

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 22, 2010

To: Federal Agency Standards Executives

From: Gordon Gillerman, Director, Standards Services Group, NIST

Subject: Annual Agency Reporting on Fiscal Year 2010 Standards Activities

OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," directs all Federal agencies to report annually through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on agency use of voluntary consensus standards and participation in voluntary standards bodies during the previous fiscal year. The Standards Services Group within NIST has primary responsibility for coordinating this activity.

As the Standards Executive for your agency, you are asked to provide NIST with pertinent information about the status of your agency's implementation of the OMB Circular. Above all, you must report your agency's use of government-unique standards in lieu of voluntary consensus standards, and you must identify the voluntary consensus standards that you chose not to use in these instances. You must also provide your agency's rationale for making such use.

While this annually reporting is mandated by The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA), I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the active and dynamic standards programs that exist throughout the federal government. To accomplish this objective, I am requesting that agencies provide examples of recent successes within their standards programs - examples that illustrate the positive return to the taxpayer from active engagement in standards activities. For example, standards successes would include: significant cost and/or time savings; improved public health and/or safety; more free and fair competition, commerce or trade; improved collaboration and cooperation with the private sector; avoided duplication of private sector activities; innovation and application of better technology, etc. The Summary Report to OMB will highlight selected examples of successes and include links to agency standards websites. This is all part of our effort to transition to a concise report that links to dynamic agency standards websites containing current information on agency standards activities.

I'm asking that you provide your input to NIST through the web-based application available on Standards.gov at the following URL: <http://standards.gov/NTTAA/index.cfm>. The system will be available for you to begin uploading your report on November 1, 2010.

I thank you for your cooperation in providing your reports in a timely manner. In order to compile the final report and obtain the necessary clearances prior to our January 2011 deadline, NIST must have your report no later than December 15, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Donaldson (mary.donaldson@nist.gov or 301-975-6197) or Mike Moore (Mike Moore (mike.moore@nist.gov or 301-975-2007) for assistance.