

Access Board (ACCESS) Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Report to NIST

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1. Please provide a summary of your agency's activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities" and the National Technology Transfer and Advance Act (NTTAA). The summary should contain a link to the agency's standards-specific website(s) where information about your agency's standards and conformity assessment related activities are available.

Please note that your agency's report from last year is provided below in grey text. Please either delete and add this year's report or convert the grey text to black and update the year if nothing has changed. Please send this to NIST along with ACCESS FY2022 Q2.

The U.S. Access Board is an independent federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards. We are responsible for developing, or assisting in the development of, accessibility standards and guidelines under several federal statutes, including: the Americans with Disabilities Act (buildings and facilities, and transportation vehicles), Architectural Barriers Act (federal buildings and facilities); Communications Act (telecommunications equipment); Rehabilitation Act (information and communication technology used or procured by federal agencies); Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (medical diagnostic equipment); Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (prescription drug labels); and Help America Vote Act (voluntary voting system guidelines).

In FY 2023, as in previous reporting years, the Access Board relied heavily on voluntary consensus standards to fulfill its regulatory mission.

We published the Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/08/2023-16149/accessibility-guidelines-for-pedestrian-facilities-in-the-public-right-of-way> on August 8, 2023.

Our existing guidelines and standards continue to incorporate by reference about 25 voluntary consensus standards, ranging from web content accessibility guidelines to specifications that relate to the determination of playground surface accessibility.

The Access Board also has a long history of working with standards development organizations (SDOs) on the development of consensus standards relating to accessible design. In FY 2023, Access Board staff served on numerous SDO committees, technical working groups, and cooperative research panels to ensure that the agency's technical expertise and perspective were brought to bear on the development (or revision) of model codes and standards that affect accessibility in a wide range of settings.

For example, agency staff served on, or provided technical assistance to, the following model code groups, SDOs, and research cooperatives:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers, A18 Platform Lift and Stairway Chair Lift Committee;
- American Society of Testing and Materials, Committee on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities;
- International Code Council, Consensus Committee on Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ASC A117);

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- National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices;
- National Cooperative Highway Research Panel (sponsored by the Transportation Research Board (TRB));
- Transportation Cooperative Research Panel (sponsored by TRB);
- Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Tech. Society of North America (RESNA), Standards Comm. on Cognitive Accessibility;
- TRB Standing Committee on Innovative Public Transportation Services and Technologies;
- RESNA Standards Committee for Assistive Technology for Air Travel; and
- World Wide Web Consortium Web Accessibility Initiative - Accessibility Guidelines Working Group,

Two Access Board members serve as statutory representatives on the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Board of Advisors and Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). The TGDC, chaired by the NIST director, is responsible for drafting and recommending versions of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). The Board of Advisors reviews the VVSG, best practice recommendations, and follows other EAC activities. For FY 2023, the EAC Board of Advisors and TGDC meetings were held virtually and focused on supplemental materials supporting and advancing adoption of VVSG 2.0. In addition to the annual Board of Advisors and TGDC meetings, Access Board members and staff also attend or participate in some other EAC public-facing activities.

Additional information about [how the Access Board works with SDO and others to develop accessibility standards and guidelines](#) is available on the can be found [on](#) the Access Board website.

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2. Please keep track changes on to record or rescind any new government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) during FY 2022. Please note, GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, and you do not need to report your agency's use of a GUS where no similar VCS exists.

Start by reviewing Table 1: Current Government Unique Standards FY2021. If no changes, record the number of GUS in FY2022, save the file, and send to nrrioux@nist.gov.

To add a new GUS, please go to Table 2: Government Unique Standards Added in FY2022 and use the template provided to add the GUS, VCS, and rationale. If more than one GUS is being added, please follow the template in listing any new GUS.

To rescind a GUS, (if they are no longer in use or have been replaced by a voluntary consensus standard) please cut the rescinded standard and paste in Table 3: Government Unique Standards Rescinded in FY2022. Please add a 'Rationale for Rescinding' explaining why the standard was rescinded.

Please record below the total number of GUS currently in use (previous years and new as of this FY). This number should include the previous total plus any new GUS added, and minus any GUS rescinded:

Number of GUS in FY2022: 0 + (new) - (rescinded) = 0

Table 1: Current Government Unique Standards FY2022
