surveillance

# Corrective Action & Continual Improvement

- Complaints Regarding Accredited Certification Programs
- Complaints Regarding the ANSI Accreditation Program
- Public Notice and Information
- Modification to Accreditation Criteria and Procedures
- Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information

# Appeals Process

- Procedure for Appeals
- Consideration by Accreditation Committee
- Appeals must be filed within 30 days of decision
- Accreditation Committee creates appeals panels
- Accreditation Committee renders a decision
- Higher appeals to ANSI Appeals Board possible

# Confidentiality and Disclosure

- All Information Gained Through Accreditation Activities is Treated as Confidential
  
- Certain outputs/decisions of the Accreditation process are Considered Public Information
  - Application Status
  - Scope
  - Accreditation Status (Suspension)

# ANSI's Role in the TCB Program

1. ANSI is recognized as AB
  - NIST/NVCASE Recognition
    - ISO/IEC Guide 61 *General Requirements for Assessment and Accreditation of Certification/Registration Bodies*
    - *Implementation of IAF guidance on ISO/IEC Guide 61*
    - *FCC regulations/requirements/IC Industry*  
*Canada - IDA Singapore {In Process}*

# For more information:

American National Standards Institute

## Headquarters

1819 L Street, NW

Sixth Floor

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202 . 293.8020

Fax: 202.293.9287

E-mail: ([rfigureir@ansi.org](mailto:rfigureir@ansi.org))

([www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org))

