



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

WELCOME

Thank you for joining the session. This session will be recorded.
Due to the number of participants, all attendees have been muted upon entry. If you have any questions, please use the chat feature and your questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation. Any questions not addressed by the close of the program will be collected and addressed by email.

Thank you!

www.astm.org



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

The U.S. Standards System & International Standards for Trade

Jim Olshefsky, Director, External Relations

Craig Updyke, Director, Global Policy and International Trade

June 1, 2022

www.astm.org



Topics



1
What is a standard?

2
U.S. Standards System

3
NTTAA and OMB A-119

4
Attributes of Our Global Standards
Development Process

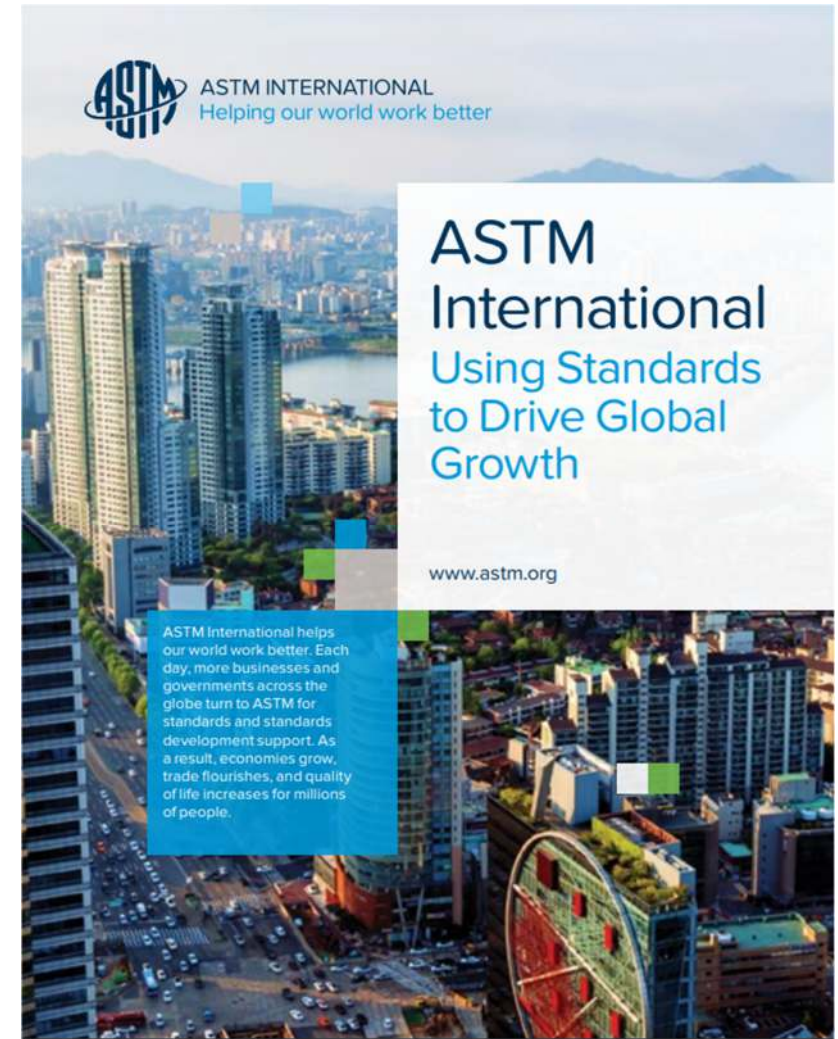
5
Why Are ASTM Standards
“International”

