The IICRC is an ANSI-accredited Standards Developing Organization, but what the heck does that mean? In this post we’ll break down our standards process and explain just why they are so important.

**What are IICRC Standards?**

IICRC Standards serve to develop common, industry-accepted language and terminology that enables us to more universally discuss concepts and procedures regarding cleaning, inspection and restoration.

**What is ANSI?**

ANSI stands for the American National Standards Institute, a group responsible for overseeing the development of national consensus standards and verifying that the requirements for due process, consensus and other criteria for approval, have been met by the standard’s developer (in this case, the IICRC). The use of an American National Standard (ANS) is completely voluntary, however some have been adopted as code or regulation by local, state or federal authorities. They are also considered “state of the art” in the area of contamination control.

**What does it mean to be ANSI-accredited?**

Being an ANSI-accredited Standards Developing Organization means that when developing new ‘standards of care’ in the Cleaning, Inspection and Restoration Industries, the IICRC does so by following a strict set of ANSI approved procedures to ensure an unbiased process with openness, balance, consensus and due process.

**What is IICRC’s role as a Standards Developing Organization?**

The IICRC handles all the procedural work involved in developing the standards, which involves many steps including: putting together a Consensus Body (committee of volunteers who write the standards); administering the online workspace; scheduling and organizing all web and in-person meetings; coordinating the public review process; conducting the Consensus Body approval ballot; addressing any appeals as needed; editing the document; getting ANSI approval; and then publishing the final standard.

The IICRC’s role in the development of new standards is an important one, as the process includes the participation of key stakeholders within the industry with years of hands-on experience and expertise. ANSI approved IICRC standards are voluntary consensus-based standards that are accepted as the standard of care in the industry.

**Why do Standards matter?**

Standards are important to the Cleaning, Inspection and Restoration Industries because they benefit public health, safety and the environment. These standards have been tested, debated and tested again to ensure that consumer concerns such as quality of products and services; product compatibility; ease of use and accessibility; the environment, health and safety; and corporate and social responsibility; have been met. By working together, industry experts can have a voice in the development of the ‘standard of care’ and help to make it more efficient.

With its emphasis on balance, openness and transparency, the U.S standards system provides a valuable forum for the consumer’s voice to be heard. Consumers benefit from the development and design of new and improved requirements for the safety and quality of the products and services they rely upon each day.

**Help Write a Standard**

Are you interested in helping to write an IICRC Standard? Join an IICRC Standards Consensus Body to share your knowledge and expertise! Visit the Standards website for more information and to fill out an application form.

For a list of IICRC Standards, both published and in development, visit iicrc.org/IICRCStandards