

NIST

Standards Coordination Office



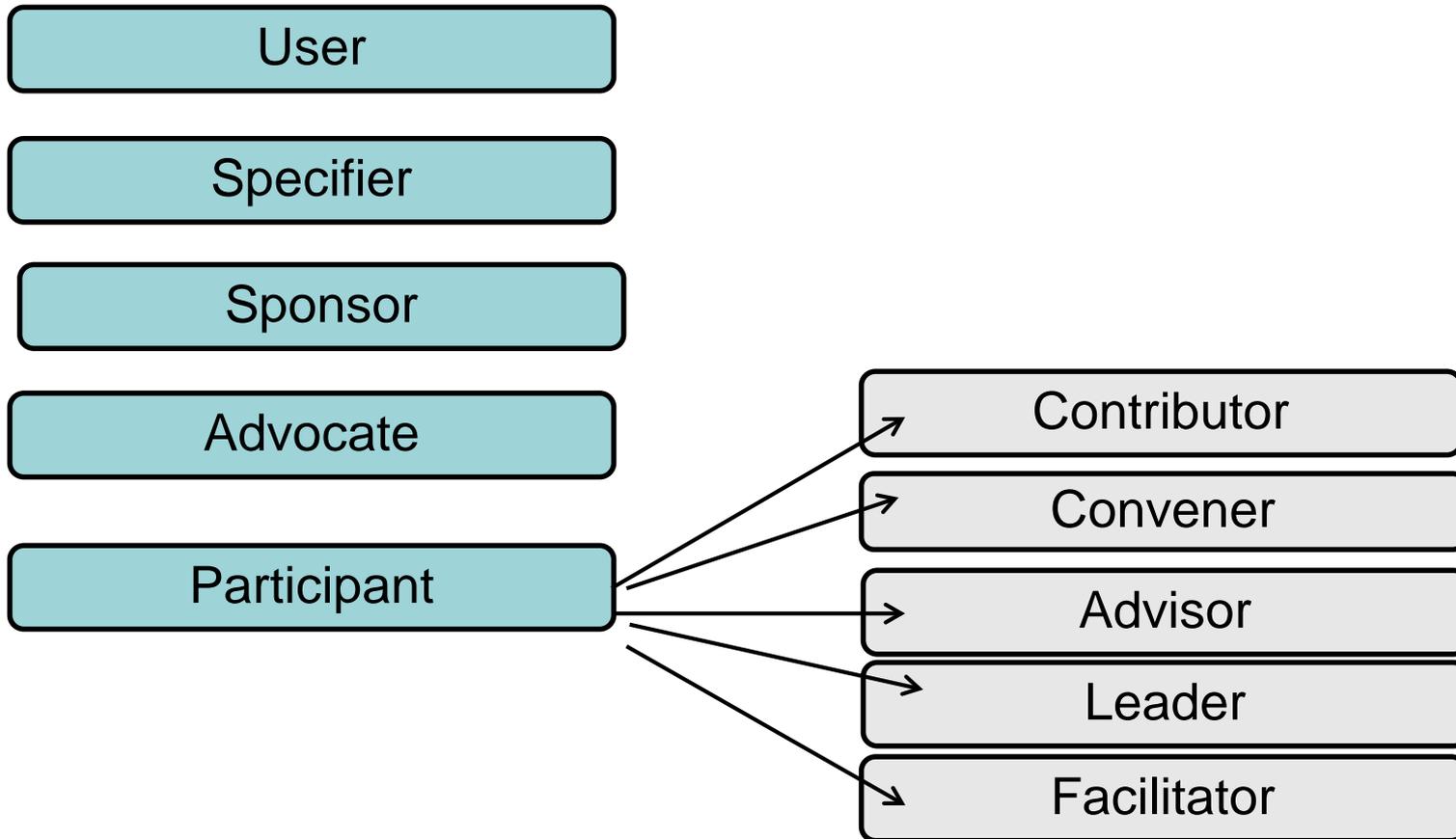
Current Federal Policy on Standards

June 9, 2014

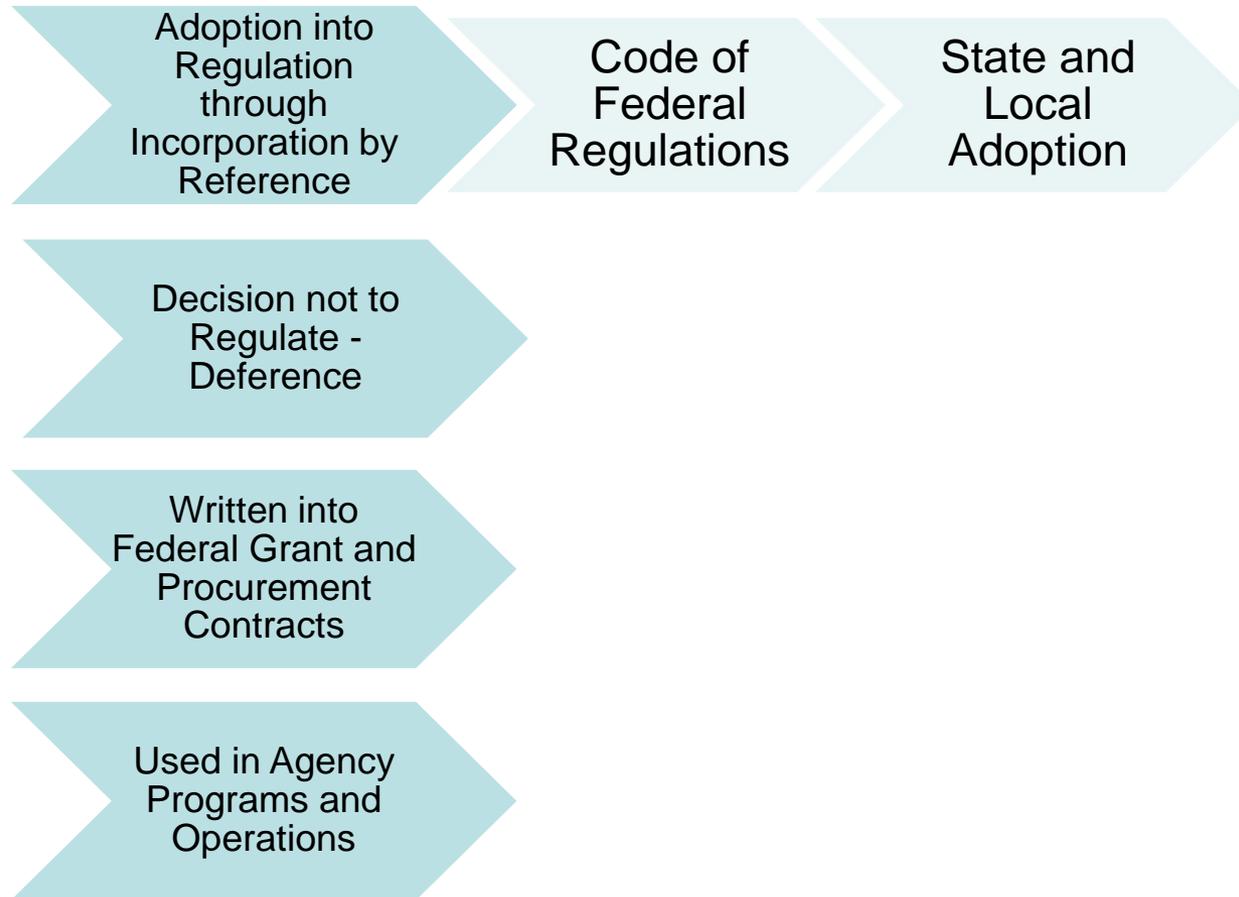
Today's Discussion

- US Government Roles in the Standards System
- Legislation and Policies that Direct Federal in Standards Activities