6
Conclusion

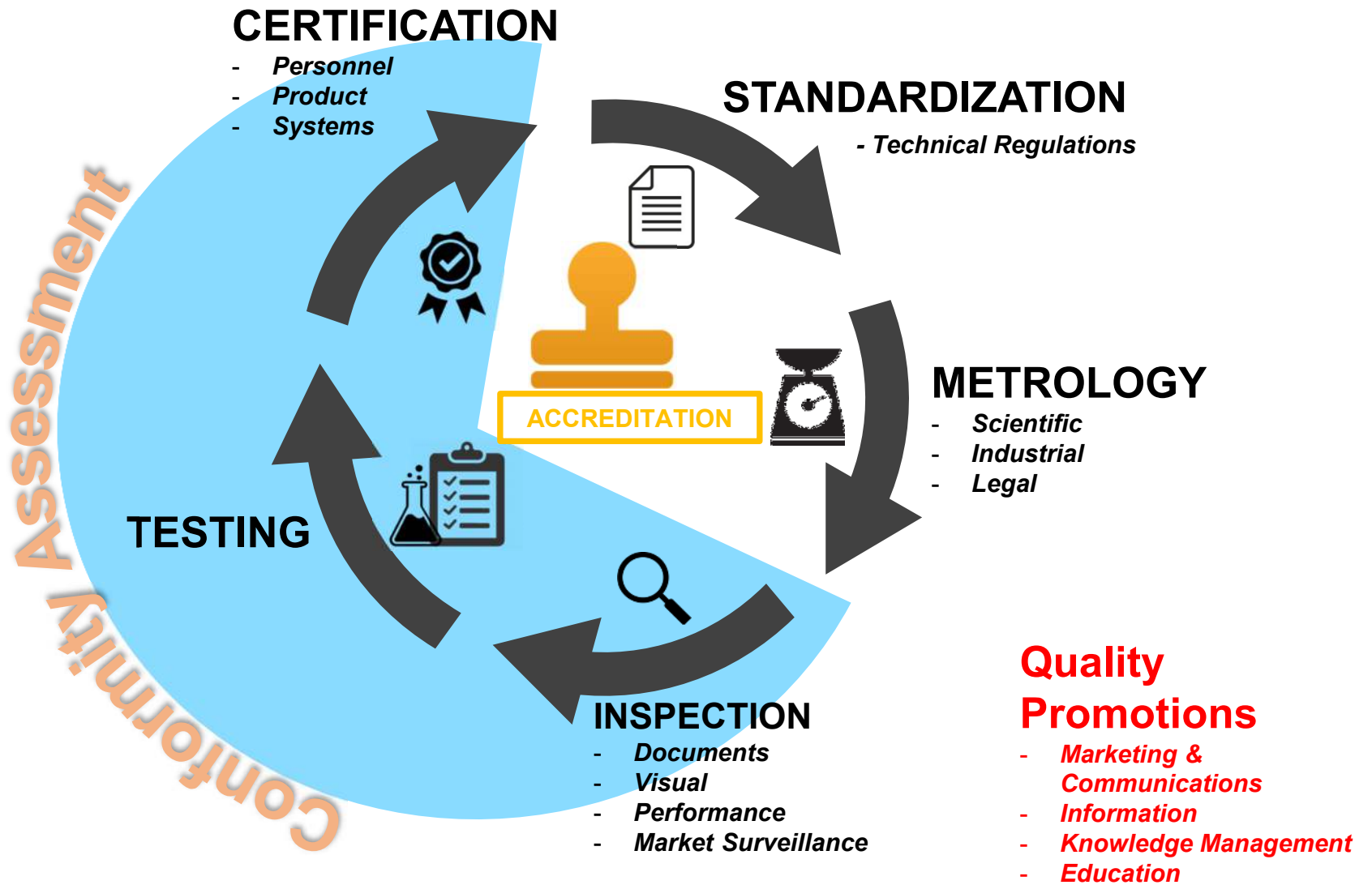
What Is a Standard?



- Much more than technical documents... Documents established by consensus, and approved by a recognized body, that provide for common and repeated use, offer rules, guidelines or characteristics
- Standards fuel global trade, promote health and general welfare, advance innovation
- Wide range of valuable uses
- Standards come in many forms:
 - Product specifications
 - Test methods
 - Manufacturing practices
 - Operational and purchasing guidelines
 - Classifications
 - Standardized terminology
 - And more....



