

## Department of Defense (DoD) Fiscal Year 2021 Agency Report

**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.**

The primary goal of the Department of Defense (DoD) is to support our nations warfighter in the most efficient, effective, and cost-conscious manner possible while meeting mission objectives. Standards and standardization are essential elements to ensuring cost containment and operational effectiveness are achieved during the development and continued maintenance of DoD systems and subsystems. More information on the Defense Standardization Program can be found at <https://www.dsp.dla.mil>.

DoD relies on voluntary consensus standards (VCS) to gain access to cutting edge technologies within the global marketplace while reducing total acquisition costs. Currently, DoD has adopted 8,343 VCS approved for use within the Department of Defense. Each of these 8,343 VCS is cataloged with an adoption notice in the ASSIST database (<https://assist.dla.mil>), which gives visibility of the VCS so that others within DoD may use that standard in implementing their own systems or programs. Each adoption notice provides contact information for the adopting activity should any potential DoD users have questions regarding the technical content, or how to get a copy of the document. To promote the use of VCS by DoD, publishing an adoption notice is highly encouraged, but it is not a mandatory prerequisite for their use.

Therefore, the number of adoption notices for VCS is only a partial representation of their use in DoD. Many additional VCS documents are called out in DoD acquisitions and used in defense systems. Thousands more VCS are cited as normative references in DoD standardization documents. Similarly, normative references to VCS are found in International Standardization Agreements, and are used by DoD in the implementation of U.S.-ratified International Standardization Agreements. The extensive use of VCS allows DoD to gain access to cutting edge technologies and to be interoperable with our allies and partners.

In Fiscal Year 2021, DoD adopted 53 VCS in several areas, including: Construction Building Materials; Non-Destructive Testing and Inspection; Welding, Soldering, and Brazing; Parachutes; Electrical Insulators and Insulation Materials; Metal Castings; Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Components; Plastics and Fabricated Materials; Oils and Greases; Chemical Testing; Hardware and Abrasives; Human Factors; and Configuration Management. DoD also canceled 236 military unique documents and replaced 12 of them with VCS.

DoD uses VCS for many different purposes and has had a long history of working with VCS bodies and industry to ensure DoD's needs can be met using VCS. As an example, in Fiscal Year 2021, a team from the U.S. Army's DEVCOM Ground Vehicle Systems Center led an effort to modify existing performance specifications to support the abatement of Hexavalent-Chromium/Cadmium as a corrosion protective coating on fasteners commonly used on the Army's fleet of ground combat systems. This team edited sixty-one (61) VCS documents to reflect the preferred and alternate use of Zinc-Nickel plating. They then sent these edits to the appropriate commercial industry review boards for approval. Further, this

team received approval from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) to change ASME B18.24 to accommodate the use K-Factor (torque modifiers) requirements, and from SAE International and Aerospace Industry Association (AIA), both of which have begun updating their standards for the use of Zinc-Nickel plating. Implementation of the changes will improve personnel safety, significantly reduce environmental impact, improve system maintainability and reliability, and reduce cost. Creating options to eliminate hazardous materials in the Army's fleet will have the potential to save millions of dollars in disposal costs.

**2. Please list the government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2021. Please note that GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, thus the total number in your agency's report will include all GUS currently in use (previous years and new as of this FY):**

This agency reports voluntary consensus standards usage on a categorical basis.