



Globalization of Credentials

The Vision: One Certification Accepted Worldwide

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Credentialing Accreditation Programs





Overview of the American National Standards Institute





- The American National Standards Institute leads standards, conformity assessment, and related activities in the United States of America.
- Founded in 1918, ANSI is a private, non-profit organization.
- ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer.





ANSI's mission is to enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and ensuring their integrity.





The ANSI Federation represents more than **125,000 companies and organizations** and **3.5 million professionals** worldwide

Members of the ANSI Federation include . . .

- Academia
- Individuals
- Government
- Manufacturing
- Trade Associations
- Professional Societies
- Service Organizations
- Standards Developers
- Consumer and Labor Interests
- and many more



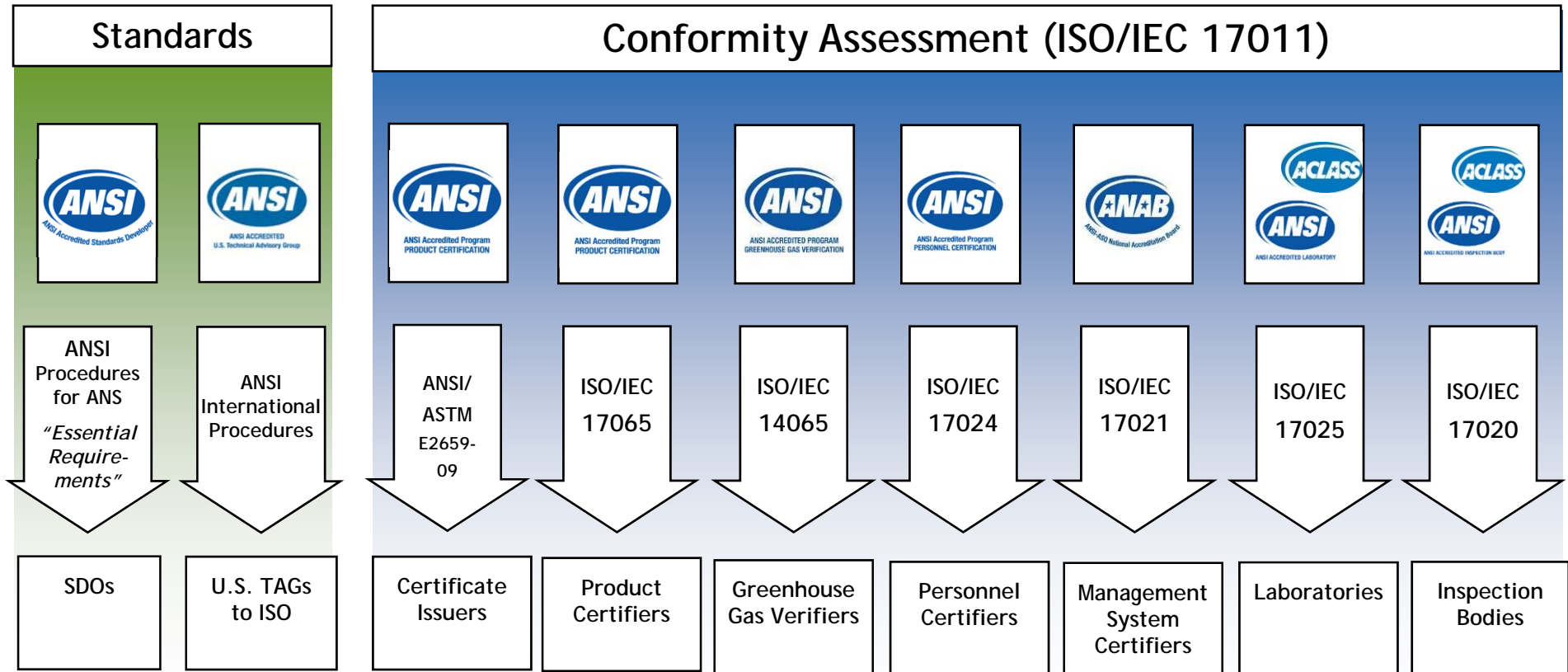


- Represents U.S. globally
- Ensures integrity of the standards and conformity assessment system
- Offers neutral forum
- Accredits standards developers and conformity assessment organizations
- Coordinates partnership between U.S. public and private sectors



