

Department of Energy (DOE) 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.

In 2021, as in previous reporting years, the Department of Energy (DOE) relied heavily on voluntary consensus standards (VCSs) to fulfill its mission and has a long history of working with the VCS community to develop standards that help DOE achieve its missions. DOE supports federal and contractor participation on appropriate VCS committees and writing bodies and tracks participation. Appropriate VCSs are referenced or invoked in our directives or contracts to meet our specific requirements.

The DOE Technical Standards Program has a detailed set of procedures called Technical Standards Program Procedures (TSPPs), which include the requirement to perform a mandatory search for existing VCSs prior to initiating a DOE Standard development or revision project. The Department has a robust project justification process which demands that a potential DOE Standard developer perform searches for existing VCSs and document not only the results of those searches, but also the methods used to perform the searches. The Department recognizes that new VCSs are always being developed and approved. Therefore, the project justification process includes the requirement to perform VCS searches when revising DOE Standards as well as when developing new DOE Standards. Lastly, DOE Standards can also be reaffirmed, meaning that the DOE Standard does not require technical changes to remain appropriate for use. The next revision of the TSPPs will include a VCS search requirement for reaffirmation. This requirement will make it mandatory to perform searches for any newly approved VCSs which could be used in lieu of reaffirming a DOE Standard.

DOE does not have a conformity assessment program, and therefore does not track conformity assessment activities regarding VCSs.

DOE Technical Standards Program Internet Link

<https://www.standards.doe.gov/>

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): 0