USG Roles in Standards System



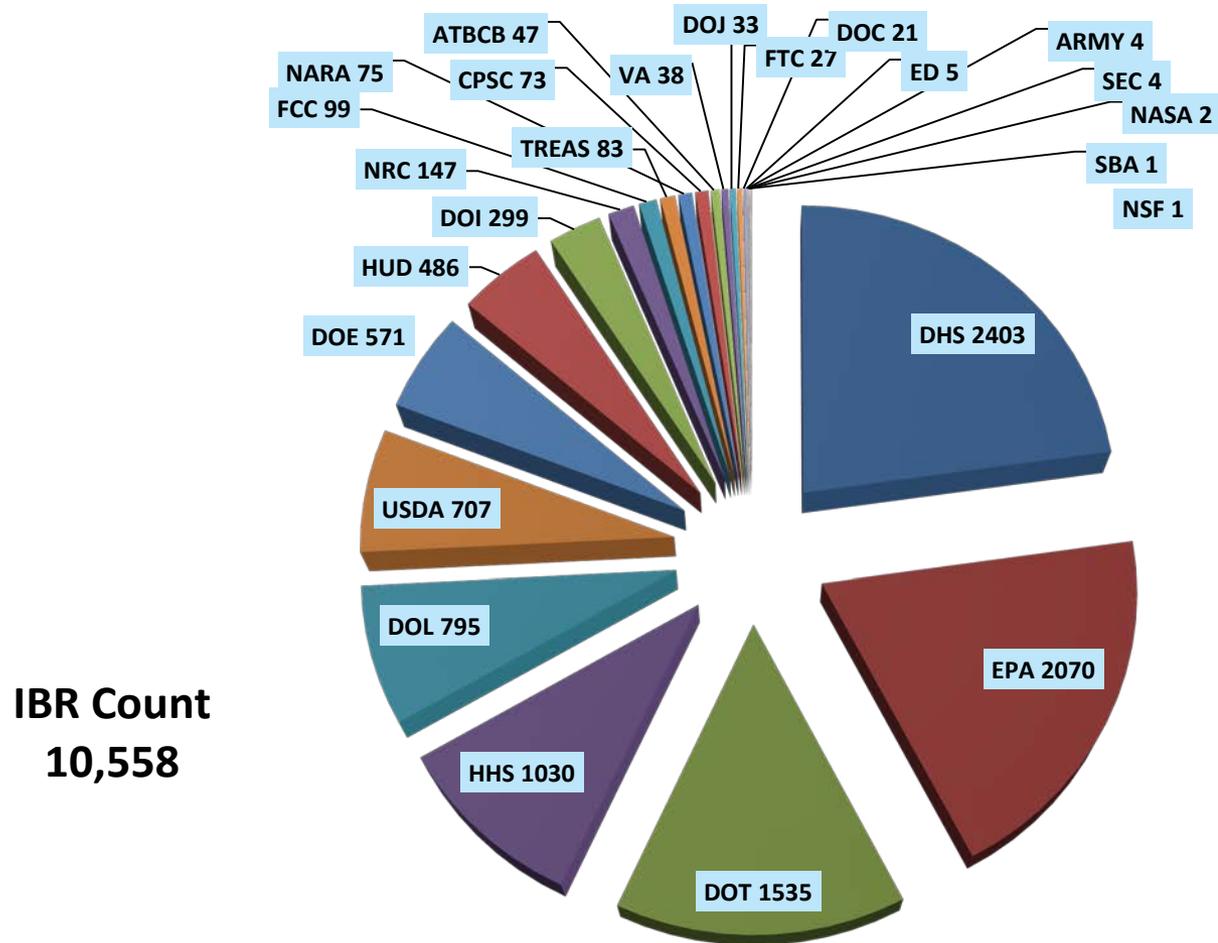
Ways Voluntary Standards Are “Used” by Government



Government Role as Standards User



Government Role as Standards User – Adoption through Incorporation by Reference



Incorporation by Reference – FDA Bottled Water Rule

Title 21 - Food and Drugs

Volume 2 Part 165 – BEVERAGES



Section 3) Physical quality. Bottled water shall, when a composite of analytical units of equal volume from a sample is examined by the method described in applicable sections of “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater,” 15th Ed. (1980), American Public Health Association, which is incorporated by reference...(i) The turbidity shall not exceed 5 units. (ii) The color shall not exceed 15 units....”

