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Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization

**RIC 2011**  
Emergent Topics in Consensus Standards

**The application of the Consensus Standards in the Japanese regulation**

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**History of Consensus Standards Application**

Technical Standard	2006.1	2010.8
Endorsing organization	—	NISA* (Supported by JNES) JNES
Improvement stage	Amend Technical Standard to introduce the latest knowledge promptly	Improve the system of endorsing
	STEP1	STEP2

\* Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency

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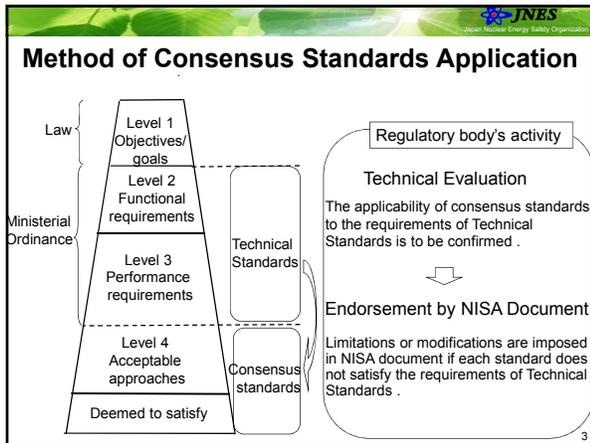
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### Points of Technical Evaluation

Consensus standards shall be evaluated from the following 4 standpoints.

- 1 . To confirm whether the standard is developed with fairness, equitability and openness in the committees of Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs\*).
- 2 . To confirm whether the scope of the standard is consistent with that of Technical Standards .
- 3 . To confirm the concrete methods and specifications are documented.
- 4 . To confirm whether the technical validity of the concrete methods and specifications is verified.

\*Japan Society of Mechanical Engineering (JSME), Japan Electric Association (JEA), Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ)

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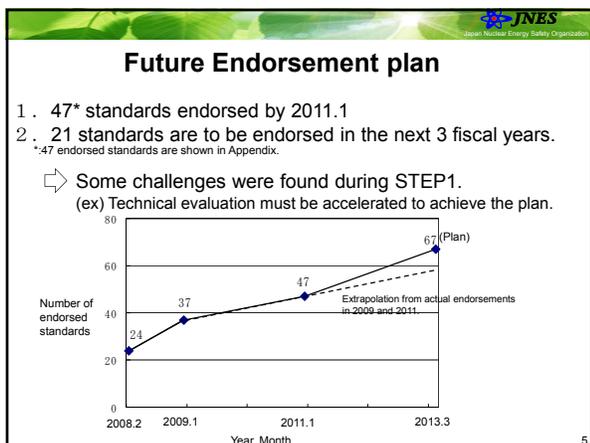
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## Challenges

Challenges found in STEP1 were as follows.

1. Unclear endorsement plan
  - ⇒ Appropriate human resources allocation was not easy due to the lack of well-defined prior endorsement plans.
2. Few participation of NISA/JNES in writing committees where standards writing actually takes place.
  - ⇒ The few participation resulted in increased JNES staff's effort to review the standard and in the need for limitations or modifications to make the standard usable for regulatory purposes.
3. Start to draft a technical evaluation report after the issuance of consensus standard.
  - ⇒ It took much time to endorse. Drafting a technical evaluation report could have been started not after but before the issuance of the standard.

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## Solutions

JNES has improved the system of endorsing as follows.

1. Defining endorsement plan
  - ⇒ A coordination process among NISA, JNES and SDOs were established, where a "3-year endorsement plan" and an "annual endorsement plan" were developed and reviewed.
2. Active involvement of JNES in writing committees
  - ⇒ Active involvement of JNES in writing committees may reduce imposing limitations or modifications on a standard. And staff's better understanding of it can lead to an efficient endorsement.
3. Earlier start of drafting Technical Evaluation Report
  - ⇒ JNES decided to use the SDO public review period as a "trigger" for starting to draft a technical evaluation report at its own risk.

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## Improved procedure

JNES has been doing technical evaluation solely with its responsibility since 2010.8. (STEP2)

(1) SDOs drafting stage

Original procedure (STEP1)	Improved procedure (STEP2)
SDOs start development of a consensus standard.	→ same
SDOs review it in their hierarchal level committees. (JNES participates in <b>only higher levels</b> )	
SDOs solicit public opinions.	→ <b>JNES also participates in the writing committee actively.</b>
SDOs issue the revised standard.	
	→ same

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### Improved procedure

(2) Technical evaluation stage

Original procedure (STEP1)	Improved procedure (STEP2)
<p><b>NISA starts drafting</b> technical evaluation report <b>after issuing</b> the revised standard. (Supported by JNES)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p><b>NISA holds governmental committees</b> for hearing of experts' opinions. (Open to public)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p><b>NISA solicits</b> public opinions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p><b>NISA finalizes</b> technical evaluation report and endorses it with limitations or modifications.</p>	<p><b>JNES starts drafting</b> technical evaluation report <b>before issuing</b> the revised standard.</p> <p><b>JNES holds committees</b> for hearing of experts' opinions. (Open to public)</p> <p><b>JNES solicits</b> public opinions.</p> <p><b>JNES finalizes</b> technical evaluation report. NISA endorses it with limitations or modifications.</p>

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### Future Challenges

1. Improved communication among NISA, JNES and SDOs to lessen limitations and modifications to be imposed.
2. Timely revision of 3-year and annual endorsement plan
3. Shorten time to endorse
4. More effective allocation of human resources
5. Continuous improvement of the system and the operation of endorsement

These issues will be solved through the discussion by the inner communication in JNES and a coordination process among NISA, JNES and SDOs.

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### Conclusion

1. Performance based regulation has started since 2006 to introduce the latest knowledge to the regulation promptly.
2. For better efficiency, the process is improved by clearly defining endorsement plans and JNES's active participating in the writing committees of SDOs.
3. Future challenges will be discussed by internal and external stakeholders.

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