

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 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 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 Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”) is an independent agency of the United States Government charged with enforcing competition and consumer protection laws. The Commission’s primary contact with voluntary consensus standards and the organizations that produce them is in connection with the enforcement of the Federal Trade Commission Act, which prohibits unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts and practices in or affecting commerce. Consistent with its statutory authority, the Commission occasionally has promulgated consumer protection regulations that incorporate voluntary consensus standards. *See, e.g.*, 16 C.F.R. § 306.5 (provision of FTC’s “Fuel Rating Rule”); 16 C.F.R. § 460.5 (provision of FTC’s “R-Value Rule”). FTC staff monitors complaints about products and may conduct investigations, including testing, to ensure accurate labeling or advertising. The Commission does not participate in the standards development activities of voluntary consensus standards bodies.

To carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, the FTC has designated the Deputy General Counsel for Legal Counsel as its Agency Standards Executive. The FTC’s Office of the General Counsel, under the direction of the Agency Standards Executive, provides advice to FTC staff regarding implementation of revised OMB Circular A-119.

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