Government Role as Standards User – Adoption State and Local Adoption of Model Codes



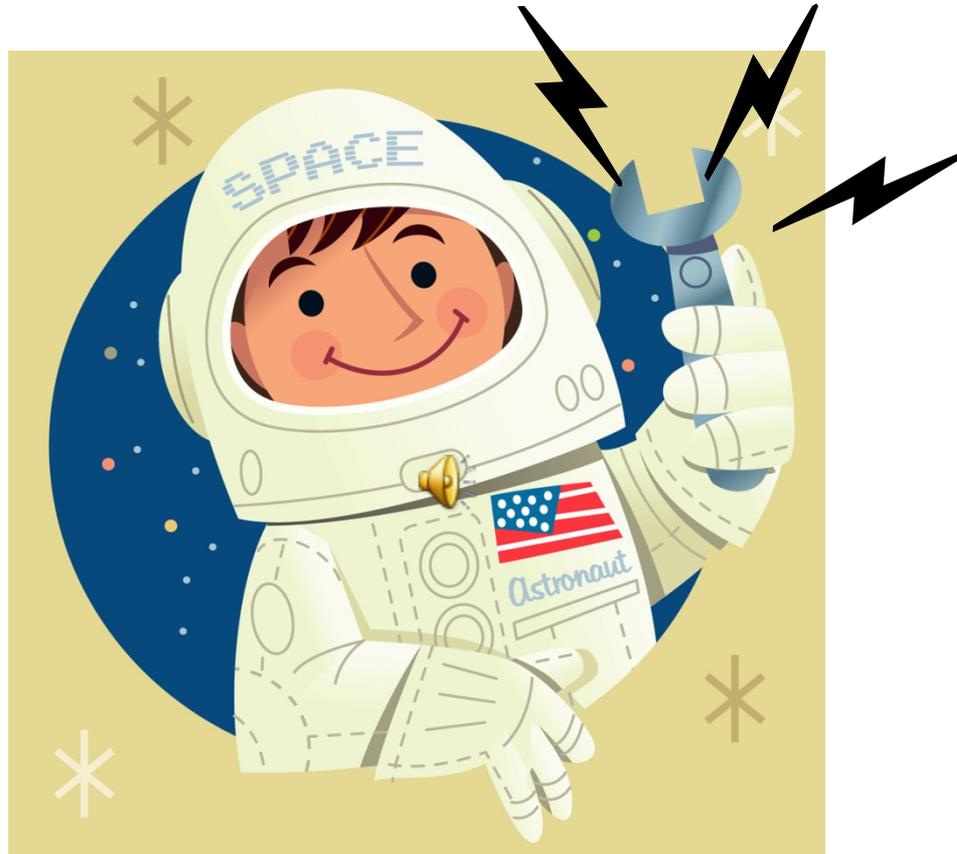
Government Role as Standards User – Deference

**Residential Gas Water
Heater Standard**

**ANSI Z21.10/
CSA 4.3-2004 (R2009)**



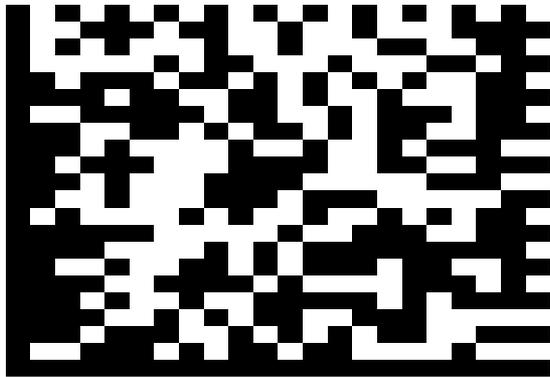
Government Role as Standards User – Procurement



Example: NASA requires garments to meet standards developed by the Electrostatic Discharge Association

Government Role as Standards User – Procurement - DoD

Unique Item Identifiers



MIL SPEC 130 accepts:

