

ANSI'S FUNCTION IN THE VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS SYSTEM

The American National Standards Institute serves as the clearinghouse for coordination of voluntary standards as American National Standards in the United States of America.

The voluntary standards system in the United States consists of a large number of standards developers that write one or more national standards. Among them are professional societies, trade associations, and other organizations. The participants in the system are the thousands of individuals, companies, other organizations (e.g. labor, consumer, and industrial), and government agencies who voluntarily contribute their knowledge, talent and effort to standard development and who are directly and materially affected by voluntary consensus standards.

Many standards developers and participants support the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as the central body responsible for the identification of a single consistent set of voluntary standards called American National Standards. ANSI approval of these standards is intended to verify that the principles of openness and due process have been followed in the approval procedure and that a consensus of those directly and materially affected by the standards has been achieved. ANSI coordination is intended to assist the voluntary system to ensure that national standards needs are identified and met without conflict in their requirements or unnecessary duplication.

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