

INMM Accredited Standards Committee N15 Status Report [February – July 2011]

N15 Board of Officers. Steve Ward, U.S. NRC, was confirmed as the ASC N15 Secretary in December 2010. NRC formally transmitted an acceptance letter on Steve's behalf in March 2011. Steve is working with Lynne Preston to begin his N15 secretarial duties.

Status of ASC N15 Standards.

ASC N15 has three active standards:

- N15.8-2009 - SNM Control and Accounting Systems for Nuclear Power Plants,
- N15.51-2007 - Measurement Control Program, Nuclear Materials Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, and
- N15.36-2010 - Measurement Control Program, Nondestructive Assay Measurement Control and Assurance.

All of these standards were published by ANSI and are available online at <http://webstore.ansi.org/>.

ASC N15 has several standards under development, including:

- N15.19 – Volume Calibration Techniques (not active). In July 2010 a motion was made and approved by majority vote of participants at the N15 annual meeting for N15 to adopt ISO standard 18213 (18213-1 through 18213-6) on volume calibration as an American National Standard (ANS) to replace N15.19. N15 is following the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) adoption policy and procedures. The U.S. ISO TAG with responsibility for ISO 18213 has voted to assign the rights to process the national adoption of ISO 18213 to INMM ASC N15. As required under the ANSI Adoption policy, a written agreement between ANSI and the INMM as the standards developing organization (SDO) is being drafted. It will be sent to the INMM Executive Committee for review when received from ANSI. We are currently seeking a U.S. writing team, which reflects domestic stakeholders.
- N15.28 – Training and Certification of Safeguards Personnel (not active). N15 has confirmed a writing team Chair to revise and work towards reissuing N15.28. A writing group is being established and pertinent documents are being compiled.
- N15.41 – Measurement Control, General Principles (not active). The writing team has prepared a draft to be circulated to a wider writing group for further review and revision.
- New Standard – Nuclear Material Holdup. An initial draft was prepared by a team of subject matter experts. The writing team has been broadened to include volunteers representing a diverse background and experience with a number of different types of facilities. A revised draft, entitled: "Administrative Practices for the Determination and Reporting of Results of Nondestructive Assay Measurements of Nuclear Material in situ for Safeguards, Nuclear Criticality Safety, and Other Purposes", is under review by the expanded writing team. This N15 standard would supplement an ASTM standard on how to do holdup measurements.
- New Standard - Item Identification and Labeling for Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆) Containers. A workshop sponsored by NNSA was held in March 2011 to bring together invited stakeholders to discuss the lifecycle of UF₆ cylinders. The outcome of this workshop provides a starting point for defining the scope and purpose of a new standard addressing UF₆ cylinder identification. Discussions with interested stakeholders is underway including potential collaboration with INMM ASC N14.

ASC N15 Training/Orientation Session. The ASC N15 Board of Officers held a Training/Orientation Session for new and existing ASC N15 Subcommittee and Writing Group Chairs and new Writing Group Liaisons on June 9, 2011. The purpose of the orientation was to provide a review of the ANSI Essential Requirements, current ASC N15 Operating Procedures, and N15 Standards Action Checklist to assist writing teams and subcommittees in the voluntary consensus standards development process. The session included a

discussion of roles and responsibilities, the standards development process including ANSI audits, typical ANSI standards timelines for development, and lessons learned. It also provided the opportunity for new writing team chairs to learn from existing chairs. Subcommittee and writing team chairs provided an update on the status of their standards. Action items were identified and logged.

ASC N15 Web page. ASC N15 is working with INMM to develop a web site for N15 activities hosted on the INMM website. Draft web pages have been developed and are under final beta testing. ASC N15 is preparing necessary data, such as membership lists, for use on the web site.

Outreach and Collaboration.

N15 participated in the Interagency Committee on Standards Participation – Government Member Forum (ICSP/GMF) meeting on February 2. The meeting discussed issues related to the use and development of standards by US federal agencies. Several agencies discussed issues in their standards development processes and use.

N15 Board attended a meeting of the Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Collaboration (NESCC) meeting on March 1 (held at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD). The NESCC works to facilitate and coordinate the identification, development, and revision of standards for nuclear power plants. It includes participation by the DOE, the NRC, ANSI, NIST, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and standards developing organizations (SDOs). The next meeting of the NESCC will take place on July 28.

N15 Board attended the ANSI Organizational Member Forum meeting on April 20 (held in Arlington, VA). ANSI staff discussed requirements for “timely” submission of standards project documents, recommended tools for improving the efficiency of the standards development process, recommended procedures for responding to interpretation requests, and discussed the need for a training process for standards developers, users, and certification bodies.

N15 Board participated by invitation, along with U.S. DOE HS-51 (policy) staff, in the joint ANSI Government Member Forum meeting with Standards Developers offered by ANSI in Arlington, VA on April 21, 2011. The meeting, hosted by ANSI, focused on government access to standards for regulatory review and the standards development process. Certain SDO’s were invited to share their perspectives and provide presentations to generate open discussion with questions and answers.

N15 Board participated in the ANSI Standard Wars- Myth or Reality ? Workshop held in Washington D.C. on May 12, 2011. The workshop focused on the potential for duplication and/or conflict-of-interest between voluntary consensus standards and identification of situations in which duplication may be appropriate or needed. Several Standards Development Organizations (SDO’s) gave presentations on how duplication and conflict-of-interest are addressed for their respective standards, which generated considerable discussion. The workshop was attended by ANSI staff, Standards Development Organizations (SDO’s) and interested stakeholders from across the U.S. industry.

Summary. The N15 Board greatly appreciates the knowledge, expertise, time and effort of all those who participate in the development of ASC N15 voluntary consensus standards. Thank-you. We invite all those with a material and stakeholder interest in N15 standards to attend our meetings.