

Department of Energy (DOE) Fiscal Year 2023 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 Advancement 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 2023, as in previous reporting years, the Department of Energy (DOE) relied heavily on voluntary consensus standards (VCSs) to fulfill its mission. DOE has a long history of working with the VCS community to develop standards that help the Department achieve its mission. 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, revision, or reaffirmation project. The Department continues to have a robust project justification process, which requires 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. In September 2021, the DOE acquired an online subscription to VCS access. This subscription is managed through the DOE Technical Standards Program. Having this subscription enables Department standards developers to conduct more efficient searches for VCS, which could be used in lieu of developing, revising, or reaffirming DOE Technical Standards documents. In 2022, the scope of the subscription service was further expanded in response to an increased demand for VCS access. In 2023, the subscription service was further enhanced by increasing the number of VCSs available to users for which the Department has full text access. 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 is scheduled to take place in CY-2024 and 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 record any government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) during FY 2023. 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 FY2023.

To add a new GUS, please include:

1. The name of the GUS;
2. The name(s) and version(s) of the VCS(s) that might have been used, but after review, found to be inappropriate;
3. A brief rationale on why the VCS(s) was not chosen.

Current total GUS = 0

Table 1: Current Government Unique Standards FY2023

The Department of Energy (DOE) added zero (0) new GUS for the year 2023.