



NATIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICE CORPS

*Language for the good of all.*

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## **ASTM Main Committee F43 “Language Services and Products”**

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# Overview

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- Why do we need industrial standards? What are they?
- Case Study: FL testing standards and ASTM F15.64
- Mobilizing the Language Industry: ASTM F43
- Discussion



# Why do we need industrial standards? What are they?

- **ISO:** The International Organization for Standardization: 159 countries,
- US interests in ISO are represented by the **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**
  - Through formal agreements with ANSI, other national standards organizations such as the Society for Automotive Engineers, ASTM, provide expertise and input to the development of ISO standards
- **ASTM** is an accredited Standards Development Organization based in the US, with national and international scope. Participation in ASTM is open to all with a material interest in a standard, anywhere in the world.
- Government market: PL 104-113 §12(d), requires US Government agencies to maximize the use of industry standards



# Value of Standards

- Leverage
  - ↗ world-leading expertise to ensure quality and grow the industry
  - ↗ the \$15b language services industry's capability to provide language services
- Enable rapid development of foreign language services and products to meet market requirements
- Improve quality assurance through the availability of standards to procurement and contracting for language proficiency services and products

**Standards enhance consumer ability to use industry sources**

# How do we create standards?

## ASTM International



- Organized - 1898 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- Largest U.S. based international voluntary consensus standards writing organization
- Independent, private sector, not-for-profit
- Mission is to provide a system for experts worldwide to directly participate in developing market relevant, high quality, international standards

# ASTM Provides Standards Forum for More than 100 Industries



- Petroleum
- Steel
- Rubber
- Plastics
- Paint
- Metals
- Chemicals
- Environment
- Road and Paving Materials
- Nondestructive Testing
- Medical Devices
- Thermal Insulation
- Cement and Concrete
- Textiles
- Medical Devices
- Consumer Products
- Livestock, Meat, and Poultry Evaluation Systems

# ASTM International System

- 138 Technical Committees
- Over 33,000 members
- Representatives from 125 Countries
- Users in 175 Countries



