

Title: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Report

1. Please describe the importance of standards in the achievement of your agency's mission, how your agency uses standards to deliver its primary services in support of its mission, and provide any examples or case studies of standards success. Please include relevant Internet links and links to your agency's standards website.

It is the policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to increase the involvement of stakeholders in our regulatory development process and, consistent with the provisions of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113), to encourage NRC staff participation in the development of consensus standards in support of its mission. NRC involvement also encourages standards developing organizations (SDOs) to develop codes, standards, and guides that can be endorsed by the NRC and implemented by the industry, and increases the likelihood that the standards that SDOs develop will meet both public and private sector needs.

The NRC uses voluntary consensus standards (VCSs) as a key part of our regulatory framework. Some standards are incorporated by reference into NRC regulations. NRC's regulations may be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/cfr/>. The NRC staff also issues documents providing guidance on acceptable methods for complying with NRC regulations, such as Regulatory Guides. These guidance documents frequently reference consensus standards as acceptable methods for compliance with NRC regulations. Regulatory Guides are cataloged here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/#reg>.

The NRC's reasons for using standards include providing the level of regulatory certainty and predictability desired by stakeholders, improving efficiency and transparency, providing regulations and guidance of high technical quality, and accessing the broad range of technical expertise and experience of the individuals who are represented on many consensus standards organizations. Participation in standards development minimizes the expenditure of NRC resources that would otherwise be necessary to develop regulations and guidance that provide the technical depth and level of detail of consensus standards.

NRC is working with several standards developing organizations to update voluntary consensus standards that may be applied to license amendments for existing light water reactors or new nuclear plant construction, including advanced reactor technologies and small modular reactors. The NRC cooperated with the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to establish the Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Cooperative (NESCC). Formed in 2009 and continuing to meet about three times per year, the group is open to standards developing organizations (SDOs) and all stakeholders in the development and use of standards related to nuclear energy technology, including operating and proposed new power plants. Its goals are to identify standards-related needs, prioritize standards for development or revision, and initiate or support collaboration in writing standards. The NESCC has established task groups to examine standards in specific technical areas, such as concrete and welding. In addition, an effort is under way to compile a database of standards referenced in NRC regulations and guidance.

The NRC intends to continue participating in the NESCC and other cooperative efforts to close technical and regulatory gaps through development and application of consensus standards. Standards continue to provide a critical element in our safety mission. For more information, the NRC website on standards development is at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/standards-dev.html>.

2. Please list the government-unique standards your agency used in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2014.

Ans.: 0

3. Please list the VCS your agency substituted for GUS in FY 2014 as a result of review under Section 15(b)(7) of OMB Circular A-119.

Ans.: 0

4. Please provide the total number of VCS your agency BEGAN to use during FY 2014. Optional: If possible, also please provide the total number of private sector non-consensus standards your agency began to use during FY 2014. In addition, please

provide your agency's rationale for the non-consensus standards reported in this question.

Ans.: Voluntary Consensus Standards: **6**

VCSs Used in Regulation:

None

VCSs Used in Regulatory Guidance:

1. American Welding Society (AWS) A4.2 (2007), "Standard Procedures for Calibrating Magnetic Instruments to Measure the Delta Ferrite Content of Austenitic and Duplex Ferritic-Austenitic Stainless Steel Weld Metal," was endorsed in Revision 4 of RG 1.31, "Control of Ferrite Content in Stainless Steel Weld Metal," October, 2013.
2. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard (Std.) 382-2006, "Standard for Qualification of Safety-Related Actuators for Nuclear Power Generating Stations," was endorsed in Revision 1 of RG 1.73, "Qualification Tests for Safety-Related Actuators in Nuclear Power Plants," October, 2013.
3. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section III, Code Cases listed in Supplements 1 through 10 to the 2007 Edition were endorsed in Revision 36 of RG 1.84, "Design, Fabrication, and Materials Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section III," August, 2014.
4. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Code Cases listed in Supplements 1 through 10 to the 2007 Edition were endorsed in Revision 17 of RG 1.147, "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1," August, 2014.
5. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) Code Cases listed in the 2002 Addenda through the 2006 Addenda were endorsed in Revision 1 of RG 1.192, "Operation and Maintenance Code Case Acceptability, ASME OM Code," August, 2014.
6. ANSI/ANS 3.4-2013, "Medical Certification and Monitoring of Personnel Requiring Operator Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants," was endorsed in Revision 4 of RG 1.134, "Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants," September, 2014.

Other Technical Standards: **0**

Rationale: N/A

5. Please enter the VCS Bodies in which your agency participated during FY 2014.

Ans.: 16

<u>Voluntary Consensus Standards Body</u>	<u>Acronym</u>
American Concrete Institute	ACI
American Institute of Steel Construction	AISC
American National Standards Institute	ANSI
American Nuclear Society	ANS
American Society for Testing and Materials	ASTM
American Society of Civil Engineers	ASCE
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	ASME
American Welding Society	AWS
Health Physics Society	HPS
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers	IEEE
Institute of Nuclear Materials Management	INMM
International Society of Automation	ISA
International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission / International Electrotechnical Commission	ISO/IEC
National Association of Corrosion Engineers	NACE
National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements	NCRPM
National Fire Protection Association	NFPA

6. Please provide the total number of your agency's representatives who participated in VCS activities and the total number of activities in which these agency representatives participated during FY 2014.

Ans.:

Agency Representatives: **192**

Activities: **503**

7. Please provide any conformity assessment activities (as described in “Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment Activities” found in the Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 155, dated August 10, 2000) in which your agency was involved in FY 2014.

Ans.: None

8. Please provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of Circular A-119 policy and recommendations for any changes.

Ans.:

The NRC believes that the Circular provides appropriate direction and encouragement for federal agencies to develop internal agency-wide guidelines. The circular also provides sufficient and reasonable flexibility for each agency to make an independent determination regarding its participation on voluntary consensus bodies and use of developed standards.

The NRC is following the ongoing effort to review and revise Cir. A-119, and we have provided agency comments during the process. At this time, we do not foresee significant effects on NRC processes as a result of proposed changes to the Circular. A concurrent action by the Office of Federal Register to revise its requirements for incorporation by reference, and particularly to require agencies to document their efforts to make standards incorporated by reference “reasonably available” to the public, has caused some delays in NRC rulemaking activities. Our procedures are being revised to comply with the new requirements, while we continue parallel efforts to enhance transparency and stakeholder participation.

9. Please provide any other comments you would like to share on behalf of your agency.

Ans.: No comment

10. Please use this box to provide any additional comments on how your agency currently reports its use of voluntary consensus standards:

10-1. Question removed by NIST

10-2. Question removed by NIST

10-3. Question removed by NIST

10-4. Does your agency report standards that it uses for guidance purposes (as opposed compliance purposes)? (a) Yes; (b) No; (c) Not applicable.

Ans.: **(a) Yes**

10-5. Does your agency report use of standards from non-ANSI accredited standards developers, industry consortia groups, or both? (a) non-ANSI Accredited; (b) Consortia; (c) Both; (d) Neither; or (e) Not applicable.

Ans.: **(d) Neither**

10-6. Does your agency have a schedule for periodically reviewing its use of standards for purposes of updating such use? (a) Yes; (b) No

Ans.: **(a) Yes**

10-7. How often does your agency review its standards for purposes of updating such use? [Enter the number of years]

Ans.: **5**

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