

## ACCREDITED STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC) OPERATING PROCEDURES

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These Accredited Standards Committee Procedures are used for the four Standards Committees (S1, S2, S3, and S12) for which the Acoustical Society of America provides a Secretariat. The original ASC Procedures were approved by ANSI on 15 September 1983, with several subsequent amendments approved on 26 April 1988, 19 August 1991, 3 April 1995, 12 August 1999, 22 March 2002, 12 August 2003, 22 November 2004, 28 September 2006, 1 June 2007, 13 August 2008, 27 December 2013, 10 August 2015, 18 January 2018, 28 January 2020, and 11 March 2026.

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## **ACCREDITED STANDARDS COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

### **Introduction**

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) provides the Secretariat for Accredited Standards Committees with the following titles and scopes:

#### **S1 - Acoustics**

Standards, specifications, methods of measurement and test, and terminology in the field of physical acoustics including architectural acoustics, electroacoustics, sonics and ultrasonics, and underwater sound, but excluding those aspects which pertain to biological safety, tolerances and comfort.

#### **S2 - Mechanical Vibration and Shock**

Standards, specification, methods of measurement and test, and terminology in the field of mechanical vibration and shock, and condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines, including the effects of exposure to mechanical vibration and shock on humans, including those aspects which pertain to biological safety, tolerance and comfort.

#### **S3 - Bioacoustics**

Standards, specifications, methods of measurement and test, and terminology in the fields of psychological and physiological acoustics, including aspects of general acoustics, which pertain to biological safety, tolerance and comfort.

##### **Including its Subcommittee: S3/SC 1 – Animal Bioacoustics**

Standards, specifications, methods of measurement and test, instrumentation and terminology in the field of psychological and physiological acoustics, including aspects of general acoustics, which pertain to biological safety, tolerance and comfort of non-human animals, including both risk to individual animals and to the long-term viability of populations. Animals covered may potentially include commercially grown food animals; animals harvested for food in the wild; pets; laboratory animals; exotic species in zoos, oceanaria or aquariums; or free-ranging wild animals.

#### **S12 - Noise**

Standards, specifications, and terminology in the field of acoustical noise pertaining to methods of measurement, evaluation, and control; including biological safety, tolerance and comfort, and physical acoustics as related to environmental and occupational noise.

Accreditation of these Committees is granted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These Accredited Standards Committee Procedures are reviewed annually and shall be updated when needed to remain in conformance with the documents mentioned above.

## **1 Requirements**

Each of these Committees and the Standards Secretariat of ASA functions in accordance with Accredited Standards Committee Procedures given in the current edition of ANSI's

*Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards.* The Accredited Standards Committee Procedures developed by the ASA Committee on Standards (ASACOS) for operation of the Standards Committees for which it supplies a Secretariat were originally approved by ANSI on 9 September 1987, and have been amended several times. The version of these Procedures presented in this document was amended to be in accord with the most recent version of the *ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards*, to provide for the issuance and registration of ANSI Technical Reports in accordance with the current edition of ANSI's *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*, and to conform to the current edition of *ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards*. The ANSI documents mentioned above may be modified from time to time and the latest editions of them shall apply.

## **2 Definitions**

### **2.1 Consensus**

Consensus is established when, in the judgment of the ANSI Board of Standards Review, substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. Substantial agreement means much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered and that a concerted effort be made toward their resolution. ANSI's approval represents approval of the process, not the content.

For the purposes of the Accredited Standards Committees administered by the Acoustical Society of America and operating under these procedures, the numerical requirements for the determination of consensus are given in Section 10 Voting.

### **2.2 Consensus body**

The body authorized to develop and approve the content of a candidate American National Standard (ANS). Under these procedures, the consensus body may be either a committee or a Subcommittee. A Working Group is not a consensus body.

### **2.3 American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**

A private, non-profit organization (501(c)3) that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system.

The Institute's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and safeguarding their integrity.

NOTE For additional information visit [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org).

### **2.4 Project Initiation Notification System (PINS)**

The system established by ANSI to provide public notice at the initiation of a project to develop or revise an American National Standard. Notices are submitted by the Secretariat and published in *ANSI Standards Action*.

## **2.5 ANSI Standards Action**

*Standards Action* provides timely, accurate information about current standards development work in which ANSI plays a role. It is designed to facilitate participation in the [American National Standards \(ANS\) development process](#) as well as other domestic, regional, and international standardization activities advanced by ANSI.

Each weekly edition – available by download or free email subscription – comprises a round-up of the latest information available to help all interested parties get informed and engaged in standards.

## **2.6 Public Review**

A minimum 30-day public review period is initiated for proposals for new American National Standards and proposals to revise, reaffirm, or withdraw approval of existing American National Standards in *Standards Action* in order to provide an opportunity for public comment. Timely and adequate notice of standards activity shall also be announced in media suitable to demonstrate that a meaningful opportunity for participation, debate, and deliberation by all directly and materially interested parties in a fair and equitable manner was provided. The Secretariat shall determine whether listing of proposed standards actions shall be

with the final consensus body letter ballot.. During the public review period, members of the public may purchase the draft from the Secretariat and may submit comments. These comments must be addressed before the document can be approved. Many documents have multiple public review periods, as a new public review is needed each time a substantive change is made to the document. (Subsequent reviews may be limited to the clauses that have been changed.)

## **2.7 U.S. Technical Advisory Group (U.S. TAG)**

The vehicle by which interested U.S. parties may participate in the development of ISO or IEC standards.

NOTE The ANSI Accredited U.S. TAGs administered by the ASA have their own operating procedures that are available from the Secretariat.

