

# NIST

Standards Coordination Office



## Standards Setting: The View from the Inside

June 9, 2014

# Today's Discussion

- A look at the standards landscape, the organizations, and the people
- The process: what is really going on?
- Facts of Life for Standards Setting and a few Tips for success
- Sizing up a standards community

Standards  
development  
is not for  
sissies!



# Standards Development Landscape

- A technically oriented social process
- A competitive environment
- Engages thousands of professionals

# Standards People

71%  
>50 yrs  
of age

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49% BA  
40% >BA

***Education***

81% > 16  
15% 6-15  
6% 1-5

***Yrs. Work  
Experience***

# Influence is the #1 Reason to Get Involved

## **Professional Benefit**

- Influence
- Improved safety
- Improved product performance
- Market Intelligence:  
Early awareness of  
new/revised requirements

## **Personal Benefit**

- Professional development
- Networking
- Recognition/resume building

# Standards Setters are Diverse

Academics

Administrators

Architects

Association members

Consultants

Consumers

Engineers

Government enforcers

Government reps

Lab managers/technicians

Labor organizations

Lawyers

Manufacturers

Marketing professionals

Non-profit interest groups

SDO employees

Installers

Producers

R&D people

Retailers

Retirees

Scientists

Suppliers

SDO	Scope	Standards	TCs	Subcommittees/ Working Groups	Volunteer Members	Revenue
<b>AAMI</b>	Quality systems, risk management; biocompatibility; sterility; electrical and sw related to medical devices	200 standards	>100 TCs and WG	230 committees: Domestic and international	7000	\$15 million (2012)
<b>ASTM Interntl.</b>	Characteristics and performance of materials, products, systems & services	12,400 standards	143	1,888	>30,000 volunteers from 150 countries	\$39 million (2012 annual report)
<b>ISO</b>	All disciplines except electrotechnical and telecom	19,977 standards	224	3483 technical bodies	163 member countries	\$15 million (2012 ISO financials)

# How the Process Works: Key Concepts in Standards Development

## **Openness**

All stakeholders may participate; no single interest may dominate

## **Transparency**

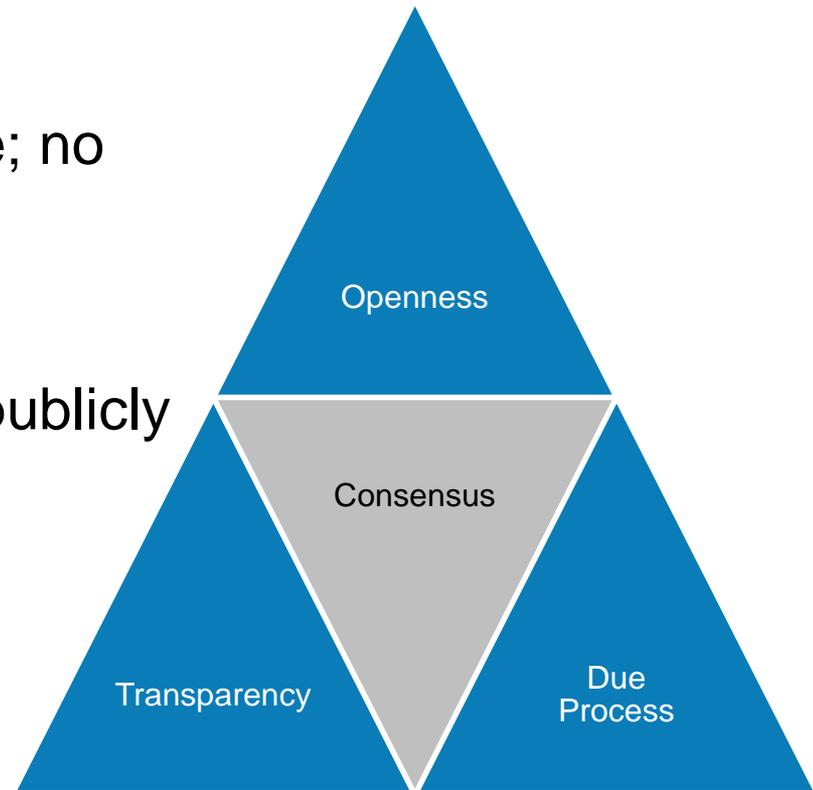
Records/ processes open and publicly available