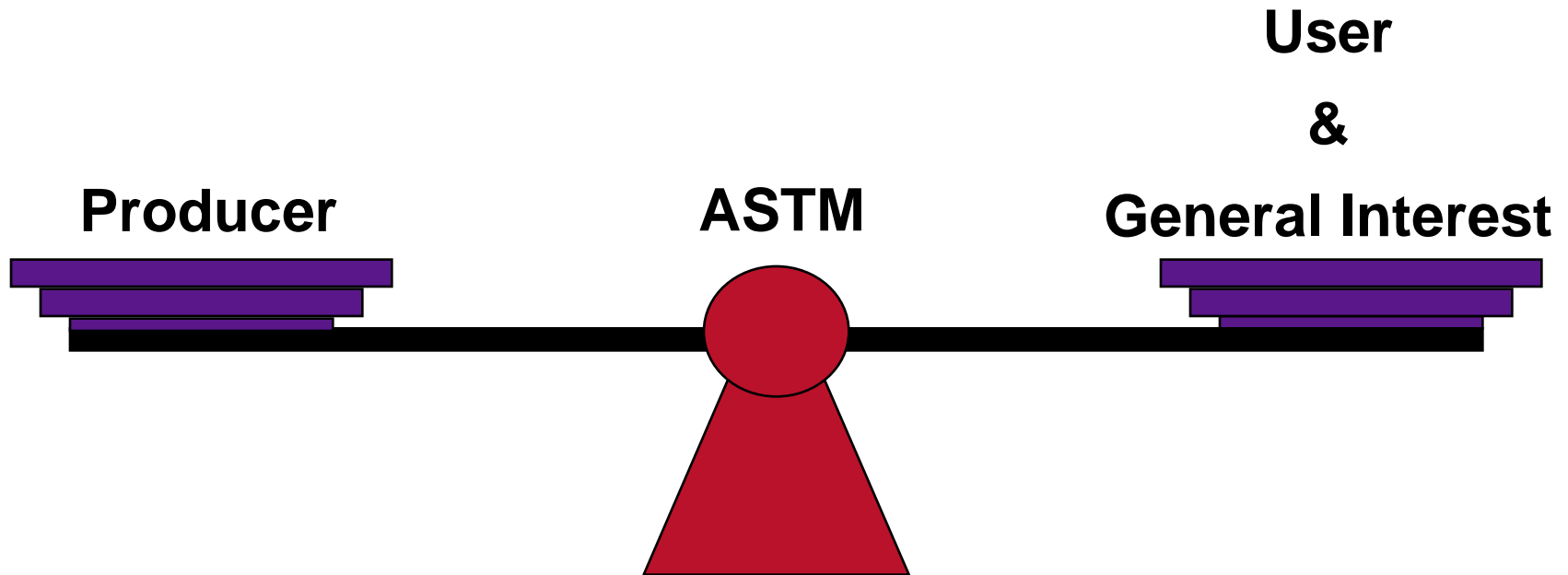
# All Key Stakeholders Represented

- Buyers (Government & Private sector)
- Sellers
- Regulators
- Researchers and Academia
- Laboratories
- Consumers





# Balance of Interest



***Technical Committees are balanced.  
No excess influence by any interest group.***

# Ensure Due Process



- Everyone has the opportunity to provide input to the process
- All responses must be considered and resolved by technical committee
- Technical and Procedural Appeals

# Case Study: FL Proficiency Test Development Standards

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- National Language Service Corps (NLSC) – new DoD organization
- 1850+ members on 175+ languages
- Rapid response to crisis/surge requirements: last called – first in
- FL proficiency testing – cornerstone of NLSC excellence
- NLSC (as well as other USG) needs more test



# NLSC Testing Challenges

- NLSC language requirements exceed DLPT system coverage
  - Current membership has skills in 125+ languages
- NLSC requires rapid response to emerging requirements
  - Marshallese (CDC, NVTC)
- NLSC throughput will reach 5,000 tests/year by 2013

**Testing requirements exceed current capacity**



# Approach: Enhance Current System

- Leverage testing industry
  - Already accessed for item development, standards setting, test development
- Establish industrial standard
  - Transparent – all vendors/developers can follow
- Based on Federal Interagency Language Roundtable Proficiency Guidelines
  - World leading expertise



# F15.64 Participation

- Monthly meetings
- 70+ individuals
- 40+ entities
  - ↗ DoD: 10 agencies/commands
  - ↗ Intelligence Community: 4 agencies
  - ↗ Other USG: 5 agencies
  - ↗ Industry: 11
  - ↗ Academe/NGO: 12
- Producers: DLIFLC, FSI, Industry
- Consumers: USG agencies
- Broad base of community involvement

**Test Users, Developers and Experts working together, an essential requirement for a successful standard practice**

# Mobilizing the Language Industry: ASTM F43

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- All sectors of Language industry
  - Training
  - Testing
  - T&I
  - Personnel Services
  - Human Language Technology
  - Localization/Globalization
- Organized 2010; inaugural meeting Feb 17, 2010
- 100+ Members



# F43 on Language Services and Products

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- 7 Subcommittees
- 3 ASTM Standards completed
- 4 ISO Standards in progress
- 1 ASTM Standard in Progress





# F43 Scope of Work

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The scope of the Committee shall be the development of standards (specifications, guides, test methods, classifications, practices, and terminology) for language services and products. The work of this Committee will be coordinated with other ASTM technical committees and other organizations having mutual interest. The Committee will be charged with the avoidance of duplication where possible.



# F43 Subcommittee Structure

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- Subcommittee F43.01 on Language Interpreting
  - F2089 Guide for Language Interpretation Services
- Subcommittee F43.02 on Foreign Language Instruction
  - F1562 Guide for Use-Oriented Foreign Language Instruction
- Subcommittee F43.03 on Language Translation
  - F2575 Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation
- Subcommittee F43.04 on Language Proficiency
  - WK24350 Practice for Assessing Language Proficiency
- Subcommittee F43.90 Executive
- Subcommittee F43.95 US TAG to ISO TC 232



# How Might this affect LSPs?

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- Sellers to USG
- Sellers to private sector
- International Standards
- Call to action

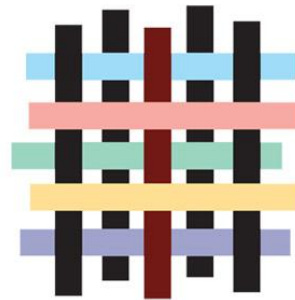


# Contact

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