- **ATA CSDD**
- **ISO/IEC 15434**
- **AIAG B-4, AIAG B-17**
- **MH10.8.7**
- **CEA-706, CAGE**
- **GS1**
- **NASA-STD**

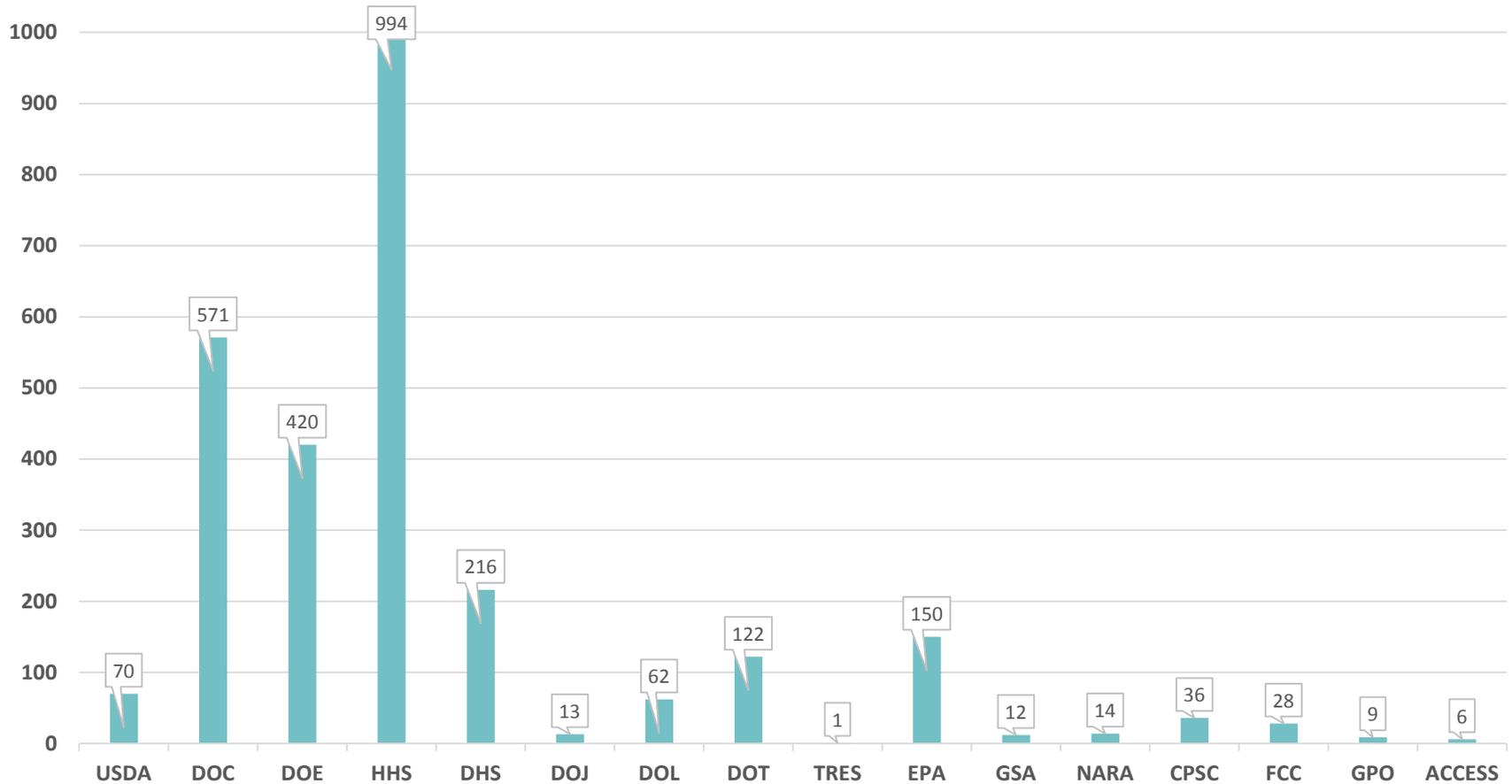
Government Role as Participant – Standards Development

Government staff participate in the standards development process:

- Contribute technical expertise/resources
- Ensure government needs are being met



Number of Federal Agency Staff Participating in Standards Setting Organizations in 2013



Current Legal and Policy Framework

- National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) - 1996
- OMB Circular A-119 – Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities – 1998
- Trade Agreements Act of 1979
- Agency Specific Laws, Rules, and Policies

OMB Executive Orders

- E.O. 13563 – Improving Regulation & Regulatory Review
- E.O. 13609 – Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation
- E.O. 13610 - Identifying and Reducing Regulatory Burdens

There are standards-related elements in each of these Orders

More Recent Policy Documents

- Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities, Background and Proposed Policy Recommendations, NSTC (October 2011)
- Policy Principles for Federal Engagement in Standards Activities to Address National Priorities, White House Memo (January 2012)

The NTTAA Section 12(d)(1)

“... all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments.”