Quality Infrastructure

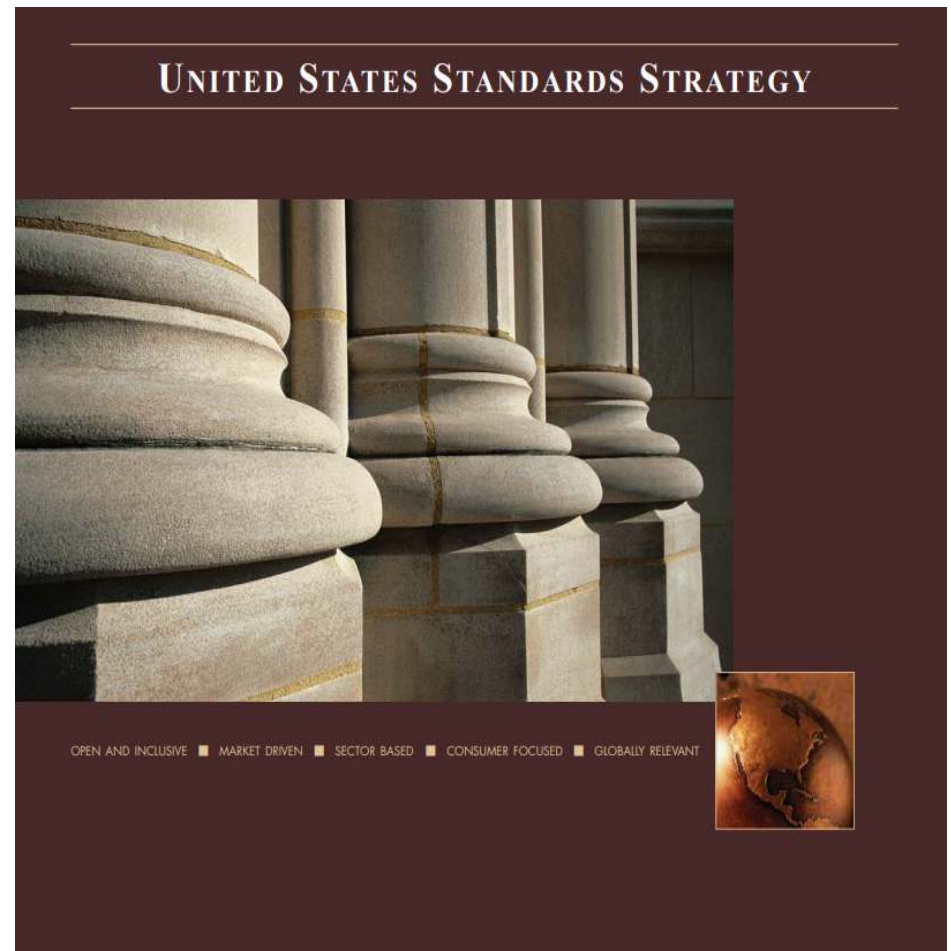


U.S. Standards System

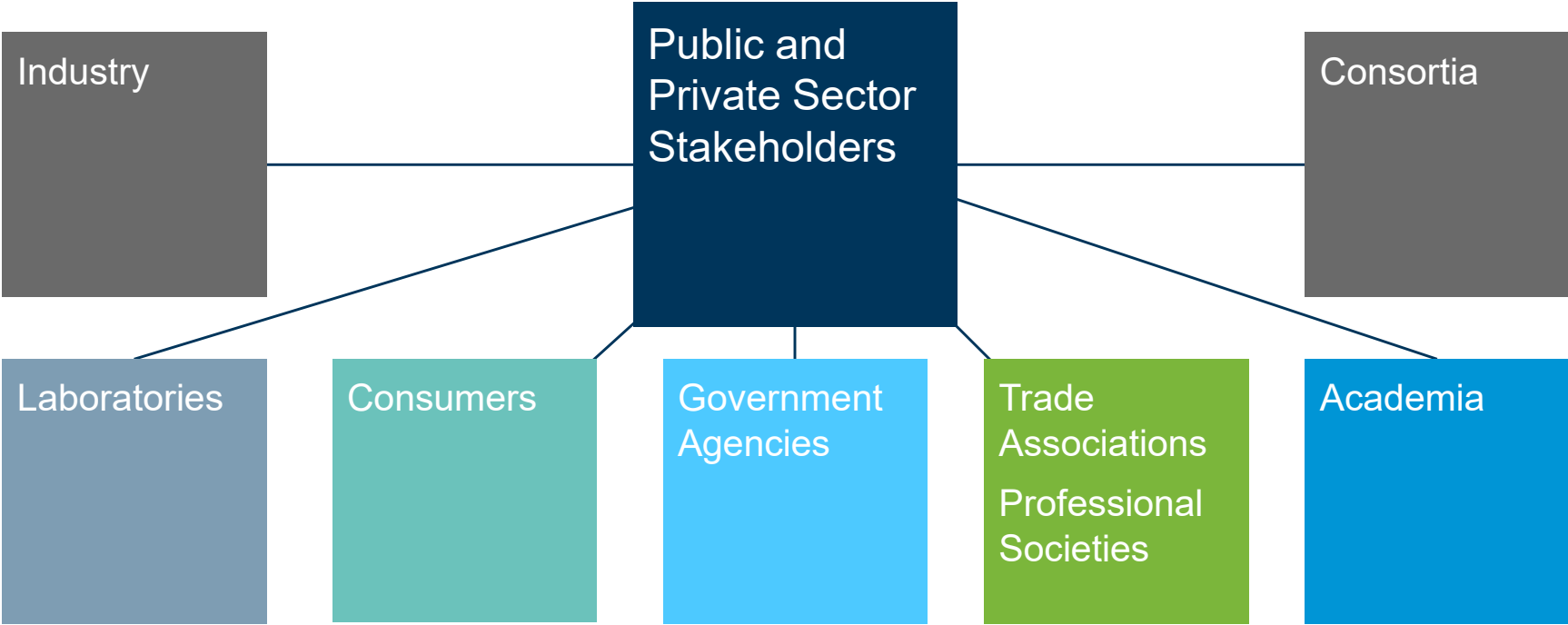


U.S. Standards Strategy

- Revision of the National Standards Strategy for the United States (NSS)
- Now known as the United States Standards Strategy (USSS) 2015
- Name change recognizes globalization and the need for standards designed to meet stakeholder needs irrespective of national borders
- Revision underway for 2020



U.S. Standards System



Major Players



Coordinator

- Private sector, non-profit, membership organization
- Supported by membership fees, sale of publications, funded programs and some government grant
- Accredits U.S. Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) (**does not develop standards**)
- Represents the U.S. in ISO and IEC
- ANSI is **not** a national standards body
- Facilitates US standardization policy development

Government

- No single government agency has control over standards
- NIST
 - Coordinates the standards activities of federal agencies
 - Sets legal metrology standards; accredits laboratories

Standards Developer

- Private professional, trade and development organizations, often non-profit
- Some, but not all, are accredited by ANSI

Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs)



Types of SDOs

ASTM International

API

American Petroleum Institute

IEEE

Institute of Electrical and
Electronics Engineers

ASME

American Society of
Mechanical Engineers

UL

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

NEMA

National Electrical
Manufacturers Association

NFPA

National Fire Protection
Association

SAE

Society of Automotive
Engineers

In the U.S. many
different types of
organizations
develop
standards

Collaborative
and often
sector focused

The eight largest
US-based SDOs
produce 90% of
the standards

U.S. Standards System



Voluntary Standards

- Participation and use is voluntary
- Developed by cross-section of stakeholders
- Government standards developers often refer to voluntary private sector standards
- Strong technical quality, market relevance

Did You Know:

- Under new federal legislation that took effect Feb. 10, 2009, all toys sold in the United States must meet the safety requirements of ASTM F963, Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety.



