

**ACCREDITED STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC) O5
OPERATING PROCEDURES – APRIL 16, 2008**

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A.1 INTRODUCTION

These Operating Procedures describe the Accredited Standards Committee O5 (“ASC O5” or “Committee”) procedures to conduct the activities of the Committee and develop American National Standards (“American National Standards” or “Standards”). Where these Operating Procedures are silent on an issue, the American National Standards Institute’s (“ANSI”) Essential Requirements shall serve as the precedent document.

A.2 ORGANIZATION

A.2.1 Forums and Committees

ASC O5 shall be responsible for developing and maintaining Standards that fall within the scope of these procedures. When necessary, ASC O5 may form Subcommittees that shall report back to the Committee. ASC O5 may delegate approval authority to a subtending Subcommittee. Task Forces may be created by the Committee to accomplish a definite objective, usually within a defined period of time (typically no more than one year). Task Forces shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the need for each Task Force. The Committee shall operate in a manner consistent with operating principles and procedures found herein.

A.2.2 Secretariat

ATIS shall be the Secretariat for the Committee operating in accordance with these procedures.

The Secretariat shall:

- Organize the Committee;
- Oversee compliance with these procedures, including legal review as necessary;
- Apply for accreditation by ANSI and maintain accreditation in accordance with ANSI requirements;
- Maintain rosters of the Committee, Subcommittees, and Task Forces;
- Submit standards approved by the Committee with supporting documentation for ANSI review and approval as American National Standards;
- Ensure adherence to periodic maintenance of Standards;
- Maintain all records pertaining to the Committee;
- Provide administrative support, and secretarial services as necessary, for the Committee.
- Publish approved Standards and revisions thereto; and
- Perform other functions as required.

A.2.3 Records

Material associated with the development of a Standard (including reaffirmations and withdrawals) shall be retained for one complete Standards cycle, or until the Standard is revised. Records regarding the withdrawal of all Standards shall be retained for at least five years from the date of withdrawal.

A.2.4 Membership

The membership of ASC O5 shall be composed of entities that are materially or directly affected by the work conducted within the Committee. A member in good standing shall be allowed to vote on all issues brought before the Committee and/or Subcommittees (as applicable), have access to password protected documents on the ASC O5 website, be eligible for leadership positions, and other privileges as determined by the Committee.

A member in good standing is defined as any materially or directly affected entity that participates in the Committee and pays dues and fees as assessed by the ASC O5 Secretariat to offset ASC O5 expenses.

Reasonable dues and fees directly relating to the support provided to, and the activities of, ASC O5 shall be assessed by the ASC O5 Secretariat with the approval of ASC O5. The annual budget is presented to the ASC O5 members and dues are required from each ASC O5 member, with additional voluntary contributions collected to offset dues and expenses.

The membership of ASC O5 shall be sufficiently diverse to ensure reasonable balance without dominance by any single interest group. Unless it is claimed by a directly and materially affected party that a single interest category dominated the standards development process, no test for dominance is required. ASC O5, however, strives to assure that any single interest category does not constitute a majority of the membership of the formulating group dealing with Standards.

A.2.5 Interest Categories

For purposes of developing an American National Standard, all members shall be classified as Producers, Users or General Interest representatives in accordance with the definitions below. An individual in professional practice or a consultant, retained under an agreement indefinitely continuing with an organization, shall be classified in accordance with the classification of the organization retaining the individual and shall be so identified.

A.2.5.1 Producers

producer or seller of wood poles/products

A.2.5.2 Consumers

user of wood poles/products

A.2.5.3 General Interest

government agencies, consulting, academia, testing laboratories, inspection, and rules-writing organizations, etc.

A.2.6 Membership Roster

The Secretariat shall prepare and maintain a membership roster documenting the classification of each member.

A.2.7 Leadership

A.2.7.1 Chair and Vice Chair of ASC O5

The Chair and Vice Chair preside over the Committee and have, at a minimum, the responsibility to ensure that these Operating Procedures are followed and that meetings are conducted in a fair and efficient manner. The Chair and Vice Chair should remain neutral in all discussions and should not influence the disposition of issues and events based on his/her leadership position. The Committee may agree by consensus to select two Co-Chairs rather than a Chair and Vice Chair where work area, responsibilities, and available resources require a split of the leadership authority.

