

**Minutes
ICSP Meeting
July 23, 2008**

**National Institute of Standards & Technology
Employee Lounge – 1st Floor
Administration Building (101)
Gaithersburg, MD 20899**

**Suzie Burke-Beebe, HHS
Anne Caldas, ANSI
Colin Church, CPSC
Jeffrey Feit, DOE
Virginia Fitzner, DOL
Heidi C. Hijikata, DOC ITA
Don Marlowe, FDA
Chuck Martin, USDA
Michael McDavit, EPA
Mary McKiel, EPA
Jennifer Moffat, GSA
Kevin Natz, USDA
Jim O'Brien, DOE
Michael Schechtman, USDA
Peter Shebell, DHS
David Shipman, USDA
James Sorace, HHS, ASPE
Jeremy Stump, USDA
Trudie Williams, DoD
Erik Puskar, NIST
David, Alderman, NIST
Mary Saunders, NIST
Mary Donaldson, NIST
Michael Moore, NIST
Belinda Collins, NIST, DOC
Joanna Henson, NIST
Ajit Jilla, NIST
Kelsey Burns, NIST
Michael McDavit, EPA
Anne Meininger, NIST
Bill Vaughan, NASA (VIA Telephone)
Jenny Heaps, NARA (VIA Telephone)
Virginia Boyett, VA (VIA Telephone)
Tim Klein, DOT (VIA Telephone)**

Welcome and Self-Introductions

The ICSP Chair, Mary Saunders, opened the meeting with introductory remarks and proceeded around the room and telephone for self introductions

Update on Public Policy Related Standards Issues – Mary Saunders, NIST

- ISO activity in biotechnology standards – General discussion – The suggestion was raised that it might be helpful to separate general biotechnology standards from agriculture-related biotechnology standards. Some industries would like to see work done in the area of technical methods in the industrial and medical biotechnology arenas.
- Proposed ANSI Principles for Standards and Public Policy Document Update – Document was submitted by ANSI to ISO. Steve Cornish from ANSI is leading the follow up effort (See minutes from the April 30 ICSP meeting for background details.) EPA raised the question of who decides what overlaps into the public policy arena – this should remain the purview of governments, not ISO.
- ISO Social Responsibility (SR) Standard Update - Mary McKiel, (EPA) provided an update on the SR standard activity. She recommends that the following agencies in particular should have an interest in following the Social Responsibility activities of the ISO: Labor, State, Commerce – ITA and NIST, and Energy. The draft SR language appears to reinterpret treaties and commitments of governments. It uses language such as the concept of “precautionary principle”, which bolsters the EU approach to risk. Agencies are encouraged to be in touch with the US TAG Committee to lend a USG voice. There is a September 2008 meeting in Santiago. The SR standard is in the ISO draft stage. USG will vote via ANSI. Julia Doherty is the USTR (TBT section) contact. On the SR standard committee there are NGO and consumer representative participation. The structure of the SR committee is different than other ISO committees. Developing economies are swayed towards the EU approach. The current draft is worse (from the USG’s perspective) than earlier drafts. There will be a meeting of the US TAG in DC August 13 and 14th. Contact Mary McKiel (EPA) or Maureen Breitenberg (NIST) if you want to attend as an observer.

Discussion: Sustainable Agriculture Standards Development: Policy Implications and the Federal Government’s Role and Responsibilities

Jeremy Stump, USDA (Senior Advisor, Secretary’s Office) presented an overview of the issues which arose after the publication of a Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU) by the Leonardo Academy. David Shipman, Associate Administrator, USDA AMS discussed the USDA organic program and the overlap with the DSTU. There was a general discussion of the history of the draft standard, the issues raised by agricultural industry stakeholders to USDA, issues of conflict with public policy, balance of interests, and openness of the process. EPA discussed their interest and concerns with the DSTU as currently written and with the process. Anne Caldas discussed ANSI’s role, ANSI’s Essential Requirements, the appeals process and procedures for standards development and for developer accreditation. There was a general discussion of competing standards development and overlap. USDA discussed their proposed involvement as an observer with the standards developer. There was a general discussion of the options that the government has available under various scenarios. ANSI discussed the public review comment period required of all ANSI accredited standards developers.

Overview of NOTIFY US – Anne Meininger, NIST

Anne Meininger, Team Leader with the National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI), NIST, the official Inquiry Point under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). provided an [overview of the web portal NOTIFY US](#). [NOTIFY US](#) is a free, web-based service that provides users an

opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations. Federal agencies may find this portal useful for keeping up with international activities affecting their agencies' mission areas.

Market Surveillance - Does your agency have market surveillance programs to verify regulatory compliance? Do regulatory agencies have any standards needs regarding market surveillance? – Ileana Martinez, NIST participant in ISO Conformity Assessment Committee – CASCO

Ileana Martinez discussed CASCO's solicitation of interest among participants in the development of a market surveillance standard and/or guidelines for government agency use in evaluating regulatory compliance in the marketplace. Developing economies are seeking ISO guidance on how to perform market surveillance activities. As part of their initial fact finding efforts, CASCO is seeking to determine current regulatory market surveillance practices. There was a discussion of several agencies practices, which vary. Several agency reps commented that a standard in this area was not necessary but guidance would be alright, thereby avoiding developing what could become a trade issue. A comment was made that OECD or APEC would be better venues for helping to develop guidelines further limiting the possibility of trade issues developing. The general sense of the attendees was that a standard in this area was not necessary and such a standard would impinge on governmental authority.

Database development - [Global standards-related technical assistance](#) – Joanna Henson, NIST Guest Researcher and Kelsey Burns, NIST

NIST is developing a database on standards assistance provided by the EU and the US to developing economies. There appears to be a substantial disparity between the level and nature of activity between the EU and US, with the EU appearing to be investing more in building standards infrastructure in the developing world. However, NIST is not certain that all standards assistance efforts coming from the US have been captured during this data collection effort. If any agency is aware of standards related technical assistance that has been provided, please contact Kelsey Ms. Burns. There will be a final project presentation August 22nd at NIST.

NTTAA Report Update and Agency Training, – Mary Donaldson, NIST and Mike Moore, NIST

The NTTAA report is under review at OMB. If anyone is interested in receiving NTTAA training which was put on about 3 years ago, please let us know. The session generally runs several hours. We are willing to hold it at NIST or can come to your agency.

Other Business, Next Meeting

- EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response is updating a rule (All Appropriate Inquiry Rule) that cites a standard without opening up the rule for other revisions. An announcement will be placed in the [Federal Register](#).
- Personnel certification – Gordon Gillerman, NIST discussed the July 18 PINS (Project Initiation Notification System) announcements (www.ansi.org/standardsaction) by NOCA and ASTM of intention to develop standards in the area of personnel certificate programs. Due to overlap, these developments have the potential to create confusion for agencies that rely on personnel certification for employment and contracting decisions. If there is a challenge to the overlap, there will be deliberation by ANSI.

- Next Meeting October 3, 2008, Location:TDB

Adjourn