The NTTAA Directs Federal Agencies

- Look to the private sector first for standards to fulfill mission
- Participate in the development of private sector voluntary standards
- Consult with the private sector voluntary consensus standards bodies
- Annually report on exceptions of use to OMB through NIST

OMB Circular A-119 – Policy Guidelines on Implementation of the NTTAA

- Establishes policies on Federal use and development of voluntary consensus standards and on conformity assessment activities
- Revised in 1998 to be consistent with, and reinforce, the NTTAA

Federal Agencies Need to Coordinate

OMB Circular A-119 [Section 15.b.(3)]

“Ensuring, when two or more agencies participate in a given voluntary consensus standards activity, that they coordinate their views on matters of paramount importance so as to present, whenever feasible, a single, unified position and, where not feasible, a mutual recognition of differences.”

Goals of NTTAA and OMB A-119

- Eliminate cost (of developing standards)
- Decrease the cost of goods and burden of complying with agency regulations
- Promote efficiency and economic competition through harmonization of standards
- Further the reliance on the private sector to supply Government needs
- Enhance collaboration with the private sector on standards that serve national needs

Federal Agency Responsibilities under NTTAA & Circular

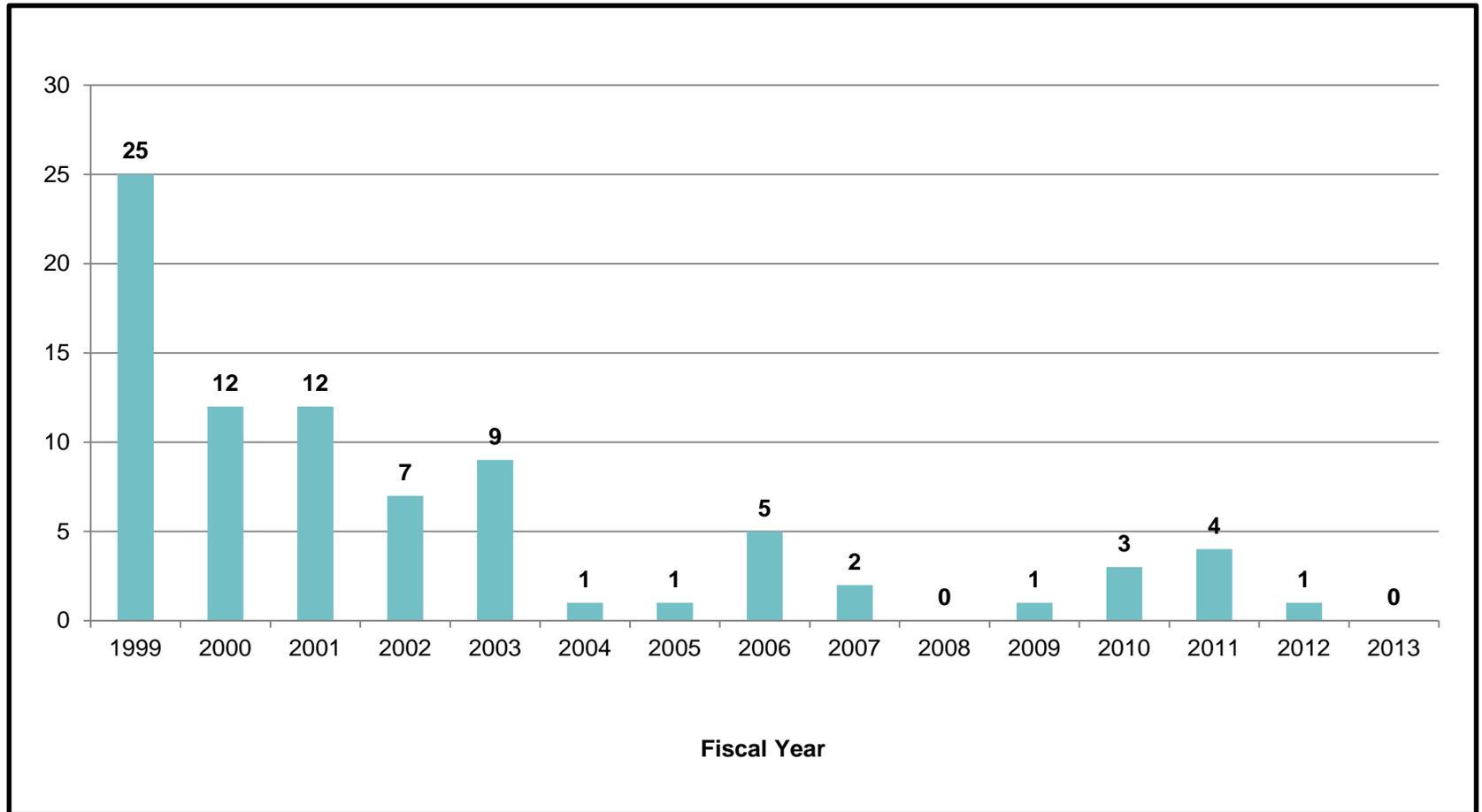
- Ensure agency compliance with NTTAA and the Circular
- Appoint a Standards Executive to serve on the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP)
- Provide annual report to OMB through NIST

