

API Standards for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

Presentation to the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy

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Topics

- API History
- API Standards and Standards Development
- API Perspective
- Access to API Standards and Standards Process
- Conclusions

API History

- 1919: API founded as non-profit national trade association, New York City
 - Three initial priorities – taxes, statistics, and equipment and operational standards
- 1969: API relocates to Washington, DC
 - Heightened interest in public policy issues

Background on API Standards Program

- Standardization Department was formed in 1923, first standard published in 1924 on drilling threads
- All industry segments now active in standardization:
 - Exploration and Production
 - Refining
 - Marketing
 - Pipeline Transportation
- Now 600 published standards

Standards Development Process

- API is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
 - Openness, Balance, Consensus, Due Process
 - Regular Program Audits
- General Interest Category includes USG

API Perspective

- API standards and their use is entirely voluntary
- API standards are widely cited via the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act
 - OSHA, EPA, DOT and BOEMRE
 - 100 API standards are cited over 270 times in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations
- API standards most cited internationally

API Perspective

- March 2011 OSC Staff Report entitled “Continuous Improvement is Essential: Leveraging Global Data and Consistent Standards for Safe Operations”
- “API plainly possesses considerable, longstanding technical expertise and has certainly authored many widely used standards, especially with regards to equipment and general practice. **Also, it is important that the regulator actively participate in the standards-setting process; doing so allows it to stay current with accepted industry practices and understand the relative level of specific standards.** Federal and state regulators, including staff of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), participate in the API standards process. According to API, regulator participation is considered key to improving industry standards and safety performance.”

API Perspective

- All Government-cited and safety standards now available for free online
- API's annual standards plan published in Federal Register
- API meets regularly with USG agencies:
 - BOEMRE, BLM, EPA, DOT
 - Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee

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Conclusions

- API standards represents industry's collective wisdom on operational practices, developed and refined over many years
- API standards are most widely cited here and around the world
- API encourages USG participation and has all its government-cited and safety standards available for free online

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Thank you!

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