## **2.8 ANSI Technical Report**

A non-normative document developed under an Accredited Standards Committee or one of its subcommittees and registered with ANSI. The vehicle of a technical report may be chosen when the scientific content is not sufficiently mature for standardization. A Technical Report may also be a survey or state-of-the-art document. It is not a consensus document and is subject to less stringent voting requirements.

NOTE See [2] *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*.

## **2.9 ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR)**

The Board within ANSI that is responsible for approving American National Standards and acting on proposals to revise, reaffirm and withdraw American National Standards. The ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR) reviews standards submitted to ANSI with unresolved objections on record. This includes negative votes from the consensus body as well as public

review comments. If the Board of Standards Review finds that the criteria for due process have not been met or that the evidence of consensus is inadequate in connection with a standard that it has reviewed, it will not approve that standard as an American National Standard. The BSR acts only on this basis. It does not evaluate or judge the technical content of the standard. Lack of adequate consensus or due process indicates that there was opposition to the voluntary adoption and use of the standard that was sufficient to persuade the BSR that the designation “American National Standard” should not be applied.

### **3 Abbreviations**

ANS	American National Standard
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ASA	Acoustical Society of America
ASC	Accredited Standards Committee
BSR	Board of Standards Review
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NAIS	Nationally Adopted International Standard
PINS	Project Initiation Notification System
TAG	Technical Advisory Group

### **4 Organization of an Accredited Standards Committee**

The Committee shall consist of its members and the Secretariat. It shall have a title, scope, and an interest classification system (e.g., User, Producer, Government, or General Interest) for its members. The membership shall be sufficiently diverse to ensure reasonable balance without dominance by a single interest category, individual or organization; see 7.4.

### **5 Responsibilities**

#### **5.1 Committee**

An Accredited Standards Committee shall be responsible for:

- (1) Developing proposed American National Standards and Technical Reports within the scope of the Committee,
- (2) Voting on approval of proposed American National Standards and Technical Reports within its scope,
- (3) Maintaining the Standards developed by the Committee,
- (4) Responding to written requests for interpretations of the Standards developed by the Committee,
- (5) Adopting Committee procedures and revisions thereof,
- (6) Considering and acting on proposals for termination of the Committee (see 14),
- (7) Other matters requiring Committee action as provided in these procedures.

## **5.2 Secretariat**

The Secretariat for an Accredited Standards Committee shall:

- 1) Manage the organization of the Committee (see 4),
- 2) Apply for Committee accreditation by ANSI and maintain accreditation in accordance with ANSI requirements, including periodic submission of the Committee roster to ANSI,
- 3) Oversee the Committee's compliance with the Procedures described in this document,
- 4) Maintain a roster of the Committee and a list of Standards and Technical Reports for which the Committee is responsible,
- 5) Provide a Committee Secretary to perform administrative work including the meeting notices and arrangements; preparation and distribution of meeting agendas, minutes, ballots and draft Standards; and maintenance of adequate records,
- 6) Submit candidate Standards and Technical Reports approved by the Committee, with supporting documentation, for ANSI review and approval as American National Standards or Technical Reports,
- 7) Arrange for publication and sale of Standards, Technical Reports, revisions, addenda (see Clause 4.5 of reference 1).
- 8) Perform other administrative functions as required by these Procedures.

## **6 Officers**

There shall be a Chair and a Vice-Chair appointed by the Secretariat from the members of the Committee, subject to approval by majority vote of the Committee. Each person will serve until a successor is selected and ready to serve. The Vice-Chair shall carry out the Chair's duties if the Chair is temporarily unable to do so. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Secretariat.

## **7 Membership**

Members of the Committee or Subcommittee (as defined in Clause 8) shall consist of organizations, companies, government agencies, and individuals having a direct and material interest in the activities of the Committee or Subcommittee.

### **7.1 Application**

A written request for membership shall be addressed to the Secretariat. The application shall indicate the nature of the applicant's direct and material interest in the Committee's work, and willingness to participate actively and, if the applicant is an organization, company, or government agency, shall identify a voting representative (and an alternate, if desired).

**7.1.1 Acceptance or denial of an application.** The Secretariat shall review all applications received with respect to the following:

1. Need for active participation by each interest category,

2. Potential for imbalance or dominance by a single interest category,
3. Extent of interest expressed by the applicant and the applicant's willingness to participate actively,
4. The representative identified by the applicant to represent the organization, company, or government agency.

In most cases, membership approval should be automatic and effective immediately upon receipt of the application and payment of membership dues. The current membership roster of each Committee or Subcommittee shall be distributed to the members of the Committee or Subcommittee at least once a year or more often as determined by the Secretariat. The current rosters are also made available by request on the respective Committee or Subcommittee web site pages or may be obtained from the Secretariat at [standards@acousticalsociety.org](mailto:standards@acousticalsociety.org).

In the event that the Secretary (in consultation with the Committee or Subcommittee Chair or Vice-Chair) recommends denial of membership based on any of the factors above, or for any other reason, the recommendation shall be submitted to the Committee for consideration and final decision. The membership application in question shall be held in abeyance until the completion of the Committee ballot. The final decision is then made by the Committee or Subcommittee ballot.

The Committee or Subcommittee may consider reasonable limits on Committee size.

**7.1.2 Diverse interests.** If distinct divisions of an organization can demonstrate to the Secretariat that there are independent interests and authority to make independent decisions in the area of the activity of the Committee or Subcommittee, each division may apply for membership.

**7.1.3 Combined interest.** If appropriate, the Secretariat may recommend that the applicant seek representation through an organization that is already a member of the Committee or Subcommittee and represents the same or similar interest.