NTTAA Has Been Effective

Since reporting began in 1997:

- **3,579** private sector standards have replaced Government-unique standards
- **91** Government-unique standards have been reported
- Only **53** government standards remain in lieu of private sector standards under the NTTAA

New Government Unique Standards 1999-2013



GSA Exception



Government Unique Standard:

**Federal Specification FF-L-2937 –
Combination Lock, Mechanical
(Incorporated: 2006)**

Voluntary Standard:

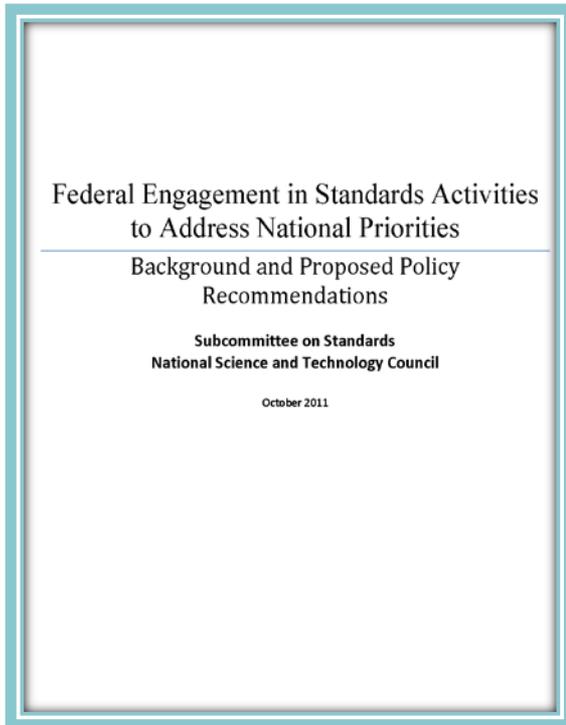
UL 768 Combination Locks

Rationale:

The lock covered by the GUS is used for the protection of classified information and weapons. The UL specification did not meet identified government needs for dialing tolerance and bolt end pressure.

