



## Fundamentals of Standards and Conformity Assessment

Training for all levels of government

NIST offers interactive workshops and seminars for federal, state, and local government agencies on the fundamentals of standards, conformity assessment, and related topics.

As standards have become an increasingly vital component of many government agency programs, the need for discussion on important topics in standards setting and use has also grown. Agencies need to be familiar with the laws, regulations and guidance that collectively direct Federal agencies to participate in the development and use of standards to carry out policy objectives and meet their agency's mission. Understanding the standards development process and being prepared to effectively participate are essential.

### Educating agencies on the role of standards

Events are tailored to meet the specific needs of the requesting agency, and are free of charge. This training informs participants on topics such as:

- **Standards fundamentals:** U.S. standards system, standards terminology, key players in the U.S. and the international standards development community.
- **Agency participation:** Scope and implementation of various policies and guidance documents that frame federal participation in standards setting
- **Standards development:** Government engagement in standards setting, understanding the standards development process and how to effectively participate.
- **Conformity assessment:** Definition, use, and importance of conformity assessment (e.g. testing, certification, inspection, etc.), how it can be used in voluntary and regulatory settings and to help ensure health, safety or environmental conditions are met.
- **Trade agreements:** Role of standards and conformity assessment in global commerce and trade agreements.
- **NIST resources:** Available to provide information on the evolving standards and regulatory landscape.

## Standards Simulation Provides Interactive, Real-Life Learning

*Setting Standards: A Simulation Exercise in Strategy and Cooperation in Standardization Processes* is an exercise in which participants negotiate standards for a fictional, next-generation technology.

The simulation explores the challenges and opportunities in standards development, focusing on the politics as well as the analytical and practical skills needed to successfully engage in standards negotiations. It is an excellent skill-builder for standards development veterans and newcomers alike. While the simulation is a game, many describe it as "serious fun." It is designed to be dynamic, demanding and even frustrating – just like real life!



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### Testimonials

*"This was the best and most relevant training I've taken in years. I learned more in one day than I would have learned in years on the job."*

*"Role-playing helped me learn the standards development process quickly."*

*"Provides a true-to-life feeling of what happens in standards committees."*

*"This was a great chance to get hands-on experience in a real world setting."*