## **7.2 Review of membership**

The Secretariat shall review the membership list annually with respect to the criteria of 7.1.1. Members are expected to fulfill obligations of active participation. Where a member is found to be in habitual default of these obligations, the Secretariat may direct the matter to the Committee or Subcommittee for appropriate action, which may include suspension of voting rights and or termination of membership.

## **7.3 Individual Experts**

The Committee or Subcommittee may select Individual Experts to assist it. Individual Experts shall serve for a renewable term of one year and shall be subject to approval by vote of the Committee or Subcommittee upon recommendation by the Chair and the Secretariat. Individual Experts shall be advised of the Committee or Subcommittee activities, may attend meetings, and may submit comments for consideration, but shall have no vote.

The role of the Individual Expert shall be to provide review of draft revisions and new draft standards within their S-Committee independent of the working group that developed the standard. An Independent Expert does not require the specific technical expertise of a working group member, but only broad knowledge of the technical area of the S-Committee (e.g., S1, S2, S3, S12) in order to review the technical content of the draft and the feasibility to implement the draft by a technical person reasonably practiced in the art. The conditions of appointments are to fulfill this role in a timely and consistent fashion.

#### **7.4 Interest categories**

The Committees shall strive to achieve and maintain balance among the interest categories affected. Participants from diverse interest categories shall be sought with the objective of achieving balance. If a consensus body lacks balance in accordance with the historical criteria for balance as defined in 2.3 of reference [1], outreach to achieve balance shall be undertaken to demonstrate the opportunity for participation by all directly and materially interested parties.

All appropriate interests that might be directly and materially affected by the standards activity of the Committee or Subcommittee shall have the opportunity for fair and equitable participation without dominance by any single interest. Each member shall propose its own interest category as appropriate and in accordance with the Committee's established categories (see 2.3 of reference [1]). The membership categories approved by the Accredited Standards Committees for which ASA provides the Secretariats (S1, S2, S3 and S12) are Producer, User, Government, , and General Interest.

The interest categories shall be established or revised by a vote of the Committee upon recommendation by the Secretariat. The rationale for the selection of categories shall be included in the Committee ballot and submitted to ANSI as part of the accreditation requirements.

The same member may have different interest categories in different Accredited Standards Committees, which are selected by the organization on the membership application and may be changed in writing except during an active ballot. It should be noted that if an interest category is changed during an active ballot but the secretariat was not notified in writing before the ballot was opened, the vote will reflect the original interest category already established at the release of the ballot.

In selecting its proposed interest category for membership in any one of these committees, the member should consider the following definitions:

**7.4.1 Producer.** A company or organization whose primary activity is the manufacture or sale of products or goods that are likely to be affected by the standards developed by the particular Committee or Subcommittee.

A consultant participating on behalf of or representing a Producer or Producers, or whose primary business involves representing Producers, is considered to be in the Producer interest category.

**7.4.2 User.** A company or organization whose primary activity causes it to use or employ the products, goods or services that are affected by the standards developed by the particular Committee or Subcommittee. A User may also be an organization that represents the health and safety interests of the general public or of specific groups, including workers.

A professional society made up of individuals whose scientific interest is centered in the field of knowledge affected by the standards developed by the particular Committee or Subcommittee that is primarily focused on the educational and professional development of those individuals may be considered a User.

A consultant participating on behalf of or representing a User or Users or whose primary business involves representing Users, is considered to be in the User interest category.

**7.4.3 Government.** Any branch of the U.S. military or any Federal or State agency will be classified as Government.

A consultant participating on behalf of or representing a government agency or agencies, or whose primary business involves representing a government agency or agencies, is considered to be in the Government interest category.

**7.4.4 General Interest.** A General Interest organization or company is one that does not fit into the above categories. A company or organization (including a consultant) that **regularly** represents two or more interest categories may be classified as General Interest.

A professional society or trade association whose membership or focus is divided between two or more interest categories may be identified as a General Interest organization.

**7.4.5 Changes to interest category for a particular ballot.** In some instances, a voting member may find that it wants to claim a different interest category in relation to a particular standard. In this case, the voting representative must call this to the attention of the Secretary prior to an open ballot. A change of category for a single ballot is expected to be an infrequent occurrence and should be explained in writing by the member when it occurs.. The frequent need to change interest categories may be an indication that the member has selected the wrong interest category. If this occurs, the member should discuss it with the Secretary.

## **7.5 Membership roster**

The Secretariat shall maintain a current and accurate roster for each consensus body, which shall include the following:

1. Title of the Committee or Subcommittee and its designation,
2. Scope of the Committee or Subcommittee,
3. Secretariat — Name of organization, name of secretary, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail.
4. Officers — Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary (name of the person appointed by the Secretariat to serve as Secretary),

5. Members — Name of organization or agency, its representative and alternate (as applicable), address, business affiliation; or name, address, and business affiliation of individual members, telephone, and e-mail address,
6. Interest Category of each member,
7. Tally of interest categories — total voting members and subtotals for each interest category,
8. Working Group
9. Individual Experts — Address, telephone, Email, and business affiliation (if any).

The name, affiliation, and interest category of each member of a consensus body shall be made available to interested parties upon request. The name and affiliation (if any) of subgroup members and individual experts shall be available to interested parties on request. The Secretariat shall maintain separate rosters for each Working Group, which will include, at a minimum, Title, Chair and names and email addresses of all members.

## 7.6 Membership fees

The ASA Committee on Standards is charged with determining fees for participation in the standards program and recommending such fees to the ASA Executive Council. Membership fees shall be billed annually and are payable by 31 January each year.