## **Due Process**

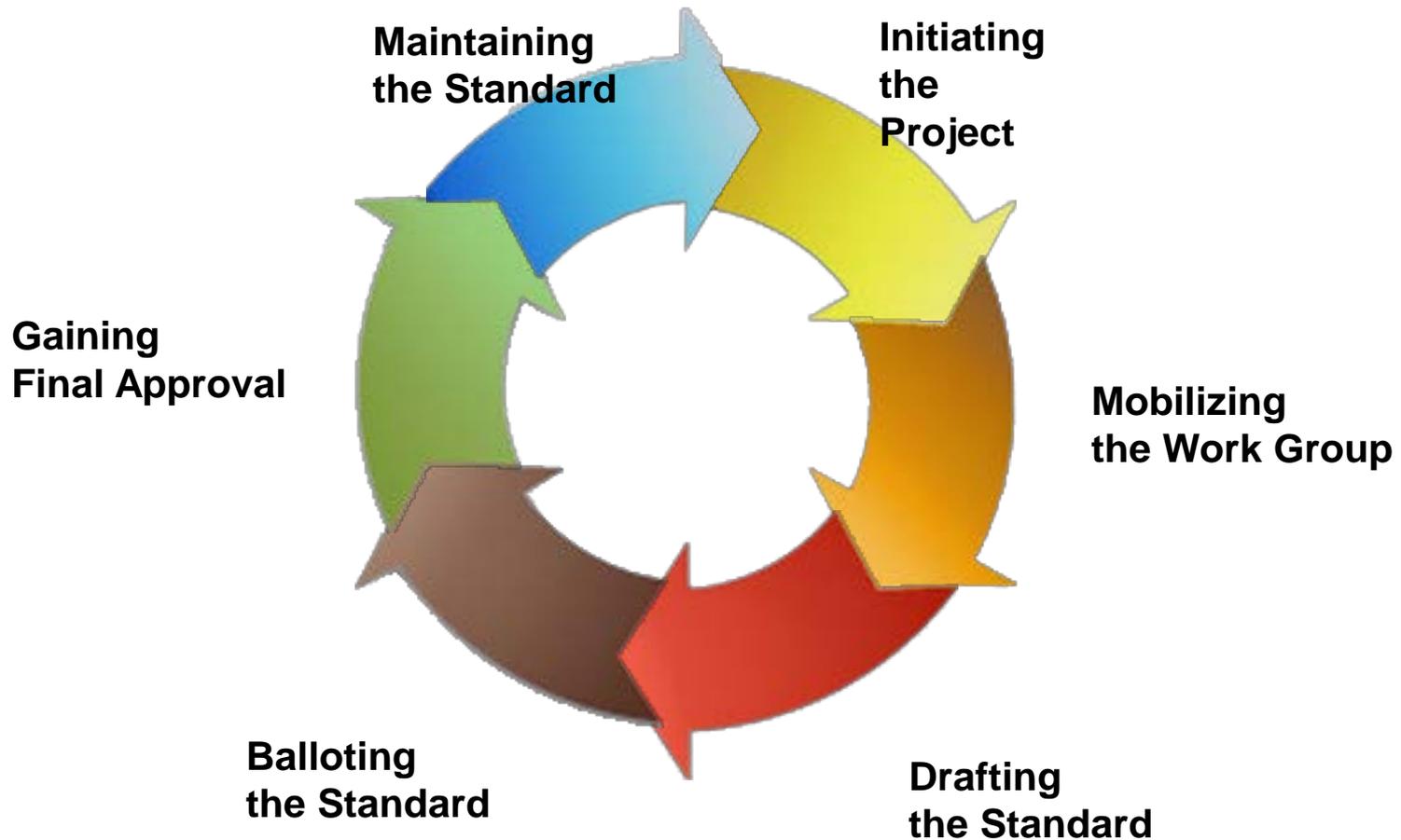
Appeals mechanism

## **Consensus**

Decisions require more than a majority but not unanimity



# Standards Development Life Cycle



# Committee Leadership

- Chair of the Standards committee
- Committee vice-chair
- Secretary
- Staff liaison

# But, what's really going on around the table?

Brainstorming

Collaborative authoring

**Competitive collaboration**

Compromising

Consensus building

Data gathering/fact finding

Disagreeing

Editing

Environmental scanning

Information sharing/transfer

Modeling

**Negotiation**

Planning

Problem defining

Problem solving

Proposal developing

Requirements clarification

Requirements setting

Resolving conflicts

Socializing

Strategizing

Visioning

Writing

# How to Succeed as a Standards Setter

- Show up – attend the meetings
- Do your homework – prepare
- Follow-through on assignments
- Collaborate - Build alliances with other committee members
- Bring facts to the table and demonstrate your expertise

# The Facts of “Standards Life”

- Know the process, Know the rules
- There will never be enough time
- Be a good communicator – keep your boss and co-workers in the loop

# OMB Circular A-119 Provides Guidance on USG Coordination

*“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.”*

# Myths About Standards Development

- You'll get to travel to exotic places and see the world
- Standards are boring

# Life Outside the Committee is as Important as What Goes on Around the Table



# Factors to Consider

<b>Governance</b>	Is it egalitarian or do a few big players dominate?
<b>Finances</b>	Financially sound? Is this group in the game for the long-term?
<b>IPR policy</b>	What is the IPR policy? Will it deter key players?
<b>Timeliness</b>	What is the typical timeline for standards development? How long does the process take?
<b>Maintenance of Standards</b>	Does the process maintain the state of the art adequately?
<b>Disseminating the standard</b>	What are the distribution mechanisms and costs?

## Factors to Consider (con't)

<b>Reputation</b>	Is this group well-respected?
<b>Competition</b>	Are there competing standards groups?
<b>Membership</b>	Are there potential allies/opponents?
<b>Key Players</b>	Are key players (potential adopters) missing?
<b>Timing</b>	How long will the development process take?
<b>Process</b>	What is the typical timeline for standards development? What is the required level of consensus? Consensus requirements: can they be used to delay the process?

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# Review

- Standards development is not for the **unprepared**

# Resources to draw on . . . .

- NIST's Standards Coordination Office
- NIST's Standards Information Center – NCSI
  - 301-975-4040
  - [ncsci@nist.gov](mailto:ncsci@nist.gov)
- [www.standards.gov](http://www.standards.gov)

Thank You

## Standards: The View from the Inside

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