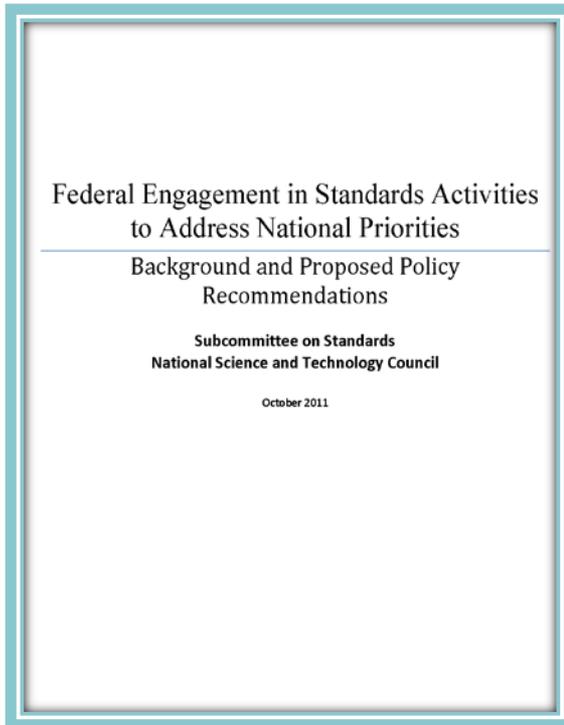
NSTC SoS Framework Document

- Reflects extensive public and agency input and engagement
- Articulates USG role in the U.S. standards system
- Outlines legal and policy framework relating to USG participation in and use of standards
- Addresses developments since 1998 revision of OMB Circular A-119
- Includes six policy recommendations for federal agencies

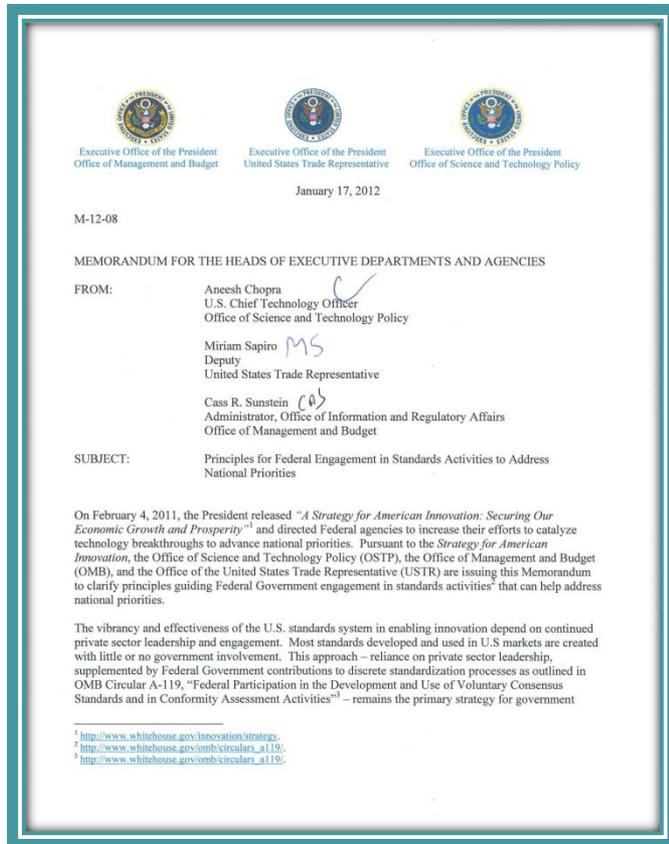


NSTC SoS Policy Recommendations

1. Recognize that in most government-private-sector standards engagements, the primary role of the government will continue to be that of active contributor to the private-sector-led process.
2. Identify the context(s) where Federal government leadership / coordination may be appropriate.
3. Outline objectives for government engagement in standardization activities to support national priorities.
4. Enhance effective coordination and participation by agencies.
5. Clarify agency responsibilities with respect to the full range of standards setting alternatives.
6. Lay out key principles underpinning voluntary standardization processes.



White House Memo for Heads of Agencies



- Establishes principles for federal engagement in standards activities to address national priorities
- Reinforces innovation focus and private sector role in the standardization system
- Outlines strategic objectives for federal agencies
- Recognizes the growth of ICT technologies and changes in the standardization system in the past decade
- Emphasizes the global nature and broad impact of standardization and standards policy

Review

- Federal Government is an active player and user of the private sector led standards system in the US.
- Standards are used in diverse ways to support agency missions.
- Various laws, policies and guidance documents provide us a framework in which to operate.
- NIST's Standards Coordination Office and www.standards.gov are resources available to you.
- Stay posted for changing policy documents, particularly changes coming to OMB A-119.

Thank You

Questions?

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<http://www.standards.gov>