Membership in the Acoustical Society of America is not a requirement for membership in any of the Accredited Standards Committees or Subcommittees administered by the Acoustical Society of America.

## 8 Subgroups

### 8.1 Formation of subgroups

When one or more subgroups (Subcommittees, Working Groups, Writing Groups) are formed to expedite the work of the Committee or Subcommittee, their formation, reformation or disbandment requires approval (see 10.2) by the Committee or Subcommittee that formed them. The ballot to approve the formation or reformation of a subgroup shall include a call for participation in that group.

The scope and duties delegated to the subgroup shall be approved at the time it is formed, and subsequent changes in scope or duties shall also require approval.

The charge to the subgroup shall clearly state whether:

- a) The subgroup is a **Subcommittee**, responsible for the definitive content of one or more standards and for responding to views and objections thereon (i.e., the subgroup is the consensus body). A Subcommittee shall have the responsibilities outlined in 5.1 items (1) through (4) and may form Working Groups (see b) below) as needed by following the procedures set forth herein for Committees.

or

- b) The subgroup is a **Working Group**, responsible for assisting the consensus body (e.g., drafting all or a portion of a standard, drafting responses to comments or other purely advisory functions). Draft Standards and Technical Reports and substantive change in the content of a Standard or Technical Report proposed by a Working Group shall be referred to the consensus body for approval.

## 8.2 Chair and members of subgroups

**8.2.1 Subcommittees.** The Chair and Vice Chair of a Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Secretariat from the membership of the Subcommittee, as described in Clause 6.

The membership of the Subcommittee shall be organized as described in Clause 7. The Secretariat shall maintain a membership roster in accordance with 7.5 (1) through 7.5 (9) and shall comply with the provisions in 7.1, 7.4, and Clause 10 as applied to voting on the standard(s) and technical reports.

Organizational membership in a Subcommittee shall be open to all interested parties as described in 7.

**8.2.2 Working Groups.** The Chair of a Working Group shall be appointed by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee. The members of the Working Group shall be appointed by the Working Group Chair in consultation with the Committee or Subcommittee Chair. The scope and duties of all Working Groups shall be reviewed by the Committee or Subcommittee annually. The Chair and members of a Working Group need not be members of the Committee, Subcommittee, or of the Acoustical Society of America. The Chair of the Working Group shall submit a membership roster and status report to the Secretariat annually. A Committee or Subcommittee Chair (if possible, in consultation with the Working Group Chair) may authorize a Working Group to be made inactive in lieu of disbandment, if it is deemed that future work may occur. This action does not require a vote but does require the Committee or Subcommittee Chair notify the Secretariat.

Members of Working Groups are individuals, not organizations. Working Groups should operate in accordance with the *Guidelines for ANSI Accredited S Committee Working Groups*.

NOTE When applicable and practicable, and especially for product-related standards, Working Groups should reflect a mix of Producer, User, General Interest, , and Government members.

## 9 Meetings

Committee and Subcommittee meetings shall be held, as decided upon by the Committee or Subcommittee, the Chair, the Secretariat, or by petition of five or more members, to conduct business, such as making assignments, receiving reports of work, considering draft Standards or Technical Reports, resolving differences among subgroups, and considering views and objections from any source. Meetings may be held in person or via teleconference or internet meeting. Meetings of Working Groups may be held as decided upon by the members or Chair of the subgroup.

## **9.1 Open meetings**

Meetings of the Committee (or any Subcommittee that is a consensus body as described in 8.1 a) shall be open to all members and others having direct and material interest. At least four (4) weeks' notice of regularly scheduled meetings shall be given by the Secretariat in ANSI's *Standards Action*; or in other media designed to reach directly and materially affected interests; or both. The notice shall describe the purpose of the meeting and shall identify a readily available source for further information. An agenda shall be available and shall be distributed in advance of the meeting to members and to others expressing interest. ASA will defer to Robert's Rules of Order. Minutes will be drafted by the Secretariat and sent to the Chair for approval. Once approved, they will be circulated to the Committee for information, as the official minutes but may be added as an agenda item for the next meeting, if they require edits and or discussion.

The Secretariat may optionally maintain a permanent mailing list of others interested in the activities of the Committee or Subcommittee.

## **9.2 Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at a meeting. If a quorum is not present, actions may be taken subject to confirmation by letter ballot.

## **10 Voting**

### **10.1 Vote**

Each member shall vote one of the positions.

1. Yes
2. No
3. Abstain

1. A yes vote does not have to include comments. However, if comments are included, they shall include the type of comment (e.g., technical, general or editorial) along with an explanation, and proposed change. ASA shall record and consider any comments that are related to the proposal under consideration. However, editorial or general comments may lead to changes that would not necessitate a recirculation ballot.
2. A no vote shall be accompanied by comments. ASA shall record and consider all negative votes accompanied by any comments that are related to the proposal under consideration. This includes negative votes accompanied by comments concerning potential conflict or duplication of the proposed standard with an existing American National Standard and negative votes accompanied by comments of a procedural or philosophical nature. These types of comments shall not be dismissed due to the fact that they do not necessarily provide alternative language or a specific remedy to the negative vote.

(Any comments that are not related to the proposal at issue may be considered as a proposal for new work, if appropriate.)

All votes or changes to votes shall be filed in writing, including by e-mail. If the original ballot form is not used, the voter shall include sufficient information to clearly identify the ballot by including the ballot number and/or the title of the standard under consideration.

Votes on membership and officer-related issues need not be accompanied by reasons and need not be resolved or circulated to the Committee or Subcommittee. The same yes/ no/ abstain method of voting shall be followed.

