



An Introduction:

American National Standards



- The American National Standards Institute leads and coordinates standards development, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States of America.
 - Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit membership organization
 - ANSI is not a standards developer or certifier
- With respect to American National Standards
 - ANSI is the only accreditor of standards developers (a precondition for submitting standards for approval as *American National Standards*)
 - ANSI is the final level of appeal

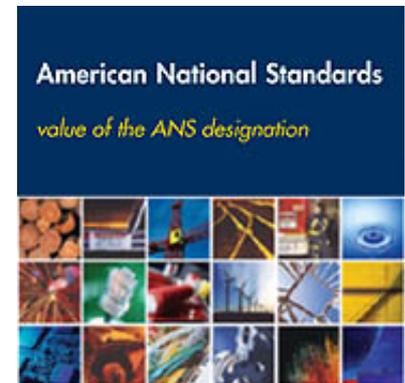


- *ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards (ANSI Essential Requirements)*
 - Current edition is 2012; update to be issued January 2013
 - Procedures that govern the American National Standards process
 - *ANSI Essential Requirements* address:
 - Accreditation of standards developers and maintenance of accreditation requirements including mandatory routine procedural audit
 - Due process requirements: openness, balance, lack of dominance, consensus and appeals provisions
 - Approval and maintenance of standards as American National Standards
 - American National Standards are Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS) as defined in OMB A-119 *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities*

American National Standards (ANS)



- 228 ANSI-accredited standards developers (ASD) (www.ansi.org/asd)
 - Only ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer may submit standards for approval as ANS
 - Not all standards developed by these organizations are submitted for consideration as ANS (decision is the developer's to make)
 - Approximately 10,200 ANS exist
 - 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
 - ANSI hears appeals related to standards that are approved as ANS (not in development)
- Learn more: www.ansi.org/ansvalue



Accreditation vs. Approval as an ANS



- Accreditation by ANSI of a standards developer's procedures means that the documented process satisfies *ANSI's Essential Requirements*
 - However, the process and resulting document are only subject to ANSI oversight and due process safeguards if a standard is ultimately approved as an American National Standard
- Accredited procedures vary in approaches, but core ANSI requirements must be addressed
 - Participants should obtain and be familiar with a developer's accredited procedures and the *ANSI Essential Requirements*
- ASDs are accredited based on a scope of activity; however, scopes are not exclusive
 - Coordination related to scope and within the ANS process is encouraged
 - Issues related to conflict and duplication relative to a specific proposed ANS are properly addressed during the standards development process

ANSI Requirements



■ ANSI Requires:

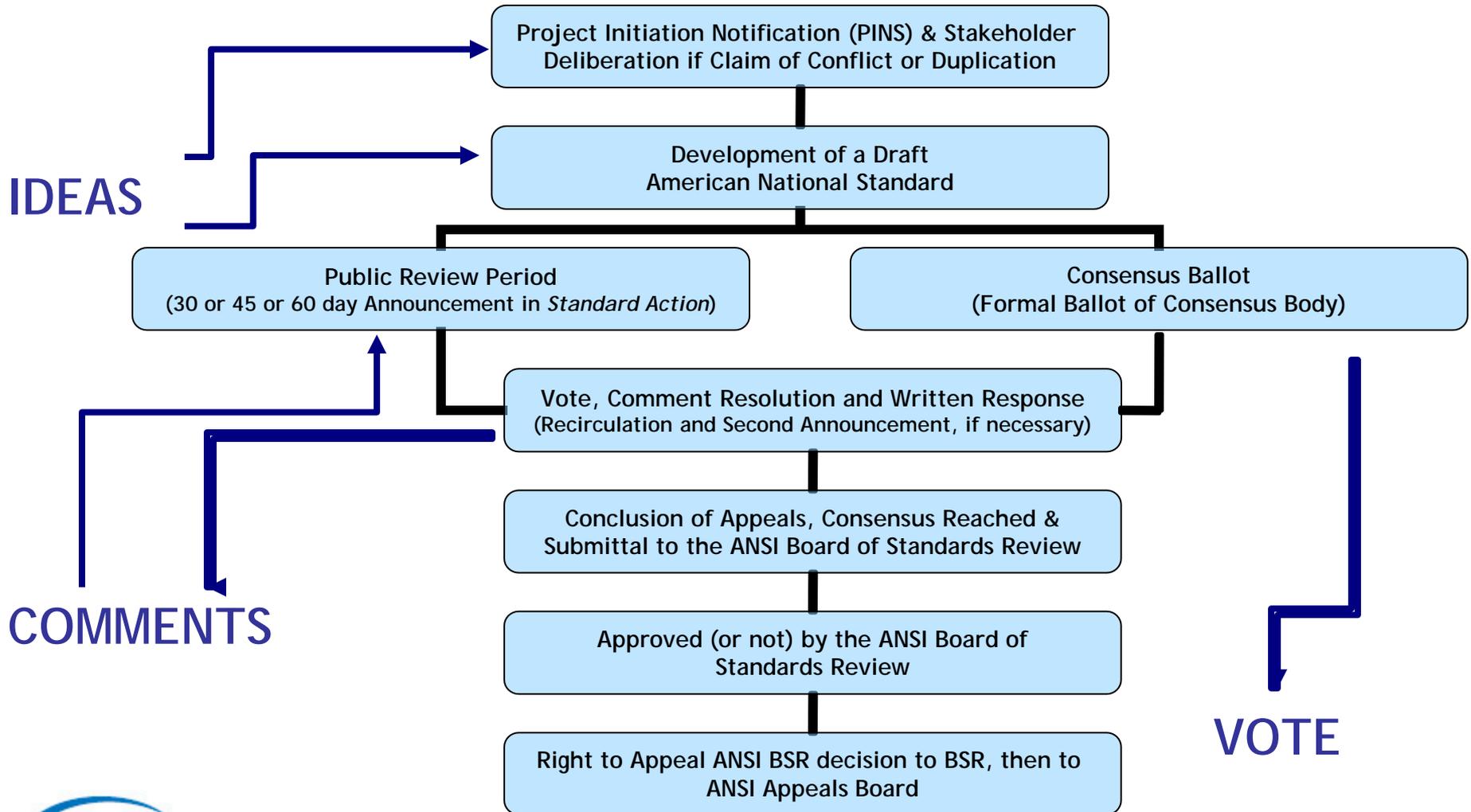
- Ability for any materially affected party to apply for consensus body (voting) membership (cannot require membership in sponsoring ASD or other org)
- Documented outreach to achieve balance on the voting group (consensus body)
- Public notice at key points, including via ANSI Standards Action (www.ansi.org/standardsaction)
- Opportunity for public comment (may be submitted by any interested party)
- Consideration of timely comments and written responses to negative votes and public review comments
- Consensus body vote and reconsideration opportunity, in light of unresolved negative votes and comments
- Right to file procedural appeal at standards developer level, then if standard is approved as an ANS, the right to file a procedural appeal at ANSI (2 levels)

ANS Areas of Flexibility



- ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer Procedures Vary:
 - ANS consensus body application and approval process
 - Process for initiating a proposed ANS
 - Systems for notification and development, e.g., online, webinars, in-person meetings, etc.
 - Ability to contribute to the drafting process (ANSI does not require that developers start with a blank sheet of paper, but any proposed document is subject to all ANSI's consensus requirements.)
 - ASD can also process an existing standard as a proposed ANS
 - Development of responses to comments (committee, staff, task group, etc.)
 - Number and duration of ballots to approve drafts
 - Number and levels of approval of projects and standards
 - Appeals model (levels, via phone, in-person, etc.)

ANS Development Cycle



Steps can be undertaken concurrently or not, depending on an ASD's procedures. ASD can start with a draft or a document already in existence.

Online Resources

- ANSI Online: www.ansi.org
- ANSI Essential Requirements: www.ansi.org/essentialrequirements
- ANSI Accreditation Programs: www.ansi.org/accreditation
- Public Review – ANSI Standards Action: www.ansi.org/standardsaction
- ANS Value: www.ansi.org/ansvalue
- ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers: www.ansi.org/asd
- Free training: www.standardslearn.org
- Questions: psa@ansi.org
- Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ANSI_PSA



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