



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3030

RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING

MEMORANDUM FOR ARMY STANDARDIZATION EXECUTIVE
NAVY STANDARDIZATION EXECUTIVE
AIR FORCE STANDARDIZATION EXECUTIVE
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY STANDARDIZATION
EXECUTIVE
DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY
STANDARDIZATION EXECUTIVE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY STANDARDIZATION
EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Participation in Activities of Non-Government Standards Bodies

As the Defense Standardization Executive, I am writing to ask the Military Department and Defense Agency Standardization Executives to encourage their scientific, engineering, logistics, and acquisition personnel to participate in non-government standards bodies (NGSBs). In today's environment, we simply cannot afford not to participate.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has a long history of participating in NGSBs and using non-government standards (NGS) in lieu of military-unique standards to meet its needs. Use of NGS and participation in NGSBs allow the Department to gain access to the commercial industrial base; to access the latest technologies and dual-use products; to preserve and protect the standards expertise essential to the development of DoD-unique standardization documents; and to establish standards that serve national goals such as the use of environmentally sound and energy-efficient materials, products, systems, and services. Participating in NGSBs affords DoD a place at the private-sector standards table, which can influence how industry standards are shaped to meet DoD requirements. Furthermore, as China expands its influence in international standards development bodies, DoD participation in NGSBs becomes increasingly necessary to balance China's interests with those of DoD and our nation.

DoD participation in the development and use of NGS is codified in both Public Law 104-113, "National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995," and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119, "Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and Conformity Assessment Activities." Both the Public Law and the OMB Circular encourage the use of NGS and participation in NGSBs' activities. Within DoD, employees who have received prior authorization may actively participate in their official capacity as voting members of NGSBs, consistent with the Joint Ethics Regulation (DoDD 5500.07-R). Participation is not free, nor is the cost of developing and maintaining our own military-unique documents, but the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term costs. By participating in NGSBs, DoD transfers the administrative cost to an organization for which standards development is a core competency, and that cost is shared with other users of the

documents. Partnering with industry helps spur innovation and gives the warfighter a superior product.

Whereas China's participation in standards development is at an all-time high and is integral to their technical advancement strategy, DoD participation in activities of NGSBs and conformity assessment organizations is on the decline because of travel, budget, and resource limitations. To ensure DoD's technical requirements can be met through the use of NGS, we must strengthen our engagement in NGSBs to protect our own national interest—and those of our allies and partners.

The NGS in which DoD is involved are not only commercially acceptable but, overall, will aid the warfighter by improving performance, quality, safety, and reliability, while maximizing interoperability. The opportunity for DoD to work with the hundreds of experts from all over the world who participate along with us, while making an efficient use of resources, makes NGSB participation an essential part of DoD standards policy.

For these reasons I ask the Military Department and Defense Agency Standardization Executives to encourage participation in NGSBs by their scientific, engineering, logistics, and acquisition subject matter experts. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact my office with questions or comments. My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Michael Heaphy, Director, Defense Standardization Program Office, 571-767-6879.

Stephanie L. Possehl
Director, Engineering Policy and Systems
Defense Standardization Executive

cc: DepSOs