**10.1.1 Vote of alternate.** An alternate's vote is counted only if the primary voting representative fails to vote.

**10.1.2 Vote of individual who represents more than one organization.**

Generally, no representative shall have more than one vote. However, if two or more organizations appoint the same individual to represent them, that individual may cast a separate vote for each organization represented. The organizations shall confirm in writing to the Secretariat that they are aware of and will accept the results. Additionally, representation of more than one organization by the same individual shall require approval by a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee, excluding the vote(s) of that individual.

**10.1.3 Voting period** The voting period for letter ballots shall be established by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair to allow reasonable opportunity to respond. The minimum voting period shall be 14 days and the maximum shall be 60 days from the date of issue. The ballot may be closed earlier if all ballots are returned. An extension may be granted at the Chair's or Secretariat's option, when warranted.

A follow-up letter requesting immediate return of the ballot shall be sent, as appropriate, to members and alternate members (if the primary voter has not already voted) whose votes have not been received within seven business days before the ballot closes.

**10.2 Actions requiring approval by two-thirds of those voting**

The following actions require a letter ballot and will be considered approved if a majority of the consensus body casts a vote (counting abstentions) and at least two-thirds of those voting approve (not counting abstentions). All of these listed ballot items are decided on a numerical basis only. No comments are required to support a negative vote, and no effort will be made to resolve such negatives. Negative votes will be reported to the Committee or Subcommittee (along with comments received) for information at the close of the ballot.

1. Confirmation of officers appointed by the Secretariat,
2. Formation or reformation of a subgroup, including its scope, by the Committee or Subcommittee Chair (if possible in consultation with the Working Group Chair), the group will not be reformed in the future.
3. Decision to approve or deny membership, where the Secretary recommends that such membership be denied,
4. Approval of a new Technical Report,

5. Approval of withdrawal of an existing standard.

The following actions, by Committee or Subcommittee vote at a meeting, require approval by a simple majority of the members present:

1. Approval of the agenda,
2. Authorization of a letter ballot.

### **10.3 Actions requiring approval by 80% of those voting**

The following actions require a letter ballot and will be considered approved if a majority of the consensus body casts a vote (counting abstentions) and at least 80% of those voting approve (not counting abstentions). Votes on the following matters shall not be taken at meetings but shall always be conducted by letter ballot to provide the opportunity to vote for all Committee or Subcommittee members.

1. Approval of a new Standard,
2. Approval of revision or addendum to all or part of a Standard,
3. Approval of reaffirmation of an existing Standard.
4. Approval of an interpretation of a Standard.

NOTE: Individual experts shall receive documents and participate by submitting their written comments for consideration on documents listed in 10.3 (1) and 10.3 (2) but shall have no vote.

The following actions may only be approved by a Committee (not by a Subcommittee) with approval requirements as stated above:

1. Adoption of Committee procedures, interest categories, or revisions thereof,
2. Approval of change of Committee or Subcommittee scope,
3. Approval of termination of the Committee

### **10.4 Authorization of letter ballots**

A letter ballot may be authorized by any of the following:

1. Simple majority vote of those present at a Committee or Subcommittee meeting,
2. Chair,
3. Secretariat,
4. Petition of five or more members of the Committee or Subcommittee.

## **10.5 Other review**

**10.5.1 PINS Announcement in ANSI Standards Action.** As soon as the scope of work is clearly identified, proposals for new American National Standards or revision of existing American National Standards shall be transmitted by the Secretariat to ANSI for listing in *Standards Action*. Comments arising from the PINS announcement shall be handled as described in 10.6.2 and 10.6.3.

**10.5.2 Call for public comment (BSR-8).** Proposals for new American National Standards and proposals to revise, reaffirm, or withdraw approval of existing American National Standards shall be transmitted to ANSI using the BSR-8 form, or its equivalent, for listing in *Standards Action* in order to provide an opportunity for public comment. If it is the intent to submit the standard for consideration as an international standard, then a statement to this effect shall be included as part of the summary that is published in *Standards Action*. The comment period shall be one of the following:

- A minimum of thirty days (30) if the full text of the revision(s) can be published in *Standards Action*;
- A minimum of forty-five (45) days if the document is available in an electronic format, deliverable within one day of a request, and the source (e.g., URL or an E-mail address) from which it can be obtained by the public is provided to ANSI for announcement in *Standards Action*; or
- A minimum of sixty (60) days, if neither of the aforementioned options is applicable.

Although a 60-day public comment period is not required in all instances, a number of provisions in the ANSI Essential Requirements, when read in combination, satisfy the WTO's 60-day rule. Before adopting a standard, ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers shall allow a period of at least 60 days in total for submission of comments on the draft standard if requested by an interested party within the territory of a member of the WTO. Exceptions outlined in the rule are permitted due to issues of safety, health or environment. (See WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Annex 3 Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (CGP) Substantive Provision L.)

The Secretariat shall determine whether listing of proposed standards actions shall be concurrent with the final consensus body letter ballot. Timely and adequate notice of standards activity shall also be announced in media suitable to demonstrate that a meaningful opportunity for participation, debate, and deliberation by all directly and materially interested parties in a fair and equitable manner was provided. Any substantive change subsequently made in a proposed American National Standard requires re-listing of the change in *Standards Action* as described in this clause.

The Secretariat shall transmit a copy of the proposed new, revised, or reaffirmed Standard to the Administrator(s) of the appropriate USA Technical Advisory Group(s) at the same time if the standard is intended to be submitted for consideration as an ISO, IEC or ISO/IEC JTC-1 standard.

Comments and objections resulting from the above shall be dealt with in accordance with clause 10.6.