U.S. Standards System



Mandatory Standards

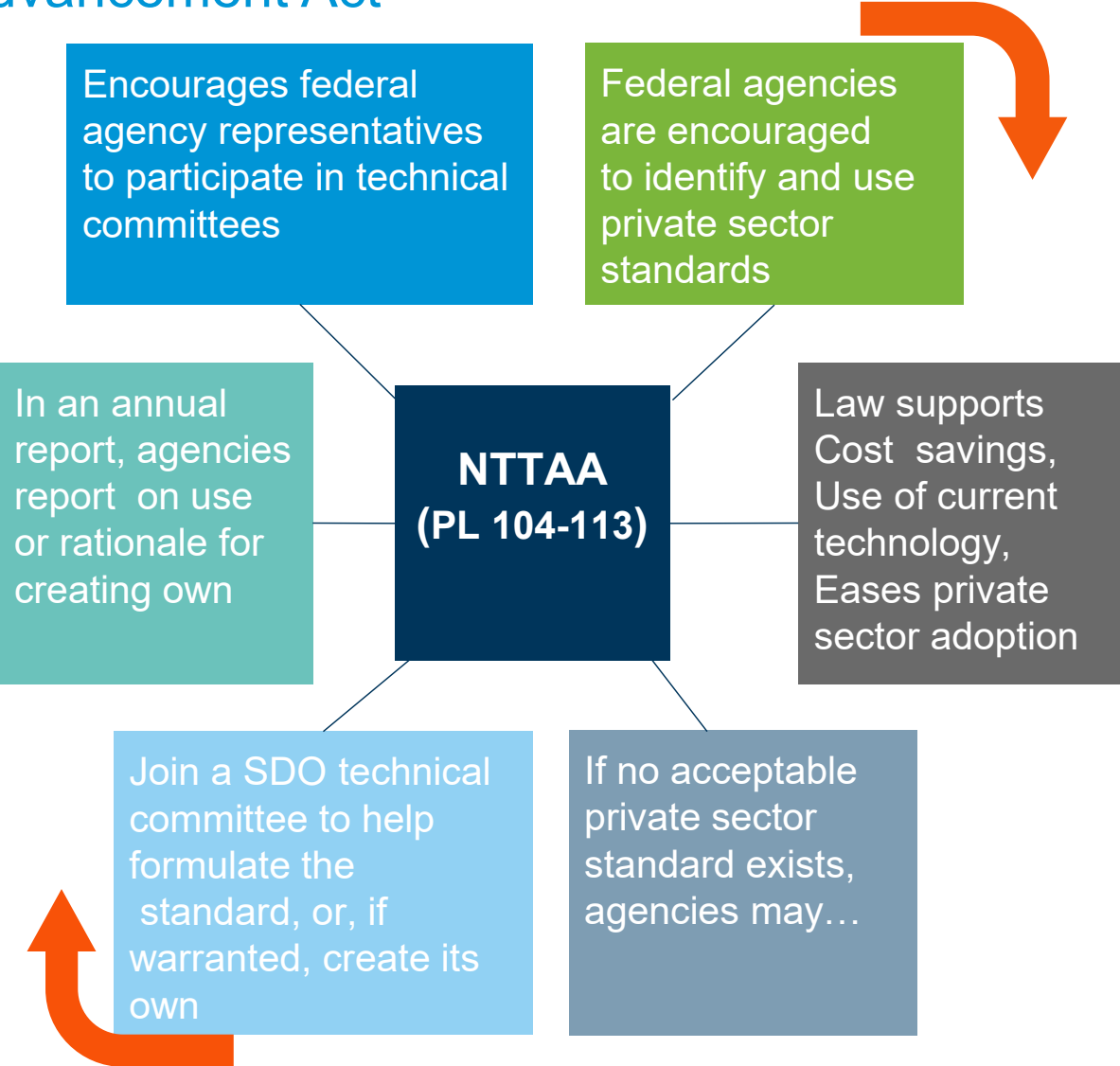
- Require compliance because of a government statute or regulation
- Set or cited by government agencies
- Procurement standards
 - requirements that must be met by government suppliers
- Regulatory standards
 - may set health, safety, environmental, or other criteria