U.S. Standardization System

ANSI's accreditation roles and responsibilities





The Value of Third-Party Accreditation



U.S. Standards System definitions



- **Standard:** characteristics, performance, terms
- **Standardization:** blanket term for standards *and* conformity assessment
- **Conformity Assessment:** demonstration specified requirements are met
 - Certification: demonstration that a product, process, or person has fulfilled specified requirements (*ongoing maintenance*)
 - Certificate: emphasizes the learning process and coursework with outcomes verified by an examination that learning has occurred (*issued once*)
 - ➔ – Accreditation: third-party, independent, neutral attestation of competence of standards developers, certifiers, etc.
 - ANSI does not accredit people, products, or services



Why Is Third-Party Review Important?



- Helps consumers choose quality programs and has “market value”
 - It prevents buying the *credential to nowhere*
 - Publically lists those organizations that have been reviewed
- Provides accountability to the public
 - Mechanism for complaints

Why Is Third-Party Review Important for Credentialing of People?

- Certificates and certifications for persons are used as “quick” ways of preparing individuals for jobs
 - Most prevalent method in the U.S. to prepare workers
 - Often not coordinated with industry - thus a “disconnect”
- Validates what is advertised
- Requires an organization to go through a self-assessment
- Facilitates continuous quality improvement
- Assures the public that a standard has been met



ANSI's relationships to Global Organizations





- U.S. member of ISO
- U.S. member of the IEC, via ANSI's U.S. National Committee
- a U.S. member of IAF and ILAC
- member of regional forums in the Pacific Rim and the Americas
- liaison with groups in Europe, Africa and the Middle East
- bilateral agreements with other national standards bodies





U.S. Member Body of the ISO

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
Geneva, Switzerland
 - Comprised of 159 National Standards Bodies

- ANSI is one of
 - 5 permanent members to the ISO Council of 18
 - 4 permanent members to the Technical Management Board of 12

- ANSI and its members
 - participate in 80% of Technical Committees
 - administer 20% of TC Secretariats



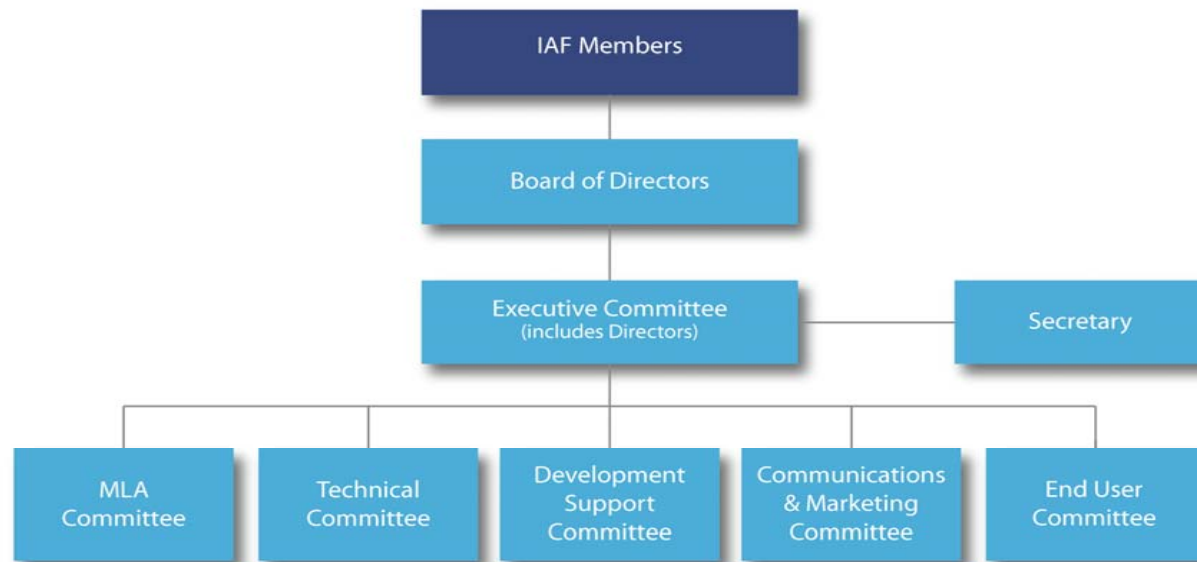
What is the IAF?