## **10.6 Consideration of comments and objections**

**10.6.1 Comments and objections on a Technical Report.** A Technical Report is not a consensus document. It shall be submitted for ballot to the Committee seeking a "yes" or "no" vote to publish the report as it is presented. Technical comments shall not be solicited or considered.

When the ballot is closed, the Secretary shall forward the ballot tally to the Chair of the consensus body and, if it has been approved, file the appropriate forms with ANSI to register the Technical Report.

**10.6.2 Comments and objections on a draft Standard.** When the balloting on a draft Standard has been closed, the Secretary shall forward the ballot tally to the Chair of the consensus body and to the Working Group Chair, responsible for the draft Standard. The Working Group Chair shall determine whether the expressed comments and objections shall be considered by telephone, correspondence, or at a meeting.

Prompt consideration shall be given to the written views and objections of all participants, including those commenting on either the PINS announcement or public comment listing in *Standards Action*.

**10.6.3 PINS announcement comments.** If the Committee or Subcommittee receives written comments within thirty (30) days from the publication date of a PINS announcement in *Standards Action*, it shall follow the procedures set out in 2.5 of [1].

**10.6.4 Public review and consensus body comments.** Prompt consideration shall be given to the written comments and objections of all participants, including those commenting on either the PINS announcement or the public comment listing in *Standards Action*. A concerted effort to resolve all expressed objections shall be made, and each objector shall be advised in writing of the disposition of the objection and in the case of rejection, the technical reasons for rejection of the specific comment.

When an attempt to reconcile a negative vote or position by a member of the consensus body has been made by the Chair or his designee, a proposed resolution shall be sent to the member. The objector will be given a fifteen (15) day period to respond. If no response is received from the member within fifteen (15) days, in the absence of mitigating circumstances, then the outstanding comments shall be reported to the consensus body as described in 10.6.5, with a statement to the effect that no reply was received from the individual by the given deadline.

A negative vote cast by a member of the consensus body shall be considered resolved when the negative voter agrees to change his/her vote, or the negative commenter accepts the proposed resolution of his/her comment in writing, including by email.

Comments arising from the public review announcement may be considered resolved if the commenter does not respond within the fifteen (15) day period provided. Public review commenters shall be notified of this.

Members of the consensus body or public review commenters with unresolved objections shall be notified in writing of their right to appeal the result of the committee ballot. (See Clause 16.) Each unresolved objection resulting from public review or submitted by a member of the consensus body shall be reported to the BSR.

**10.6.5 Recirculation.** Each unresolved objection and attempt at resolution, and any substantive changes made in a proposed American National Standard, shall be reported to the consensus body in order to afford all members an opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their votes. Members may change their vote by notifying the Secretariat in writing of their decision to do so. Members who wish to maintain their original vote need not respond to this ballot. Members who were not members of the consensus body at the time of the original ballot shall receive recirculated materials for information only. The recirculation period shall be 30 days for substantive changes to documents; however, it may be reduced to 14 days for unresolved objections and other matters.

**10.6.6 Late comments.** Any comments received subsequent to the closing of the public review and comment period shall be considered at the next review.

## **10.7 Expedited procedures for use in the identical national adoption of an international standard**

The consensus body should compare existing American methods and existing American National Standards, where they exist, with ISO or IEC standards and may, if appropriate, base their standards on or consider the national adoption of an ISO or IEC standard as an American National Standard. Input from the relevant ANSI-accredited U.S. TAG and U.S. expert members of the relevant international Working Groups should be considered in making the decision to adopt an international standard.

If a Committee or Subcommittee wishes to adopt an ISO or IEC guide, report, or document other than a standard, the Committee or Subcommittee shall follow its accredited procedures and may not utilize the expedited procedures detailed in Clause 10.7.2.

**10.7.1 Requirements associated with the identical or modified adoption of an ISO or IEC Standard as an American National Standard.** A Committee or Subcommittee wishing to adopt an ISO or IEC standard as an American National Standard that constitutes an identical or modified adoption as defined in the *ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards* shall:

1. Comply with the ANSI ISO/IEC Policy Regarding Rights to Nationally Adopt IEC and ISO Standards or Otherwise use IEC and ISO Material and submit evidence of compliance (such as a confirmation from the ANSI staff responsible for such contractual arrangements) as part of the formal submittal of the candidate American National Standard for approval;
2. Clearly identify during the American National Standard development and submittal process that it is the intent of the standards project to adopt a specific ISO or IEC standard and provide notice in compliance with current ANSI requirements;

3. Designate and publish the final approved American National Standard in compliance with applicable sections of Annex B of the *ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards*.

**10.7.2 Expedited procedures for the identical adoption of an ISO or IEC standard as an American National Standard.** The consensus body may use the expedited procedure for the identical national adoption of an ISO or IEC standard by following the procedures outlined in the current edition of the *ANSI Procedures for National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards*.

#### **10.8 Report on final results of voting**

The final result of the voting shall be reported, by interest categories, to the Committee or Subcommittee.

#### **10.9 Discontinuance of a standards project**

If, based on consultation with the Committee or Subcommittee Chair, the Standards Director determines that a standards project is not feasible for technical reasons or because of lack of resources or lack of market demand, it may be discontinued. The Secretariat shall publish a notice of the discontinuance in *Standards Action* and notify the Committee or Subcommittee of the discontinuance as soon as possible or at the next annual meeting.

A written justification for such action shall be made available upon receipt of any written request received by the Secretariat within sixty (60) days of the final action.

### **11 Submittal of Standard or Technical Report**

#### **11.1 Submittal of a Standard**

Upon completion of the procedures for voting, disposition of comments and objections, and appeals (see 16), the appropriate forms (e.g., BSR-9) and documentation for a proposed Standard shall be submitted to ANSI by the Secretariat.