NTTAA ('96) - Role of Government

National Technology Transfer Advancement Act

- Federal Law, approved 1996
- Provides guidance to federal agencies on the use of private sector standards whenever possible and encourages participation
- Saves taxpayers money, eliminates duplicative efforts, and facilitates adoption of private sector standards



OMB Circular No. A-119



Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- Directs agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical
- Discourages federal agencies from using government-unique standards
- Reinforces goals of NTTAA - to save money and time

Federal participation in the development and use of VCS

The diagram consists of two overlapping rectangular blocks. The top block is orange and contains the text 'Federal participation in the development and use of VCS'. The bottom block is grey and is partially obscured by the orange block.

Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS)

The diagram consists of two overlapping rectangular blocks. The top block is green and contains the text 'Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS)'. The bottom block is blue and is partially obscured by the green block.

Attributes of ASTM Standards Process



Ensure an open and transparent process

- Direct and equal participation for everyone

Provide impartial, consensus-based model of engagement

- Balanced system where producers' votes are equal to those of users
- Impartial, inclusive, and fair to all, with appeals and protections to avoid abuses

Produce effective and relevant standards

- Respond to needs and changing conditions, new hazards, or emerging technologies
- Relevant to the global marketplace and performance-based in application

Driven by research, data, and science-based decisions

- Focus on science and technical quality, and specifically addressing risks and needs

Collaborate with other standards bodies to avoid duplications

- Agreements with ISO/IEC
- Regional agreements with CEN/CENELEC
- National agreements with 115 NSBs

International Standards: WTO Guidance



WTO TBT “Committee Decision”

The WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations

- **Provides guidance** in the form of six principles to help regulators determine which standards may be considered international for the purposes of the TBT Agreement
- **Does not** designate specific bodies that develop international standards – instead outlines principles that should be observed when international standards are developed.

Why it Matters

- International standards have special status under WTO rules.
- Regulations based on international standards are presumed not to create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.
- International standards developed according to the Decision promote trade and public-private cooperation

ASTM Process: Full Alignment with WTO Guidance on International Standards Development



ASTM INTERNATIONAL



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
WTO TBT Principles

Ensure an **open** and **transparent** process

Transparency

Openness

Provide **impartial consensus** based model of engagement

Impartiality and Consensus

Produce **effective** and **relevant** standards

Effectiveness and Relevance

Driven by research, data and **science-based decisions**

Collaborate with other standards bodies to **avoid duplication**

Coherence

Connect globally so **all stakeholders contribute and benefit**

Consideration of Developing Nations

Recognized as International by



World Health
Organization



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



ICAO



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD



Conclusion



- The U.S. system reflects U.S.’ establishment and history
 - A preference for solutions developed without government intervention
- No one specific organization controls the system
- There are various methods for developing standards
- The system is coordinated by both the public and private sectors
- The system is open
- The system is oriented to the market and technological advances
- Choosing international standards based on the WTO principles empowers countries to use standards as solutions that enhance competitiveness, promote sustainability goals, and advance innovation



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

Thank you

Jim Olshefsky
jolshefsky@astm.org

Craig Updyke
cupdyke@astm.org

Any unaddressed questions submitted through the chat will be collected and answered by email. If you have further questions, please submit them to mjiverage@astm.org.

www.astm.org

Please complete the following survey:
<https://forms.office.com/r/raSHUg6JbS>