- International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
 - World association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies
 - Each Accreditation Body Member must recognize the equivalence of other members' accreditations to their own through a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)
 - “Certified Once - Accepted Everywhere”
- Relationship of ISO to IAF
 - ISO Develops Standards and Interprets Standards
 - IAF uses ISO/IEC Standards for Conformity Assessment Activities

ANSI membership in IAF

- International Accreditation Forum (www.iaf.nu)
 - ANSI a founding member and 1st Chair (1993)
 - Legally incorporated in US (1998)
- Global association of 66 accreditors from 59 countries
 - Other members: 4 regional Accreditation Cooperations; 17 NGOs; 4 observer organizations
 - Regions: EA, IAAC, PAC, SADCA
- Objective: "*Certified Once - Accepted Everywhere*"
- Key Concepts:
 - Acceptance, Confidence, Consensus, Cooperation, Int'l Trade

IAF Structure



- Code of Conduct:

"...responsibility for integrity of accredited certification... unquestionable integrity, honesty and ethical business conduct...dedication to corporate ethics"

- Joint General Assemblies with ILAC since 2001

The IAF MLA Mark



- Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)
 - Based on ISO/IEC 17011 "*Peer Assessment*"
- Value:
 - assurance of equality, reduced time and cost
- MLA Scope
 - "Main" Scope: "*equally reliable*"
 - (e.g., management system, product)
 - "Sub" Scope: "*equivalent*"
 - (e.g., quality or environmental management system)
- ANSI is one of 44 signatories to the Product MLA
- MLA for Persons is anticipated the end of 2013 - Initiative chaired by Roy Swift of ANSI

How does the MLA Work?



- The MLA process is a peer review process among countries
- The regions are the operational arm of “IAF” in the recognition of accreditation bodies
- “Peer Evaluators” are trained within the regions
 - Document Review
 - On-site visit
 - Report
 - Reviewed by the regions MLA Management Committees
 - Approved by the IAF MLA Management Committees

What's in ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024?

- General Policies and Procedures for the certification body to ensure fair and equitable treatment among all candidates
- Organizational structure
 - Safeguards impartiality
 - Balance of interests with no particular interest predominating
 - Separates training from certification
 - Policies and Procedures for appeals and complaints
 - Adequacy of human resources

What's in ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024?

- Development and maintenance of the personnel certification scheme
 - Development, maintenance, review and validation of the scheme
 - Scope
 - Job description
 - Required competencies
 - Abilities (when applicable)
 - Prerequisites (when applicable)
 - Code of conduct

What's in ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024?

- Scheme Process Requirements
 - Criteria for initial certification and recertification
 - Assessment methods
 - Surveillance methods (if applicable)
 - Criteria for suspending and withdrawing certification
 - Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification (if applicable)
- Management System
- Subcontracting (outsourcing)
- Records

What's in ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024?

- Confidentiality
- Security
 - Exam materials throughout the useful life
- Requirements for personnel
 - General personnel
 - Examiners
- Certification Process
 - Application
 - Evaluation
 - Decision on Certification
- Recertification
- Use of certificates and logos/marks

Outcomes of the 17024 Accreditation Program

- ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 is an American National Standard and International Standard that sets the bar for quality in personnel certification by
 - ensuring fairness and equity for the applicants
 - increasing the validity, reliability and quality of a certification program
 - ensuring individuals who pass, SHOULD pass and failing individuals who, SHOULD fail
 - takes away certification from individuals who are found to be unethical and/or incompetent
 - ensuring a process that facilitates continued competence
 - ensuring a continuous quality improvement approach

Lester Thurow American Economist

- “The skills of the workforce are going to be the competitive weapon of the 21st century. Brain power will create new technologies, but skilled labor will be the arms and legs that allow one to employ the new product and processing technologies that are being generated. Skilled people become the only competitive advantage.”



for more information

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