The information supplied to ANSI by the Secretariat shall include all relevant material required by ANSI. If the Secretariat is unavailable, the Standards Director can appoint a member of the Committee or Subcommittee to make the submittal on the Secretariat's behalf.

#### **11.2 Submittal of a Technical Report**

Upon completion of the voting and resolution of any appeals, the draft Technical Report will be submitted to ANSI in compliance with the current edition of the *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*.

The information supplied to ANSI by the Secretariat shall include all relevant material required by ANSI. If the Secretariat is unavailable, the Standards Director can appoint a member of the Committee or Subcommittee to make the submittal on the Secretariat's behalf.

The following text must appear as follows in a Technical Report:

On the cover:

"A Technical Report prepared by ASA and Registered with ANSI on DD MONTH YEAR. **If reaffirmed by ASA,**" it must read, "Reaffirmed by ASA on DD MONTH YEAR" since it is not reaffirmed by ANSI but rather registered only once with them.

In the foreword: "Publication of this Technical Report, that has been registered with ANSI, has been approved by Accredited Standards Committee S-(number and title). This document is registered as a Technical Report according to the *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*. This document is not an American National Standard and the material contained herein is not normative in nature. Comments on the content of this document should be sent to Accredited Standards Committee S-(number and title), at the Standards Secretariat, Acoustical Society of America, 1305 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 110, Melville, NY 11747."

## **12 Records retention policy**

Records of the activities of the Standards Committees or Subcommittees for which the Acoustical Society serves as Secretariat shall be prepared and maintained in order to provide evidence of compliance with the current *ANSI Essential Requirements*. Records concerning new, revised or reaffirmed American National Standards shall be retained for one complete standard cycle or until the standard is revised. Records concerning withdrawn standards shall be retained for five years from the date of withdrawal.

Other records of the Standards Secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America (for example, minutes of meetings other than the minutes of the Standards Committees or Subcommittees referenced above, etc.) shall be retained for five years from the time of their issuance.

Documents may exist in either hard copy or electronic form.

## **13 Metric policy**

The SI system (International System of Units), the modern metric system, is the preferred system of units of measurement in American National Standards.

## **14 Termination of the Committee**

A proposal to terminate an Accredited Standards Committee may be made by a directly and materially affected interest. The proposal shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat and shall include at least the following:

1. Reasons why the Committee should be terminated,
2. The name of the organization(s) that will assume responsibility for maintenance of any existing American National Standard(s) that is the responsibility of the Committee.

If, after discussion among the proponents of the action and the Secretariat, it appears that the desired objectives can best be reached by termination, a letter ballot with the proposal to terminate the Committee and transfer responsibility, as appropriate, for the affected

Standards, and any supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Committee. Concurrently, the proposal shall be announced for comment in *Standards Action*.

A Subcommittee may be terminated by a vote of the Committee that formed it as described in Clause 8 and 10.2.

## **15 Communications**

Correspondence of Committee or Subcommittee officers should be designated as "(Sub)Committee Correspondence" in the header and/or message title without the name of an organization or agency.

### **15.1 Formal internal communication**

If correspondence between Working Groups of different committees involves issues or decisions (i.e., non-routine matters) affecting other Committees or Subcommittees, copies shall be sent to all affected Chairs, the Secretariat, and officers.

### **15.2 Interpretation of Standards**

All requests for interpretations shall be submitted in writing. The question shall be formulated so that it may be answered with yes or no. (A sample request for interpretation form is provided in Annex A.) The Secretariat shall acknowledge all requests in writing, transmit such requests to the Committee or Subcommittee for review, and transmit any formal Committee or Subcommittee response in writing to the requestor and to the Associate Editor(s) of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (JASA) for Acoustical Standards News, for publication in the Journal. Any proposed revisions of Standards resulting from requests for interpretation shall be processed by the Committee or Subcommittee according to the accredited procedures described in this document.

## **16 Appeals**

Parties who are directly and materially interested and who may have been or will be adversely affected by a procedural action or inaction of the consensus body or the Secretariat shall have the right to appeal. A procedural complaint may include whether a technical issue was afforded due process.

If the subject of the appeal concerns a Technical Report, an announcement regarding the appeal will appear in *Standards Action*. There will be no suspension of the registration of the document with ANSI as a Technical Report during the appeals process.

### **16.1 Complaint**

The appellant shall file a written complaint with the Secretariat within thirty (30) days after the date of notification of action or any time with respect to inaction. The complaint shall state the nature of the objection(s) including any adverse effects, the clause(s) of these procedures that are at issue, actions or inactions that are at issue, and the specific remedial action(s) that would satisfy the appellant's concerns. Previous efforts to resolve the objection(s) and the outcome of each shall be noted by the appellant. An administrative fee of \$1,500.00 shall accompany the complaint.

## **16.2 Response**

Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the complaint, the respondent (Chair or Secretariat representative) shall respond in writing to the appellant, specifically addressing each allegation of fact in the complaint to the extent of the respondent's knowledge.

## **16.3 Hearing**

If the appellant and the respondent are unable to resolve the written complaint informally in a manner consistent with these procedures, the appellant must request a hearing with an appeals panel within fifteen (15) days; otherwise, the appeal is considered closed. If a request for a hearing with an appeals panel is received within the required period of time, the Secretariat shall schedule a hearing on a date agreeable to all participants, giving at least ten (10) working day's notice.

