



American National Standards Institute

Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards

Approved by the ANSI Board of Directors,
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Foreword

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

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 with a set of standards that are without conflict or unnecessary duplication in their requirements.

ANSI is the U.S. member of nontreaty international standards organizations such as the International Organization for

Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) through the United States National Committee, the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT). As such, ANSI coordinates the activities involved in U.S. participation in these groups.

The National Policy on Standards for the United States and ANSI's plan for its implementation, as well as experience gained from the application of the previous edition of the ANSI Procedures for Management and Coordination of American National Standards (December 5, 1974, Revised March 31, 1977), contributed to the development of these procedures that provide criteria, requirements, and guidelines for coordinating and developing consensus for American National Standards.

The Procedures for the Development and Coordination of American National Standards were approved by the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute on March 26, 1982. A subsequent revision of the provisions on interpretations of American National Standards was approved by the Board of Directors on March 30, 1983. A further revision was approved by the Board of Directors on September 9, 1987, and provided updated references, refinement of the canvass procedures, and the addition of new information pertaining to Standards Planning Panels, Standards Advisors, draft standards for trial use, substantive changes, and commercial terms and conditions.

A revision approved by the Board of Directors on September 9, 1993 added four new Annexes, "Policy on Reaffirmation of American National Standards", "The Three Methods of Consensus", "Procedures for the Synchronization of the National and International Standards Review and Approval Processes" and the "Metric Policy." It also incorporated a number of clarifications.

An additional revision was initiated as a result of the review by the Blue Ribbon Panel of the American National Standards Board of Directors. This review identified a number of areas, particularly with respect to the criteria for approval and the appeals process, where revisions would more accurately and more appropriately reflect the role of the Institute. The ability to grant authority to qualified accredited standards developers to apply the American National Standard designation without Board of Standards Review approval was also proposed by the Blue Ribbon Panel. These revisions were subject to public review, review by the Executive Standards Council and the Board of Standards Review and were approved by the Board of Directors on March 22, 1995. The availability of the ability to apply the ANS designation without BSR review is not intended to replace the current three methods of accreditation. In addition, standards developers who have been granted this ability may still submit standards for approval by the BSR.

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