

# AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY STANDARDS COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN January 2016 through December 2020 Revision 2 – December 22, 2017

(Contact standards@ans.org for accompanying SMART matrix if interested.)

## Vision

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) Standards Committee is recognized as the leader in developing standards for the implementation of nuclear science and technology.

## Mission

To develop and maintain high-quality, consensus standards that meet the current and anticipated future needs of the U.S. nuclear industry<sup>1</sup> and to promote their broad acceptance, endorsement, and use.

## Goals and Objectives

Each of the following five goals is defined by its objective and supported by specific initiatives to achieve the goal.

### **Goal #1: Align Standards Development Priorities with Current and Emerging Industry Needs**

**Objective:** Establish an approach and supporting systems to periodically collect industry priority input and integrate it into the standards priorities and delivery targets.

#### **Initiatives**

- A. Evaluate the results from the initial industry standards priority survey.
- B. Assign responsibilities to the appropriate consensus committees (CCs) to address the top ten survey-identified high-priority standards.
- C. Develop and implement an approach to collect industry priority needs on an ongoing basis and integrate them into Standards Committee priorities.
- D. Incorporate risk-informed and performance-based methods into ANS standards, where appropriate, as follows:
  1. Develop the Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Principles and Policy Committee (RP3C) Operating Plan.
  2. Develop a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Principles training package for training of ANS Standards Committee members.
  3. Conduct training of CCs and working groups (WGs).
  4. Have the RP3C work with each CC to develop a prioritized list and schedule for incorporating risk-informed and performance-based principles into its standards. Collaboratively, RP3C will identify and define any new standards that are related to risk-informed and performance-based principles. Some such work may already have been assigned to other standards WGs, and so it is important to work with the Standards Board (SB) and CCs to identify an appropriate WG lead (and CC) for the standards development with the objective of avoiding duplication.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “industry” as used in this plan means the portions of the nuclear science and technology community within the scope of the ANS Standards Committee.

5. Publish a *Nuclear News* article to inform other ANS members of the benefits of this risk-informed and performance-based effort.
6. Develop presentation materials that can be used to inform other industry groups as to the benefits and use of the ANS Standards Committee risk-informed and performance-based standards activities.

## **Goal #2: Develop and Maintain High-Quality Standards**

**Objective:** Ensure that effective training and knowledge transfer are embedded in the standards development process and augment participant capabilities to develop and maintain high-quality standards.

### **Initiatives**

- A. Enhance relationships with the ANS Professional Divisions and Technical Groups to assist in populating WGs with expert individuals (also supports Goal #5).
- B. Develop and implement a standards training program for all Standards Committee members to ensure that standards development is consistent with current policies and procedures, thus producing consistently higher-quality products in a timelier manner.
- C. Assign a mentor to each new standards WG who is experienced in the use of ANS standards' procedures, policies, glossary, and toolkit.

## **Goal #3: Improve Standards Development Production and Efficiency**

**Objective:** Improve efficiencies with respect to development and maintenance of ANS standards.

### **Initiatives**

- A. Expedite development of high-priority standards proactively focusing on timely development of new standards to meet identified industry needs by improving SB and CC oversight using achievable project plans and definitive schedules with assigned milestones throughout the standards development cycle.
- B. Complete the Standards Volunteer Database to facilitate recruiting personnel for Standards Committee activities (also supports Goal #5).
- C. Assist the CCs in obtaining required human resources using outreach initiatives.
- D. Maximize use of the ANS Standards Workspace and other communications vehicles to eliminate the need for travel and face-to-face meetings to the extent possible.
- E. Acquire funding (e.g., grants) to support the development of high-priority standards on an expedited basis.
- F. Streamline the reaffirmation process to reduce the number of delinquent standards by establishing a systematic review of delinquent standards to start no later than the four-year mark. This can be accomplished through the following mechanisms:
  1. Automatically sending out a Reaffirmation Form to the WG chair with copies to subcommittee chair and CC chair.
  2. Automating subcommittee and CC approvals of reaffirmation, withdrawal, and revision recommendations.
  3. Establishing an ANS Professional Division and Technical Group sponsorship program to aid in review of associated delinquent standards with and without active WGs.
- G. Develop subcommittee/CC metrics to identify opportunities for improvements.

## Goal #4: Expand ANS Awareness and External Outreach

**Objective:** Improve interfaces between the Standards Committee and other segments of ANS and with other industry organizations through better communication related to existing standards and standards development activities to ensure continuing relevance.

### Initiatives

- A. Use periodic survey methods to gain feedback from the industry and federal and state agencies; provide feedback to survey responders.
- B. Establish periodic leadership meetings with regulatory agencies, owners' groups, and industry executives to align needs and build support for development and greater use.
- C. Establish an ANS Professional Division sponsorship program to broaden input in setting standards priority.
- D. Seek liaison arrangements with relevant standards development organizations, where needed, to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and consistency of standards across the industry where overlapping or interlocutory standards arise.
- E. Establish an approach to keep industry and trade groups advised of approved standards and in-progress standards in their areas of interest.
- F. Identify key international organizations that can contribute to specific ANS standards development projects, including WG participation, review of draft standards, and providing input into standards prioritization.
- G. Establish a standards educational program for non-Standards Committee members to increase their knowledge of
  - 1. what consensus standards are and are not;
  - 2. the benefit of consensus standards to the industry; and
  - 3. the advantages to companies, federal and state agencies, and individuals of supporting standards development.
- H. Contact leading nuclear companies to determine if they issue regular newsletters and offer to provide standards updates for inclusion.
- I. Evaluate the cost effectiveness of a fee-based training program for newly issued/revised standards.

## Goal #5: Increase Participation in ANS Standards Working Groups, Subcommittees, and Consensus Committees

**Objective:** Increase participation in ANS standards development to (1) ensure continued technical capability of Standards Committee members, (2) enhance knowledge capture and transfer, and (3) increase participation of young nuclear professionals.

### Initiatives

- A. Approach owners' groups and industry organizations soliciting member participation in ANS standards.
- B. Send notices to ANS Student Section members, Young Members Group, Professional Division members, and North American Young Generation in Nuclear members to provide opportunities to participate in ANS standards.
- C. Enhance relationships with the ANS Professional Divisions and Technical Groups to assist in populating WGs with expert individuals (also supports Goal #2).
- D. Advertise upcoming standards efforts with requests for support using *Nuclear News*, the ANS Nuclear Cafe blog, and the ANS LinkedIn group.
- E. Complete the Standards Volunteer Database and make it available to subcommittee and CC chairs (also supports Goal #3).
- F. Monitor CC and WG success in staffing and recruitment and share best practices across all CCs.