## **16.4 Appeals panel**

The three members of the appeals panel shall be chosen by the appellant from a pool consisting primarily of past Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the ASA Committee on Standards, past Chairs of each of the four S Committees, and past U.S. TAG Chairs. In every case the appellant will have seven (7) candidates to choose from. These seven candidates will be selected from the appeals panel judges' pool by the Standards Director. No person may serve on an appeals panel if (s)he has been directly involved in the matter in dispute or will be materially or directly affected by the decision. The overall pool of potential candidates shall number at least ten (10). If there are insufficient candidates from the group above, then the Standards Director shall draw additional pool members from people who are familiar with the ASA Standards development process.

The Chair of the ASA Committee on Standards will provide information about the candidates for the appellant. The appellant shall choose a panel within ten (10) business days of being provided with information about the prospective panel members. The appellant shall notify the Chair of the ASA Committee on Standards immediately of any perceived conflicts of interest.

If the appellant fails to select a panel, the Chair of the ASA Committee on Standards shall appoint a panel and the appellant shall be deemed to have waived his/her right to participate in the selection process.

## **16.5 Conduct of the hearing**

At the discretion of the Chair of the ASA Committee on Standards, the hearing may be held by teleconference or at a face-to-face hearing.

The appellant has the burden of demonstrating that these procedures were not followed; that the adverse effects alleged in the complaint are caused by the failure to follow the procedures, and the efficacy of the requested remedial action. The respondent has the burden of demonstrating that the Committee or Subcommittee and the Secretariat took all action in compliance with these procedures and that the requested remedial action would be ineffective or detrimental. Each party may adduce other pertinent arguments, and members

of the appeals panel may address questions to individuals. The appellant and the respondent shall each be allocated equal time for their remarks. *Robert's Rules of Order* (most recent edition) shall apply to questions of parliamentary procedure for the hearing if not covered herein.

### **16.6 Decision**

The appeals panel shall render its decision in writing within thirty (30) days, stating findings of fact and conclusions, with reasons thereto, based on a preponderance of the evidence. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the appellant.

Consideration may be given to the following positions, among others, in formulating the decision:

- (1) Finding for the appellant, remanding the action to the Committee or Subcommittee or the Secretariat with a specific statement of the issues and facts for which fair and equitable action was not taken;
- (2) Finding for the respondent, with a specific statement of the facts that demonstrate fair and equitable treatment of the appellant and the appellant's objections;
- (3) Finding that new, substantive evidence has been introduced and remanding the entire action to the Committee or Subcommittee or the Secretariat for appropriate reconsideration.

### **17 Parliamentary procedures**

On questions of parliamentary procedure not covered in these procedures, *Robert's Rules of Order* (most recent edition) may be used to expedite due process.

### **18 Inclusion of patents in American National Standards**

There is no objection in principle to drafting a proposed American National Standard in terms that include the use of an essential patent claim (one whose use would be required for compliance with the standard), if it is considered that technical reasons justify this approach. Participants in the ASD/ANSI standards development process with patent claims believed to be essential must bring this to the attention of the ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) as soon as this is known. If a proposed revised or approved American National Standard may require the use of a patented invention, the ANSI Patent Policy given in section 3.1 of the *ANSI Essential Requirements* shall be followed.

### **19 Commercial terms and conditions**

American National Standards developed under these Procedures shall conform to the commercial terms and conditions policy given in 3.2 Commercial terms and conditions of the current edition of the *ANSI Essential Requirements*.

## **20 Procedure for requesting waiver of fees**

The ASA Standards Secretariat assesses organizational membership fees and administrative fees for appeals at a fraction of the actual cost of the services provided. Nevertheless, there may be times when a party has a legitimate need to participate but lacks the ability to pay.

In his/her sole discretion, the Chair of ASACOS may grant a fee waiver or reduction of either membership or appeals fees to an applicant that is not limited to one appeal or membership year for an organization or individual's lifetime but is meant to be a "one-time" waiver or reduction for a particular appeal or membership year and does not preclude the organization or individual from applying for another fee waiver for another appeal or membership fee in the future. Requests for waiver of fees should be mailed to the office of the Secretariat addressed to the Chair of the ASA Committee on Standards (ASACOS).

A waiver request must include a reason demonstrating a financial hardship (such as retirement, temporary unemployment, etc.). If the request is for waiver of organizational membership fees, the letter must include the commitment to return to paying status within one year. The Committees cannot make any provision for subsidizing students, retirees, consultants, etc., whose reason is not a temporary financial hardship.

## **21 Antitrust Policy**

American National Standards shall be developed in accordance with applicable antitrust and competition laws. Meetings amongst competitors to develop American National Standards are to be conducted in accordance with these laws.

## **22 References**

- [1] ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards
- [2] Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI
- [3] ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards
- [4] Guide to Participation in the ASA Standards Program for Current and Future Organizational Members
- [5] ROBERT, Henry M., et al. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition. Also available online: <http://www.rulesonline.com/>

## **Annex A**

# **INTERPRETATION REQUEST**

Please use your TAB key to move between fields.  
Answer questions 1-8 below and return this form to:

ASA Standards Secretariat  
1305 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 300  
Melville, NY 11747  
standards@acousticalsociety.org

<b>1. Date of submission:</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>2. Name of person making this request</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>3. Business Name:</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>4. Address:</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>5. Email address:</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>6. Telephone number:</b>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<b>7. Please specify the Standard by name and number and the clause number:</b> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
<b>8. Interpretation request: please formulate the question clearly and in a format that enables a YES or NO answer. Note: only one request per form is acceptable:</b> <input style="width: 100%; height: 150px;" type="text"/>	

Please do not make any entry in the box below.

<b>9. WG recommendation for approval by the Committee:</b> <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
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