

NTTAA Report for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – FY2017

1. Please provide a summary of your agency's activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities". The summary should contain a link to the agency's standards-specific website(s) where information about your agency's standards and conformity assessment related activities are available.

Answers

1. Summary of NRC Standards Activities

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) uses voluntary consensus standards as an integral part of our regulatory framework. Standards contain technical requirements, safety requirements, guidelines, characteristics, and recommended practices for performance. The benefits of being actively involved in developing and using standards include improved safety, cost savings, improved efficiency and transparency, and regulatory requirements with high technical quality. Some standards are incorporated by reference into NRC regulations. NRC's regulations may be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/doc-collections/cfr/>. The NRC staff also issues documents providing guidance on acceptable methods for complying with NRC regulations, such as Regulatory Guides. These guidance documents frequently endorse and reference voluntary consensus standards as acceptable methods for compliance with NRC regulations. Regulatory Guides are cataloged here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/#reg>.

The NRC implements OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," consistent with the provisions of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113) through formal guidance to the NRC staff. Guidance to the NRC staff on standards work is provided in NRC [Management Directive \(MD\) 6.5](#), "NRC Participation in the Development and Use of Consensus Standards." MD 6.5 was revised in 2016, and updated the reference to the recent revision of Circular A-119. However the NRC's existing policies and procedures were already consistent with the revised circular, so no changes were needed to implement the Circular. Instead, the revised MD clarified the roles and responsibilities for staff representing the NRC on standards committees and participating in related activities. New roles were defined for managers who determine prioritization for standards activities, in order to focus limited resources for the greatest technical and regulatory impact. These ongoing improvements in NRC's internal programs will enhance information sharing and management oversight of the standards program.

As an initiative to enhance agency use of standards and to exchange standards information with external stakeholders, in 2017 the NRC hosted the second NRC Standards Forum to identify and respond to needs for updated nuclear-related codes and standards. The Forum builds on an earlier public forum that was co-hosted by the NRC and the American National Standards Institute that ended in 2015. The goals of the NRC Standards Forum are to identify and prioritize standards for development or revision, and to initiate or support collaboration in writing or updating standards. Our intent is to shorten the lengthy standards development cycle by encouraging collaboration among stakeholders, including researchers producing technical information and standards writers who build upon their findings. The Standards Forum meetings are hosted by the NRC at least annually.

The NRC intends to continue participating in interagency cooperative efforts to close technical and regulatory gaps through development and application of consensus standards. Standards continue to provide a critical element in our safety mission. For more information, the NRC website on standards development is at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/standards-dev.html>.

2. Please list the government-unique standards your agency used in lieu of voluntary consensus standards during FY 2017:

None

Questions 3 – 10.7

These questions have been rescinded by the January 2016 revision of OMB Circular A-119.