



Global Standards Information



Standards Development and Use: NIST and USG Roles and Responsibilities

Today's Discussion

- Legislation and Policies that Direct Federal Standards Activities
- NIST Policies and Guidelines

Current Legal and Policy Framework

There is no overarching “standardization law” in the United States. The legal framework for USG use and participation is defined in a series of statutes, regulations and administrative orders.

- NTTAA
- OMB A-119
- Trade Agreements Act of 1979
- Agency Specific Laws, Rules, and Policies

National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)

- Directs Federal agencies with respect to their use of private sector standards and conformity assessment practices.
- Objective is for Federal agencies to use private sector standards, wherever possible, in lieu of creating government-unique standards.
- Directs NIST to bring together Federal agencies, as well as State and local governments, to achieve greater reliance on voluntary standards and decreased dependence on in-house standards.

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

Federal agencies, consistent with agency missions, need to coordinate their positions. OMB Circular A-119 [Section 15.b.(3)] emphasizes the need for interagency coordination and cooperation in voluntary standards development:

“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

How the USG Engages in Standards

- USG plays many roles – user, specifier, participant, facilitator, advocate, technical advisor/leader, convener, provides funding
- Supports regulation, procurement and policy activities, and incorporates into voluntary programs
- Provides citizen services, enables connectivity between commercial and government IT systems, supports financial tools and incentives
- Competition, anti-trust, IPR, consumer protection laws

NIST's Role in Standards

- Provide Technical Expertise
- Unbiased Participant and Trusted Resource
- Policy/Coordination Role
- Leadership Role in National Priority Areas
- Advocate for the U.S. System

Federal participation in numbers...

Federal agencies are active in more than 500 standards developing organizations (SDOs), sending more than 3,000 personnel to participate in standards activities.

At NIST, 385+ staff participate in over 1300 committees in about 115 SDOs and 106 staff serve as Chairs/Co-Chairs.

NIST Committee Memberships in SDOs

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| ASTM (327) | ASME (43) |
| ISO (92) | SEMI (39) |
| IEEE (80) | IETF (30) |
| INCITS (75) | CIE (13) |
| ASHRAE (48) | NFPA (21) |
| IEC (45) | ACI and ASA (18 each) |

Important Resources for NIST Staff

NIST Administrative Manual

Section 3.02 Membership in Standards Bodies and Professional Organizations

Appendix A – NIST Policy on Voluntary Standards

Appendix B – Sample Memo for Request for NIST Institutional Membership in a Standards Developing Organization

List of Approved Standards Developing Organizations

Guidelines for NIST Staff Participating in Voluntary Standards Developing Organizations' Activities

You Represent NIST

Excerpt from the NIST Administrative Manual, Subchapter 3.02, MEMBERSHIP IN STANDARDS BODIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

“Those who participate in activities related to the professional basis of their employment carry an inseparable identification with NIST. Consequently, they have a fundamental obligation to know and act in conformity with established policies and program objectives of NIST, DoC, and the Administration.”

Participation Does Not Imply Endorsement

Excerpt from the NIST Administrative Manual, Subchapter 3.02, MEMBERSHIP IN STANDARDS BODIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

“Participation in an organization or body does not necessarily connote NIST agreement with, or endorsement of, the decisions reached by the organization or body or the standards developed by voluntary standards bodies.”

NIST Policy on Voluntary Standards

Excerpt from the NIST Administrative Manual, Subchapter 3.02, MEMBERSHIP IN STANDARDS BODIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

“NIST manages its standards activities strategically by setting priorities for voluntary standards activities appropriate to their overall NIST mission and by allocating staff resources effectively.”

Implementation of NIST's Policy on Voluntary Standards

1. NIST and OUs include voluntary standards activities in overall strategic planning and track progress
2. OUs annually evaluate relevance of on-going and prospective standards activities and commits to participating in the development and use of pertinent, voluntary standards as a key means of transferring NIST research
3. Performance Plans identify relevant voluntary standards activities and communicating key technical and policy issues to colleagues and management.

Implementation of NIST's Policy on Voluntary Standards (con't)

4. NIST values and rewards participation in standards activities and provides mechanisms for recognition of effective activity
5. NIST provides leadership and support to facilitate more effective coordination of the voluntary standards and conformity assessment activities of the federal, state and local governments and the private sector

Know NIST's Position on Major Policy Issues

Excerpt from the [Guidelines for NIST Staff Participating in Voluntary Standards Developing Organizations' Activities](#)

“You should be familiar with NIST’s positions on major policy issues and, if necessary, be prepared to articulate official positions. In most instances, NIST staff participate in aspects of standards development that are closely related to their technical expertise. Nevertheless, issues related to general governmental policy or sensitive issues may arise, particularly in higher-level committees. NIST participants should never express personal opinions on significant policy issues since they might be construed to be official NIST policy. Seek help and advice of your OU management as well as the SCO on policy and procedural matters.”

Keep Management Informed

Excerpt from the [Guidelines for NIST Staff Participating in Voluntary Standards Developing Organizations' Activities](#)

“You should keep your supervisor informed of significant development, both technical and policy, that occur at committee meetings. In addition, certain “high-impact” issues should be brought to the attention of your OU management and the SCO Director.”

Update the SCPD

Guidelines for NIST Staff Participating in Voluntary Standards Developing Organizations' Activities

- Standards Services Group maintains the NIST Standards Committee Participation Database (SCPD)
- NIST management is responsible for NIST staff maintaining their standards participation data in the SCPD
- We are currently looking at ways to update/redesign the database

More on the NIST Guidelines...

- Ethical Obligations and Potential Antitrust Liability
- Consider International Standardization
- Keep Records
- Promote the Metric System, Energy Efficiency, and Public Health and Safety
- Encourage the Use of Performance Standards
- Attend Training Programs
- Recognize Standards Work

Recognition of Standards Work

NIST POLICY ON VOLUNTARY STANDARDS

NIST annually presents the Edward Bennett Rosa Award to recognize outstanding achievement in or contributions to the development of meaningful and significant engineering, scientific, or **documentary standards** either within NIST or in cooperation with other Government agencies or private groups.

***The award consists of an engraved plaque
and a \$5,000 honorarium.***

Thank You

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