

# Panel #1: Government Overview

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# Conformity Assessment in the U.S.

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- CA program design based on risk
- No single federal government regulator for conformity assessment
- Numerous conformity assessment bodies, differing in size and scope
- Sector developed approaches based on market need
- Overlap in coverage
- Conformity assessment programs tailored to meet specific private and public sector needs\*

## RESULTS IN

**The opportunity for effective conformity assessment programs at the most efficient cost.**

\*Authorities and regulators may rely on effective conformity assessment to support their missions. NTTAA and OMB A119 require federal agencies to use **voluntary consensus standards** and **reduce industry burden** for redundant conformity and compliance mechanisms

## Legal and Policy Framework for U.S. Federal Agency Use of CA

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- National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) - 1996
- OMB Circular A-119 – Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities – 2016
- WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement & other Agreements
- 15 CFR Part 287 Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment Activities
- U.S. Interagency Conformity Assessment Working Group
- NIST efforts



# What Does It All Mean?

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Clear policy guidance for Federal Agencies to:

- Use voluntary consensus standards and consider other standards in lieu of Government developed standards when appropriate;
- Consider private sector conformity assessment mechanisms;
- Be aware of international obligations in choosing standards and conformity assessment.

# Using Conformity Assessment: Examples



Steel Toe Work Boots and Shoes