A.2.7.1.1 Terms and Limitations

The Chair and Vice Chair (or Co-Chairs) are elected by the Committee, in accordance with Section A.2.8 of these Operating Procedures. Each Chair and Vice Chair (or Co-Chair) shall serve two years in his/her position, with a limit of two consecutive terms. Candidates shall come from the Committee participants and should have previous Committee and industry experience. Should no qualified Committee member choose to seek the position of Chair or Vice Chair, the leadership may serve additional terms if elected by the Committee.

A.2.7.2 Co-Chairs of a Subcommittee

Co-Chairs preside over each meeting of a Subcommittee and have, at a minimum, the responsibility to ensure that these Operating Procedures are followed and that meetings are conducted in a fair and efficient manner. The Co-Chairs should remain neutral in all discussions and should not influence the disposition of issues and events based on his/her leadership position.

A Subcommittee may agree by consensus to select a Chair and Vice Chair rather than Co-Chairs where work area, responsibilities, and available resources require.

A.2.7.2.1 Terms and Limitations

The Co-Chairs (or Chair and Vice Chair) are elected by the Committee, unless delegated by the Committee to the subtending Subcommittee, in accordance with Section A.2.8 of these Operating Procedures. Each Co-Chair (or Chair and Vice Chair) shall serve two years in his/her position, with a two consecutive term limitation. Candidates should come from the Subcommittee participants and should have previous Subcommittee and industry experience. Should no qualified Committee member choose to seek the position of Co-Chair, the leadership may serve additional terms if elected by the Committee.

A.2.7.3 Leader(s) of Task Force

The leadership of a Task Force may be elected in accordance with Section A.2.8 of these Operating Procedures, or appointed by the Committee.

A.2.7.3.1 Terms and Limitations

The term of a leader of a Task Force is for the life of the Task Force or one year, whichever is longer. The Task Force leadership position shall be reviewed by the Committee on a yearly basis when reviewing the need for the continuation of the Task Force.

A.2.8 Election of Leadership

Committee, Subcommittee, and Task Force (where not appointed) leadership elections will follow the general guidelines below:

A.2.8.1 Announcement of Election of Leadership Position(s)

All leadership elections should be announced at the meeting prior to the election, but must be announced at least 30 calendar days in advance of the election. The election announcement shall be distributed by e-mail exploder to the relevant electing body.

A.2.8.2 Nominations

Nominations shall be solicited from the appropriate electing body following an election announcement. Nominations shall also be sought from the floor at the time of the election where an election is conducted at a duly called meeting.

A.2.8.3 Elections

The election of leadership at a meeting is by secret ballot, unless there is one candidate in which case the election may be by acclamation. The election of leadership is by a simple majority of those members in good standing and present at the time of election; each has one vote. For purposes of determining the simple majority, abstentions or invalid ballots are not counted. If there are multiple candidates and no one candidate receives a simple majority on the first ballot, a second ballot is held between the top two vote-receiving candidates. Proxies are not permitted, unless a quorum requirement is invoked as provided for in Section A.3.4 of these Operating Procedures.

Elections outside a duly called meeting may be held via electronic mail or other forms of electronic balloting. In order for a valid election to have occurred via electronic means, at least one half of the members must vote in the election. The election of leadership is by a simple majority of those members who voted; each member has only one vote. A minimum of 10 business days must be allowed for a member to vote via electronic means.

A.3 MEETINGS

A.3.1 Frequency

ASC O5 will meet to develop American National Standards and/or to conduct relevant Committee business on an as-needed basis.

A.3.2 Notification

Where possible, all face-to-face meetings shall be announced via the e-mail exploder and posted to the ATIS website no less than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting date. All other meetings, including virtual meetings and conference calls, should be announced via the e-mail exploder and posted to the ATIS website no less than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date. Special exceptions for extraordinary circumstances may be made on an as-needed basis. When an exception for extraordinary circumstances is necessary, the ASC O5 Leadership will announce the meeting as soon as practicable. A draft agenda shall be prepared and distributed with any meeting notice.

A.3.3 Open Meetings

All meetings shall be open and attendance by any interested party shall be welcome, subject to any relevant membership requirement (e.g., regarding registration, meeting fee if required, etc.). Non-Committee members shall not have the right to vote.

A.3.4 Quorum

One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at a meeting. Proxies are not permitted unless a quorum requirement is invoked. Proxies are counted only in determining whether a quorum requirement is met.

If a quorum is not present, actions on agenda items may be taken but shall be subject to ratification by the Committee.

A.3.5 Meeting Notes

ASC O5 shall publish fair, objective, and unbiased meeting notes developed by consensus and ensure that those notes accurately reflect the activities, resolutions, and action items that result from meetings. All meeting notes shall be published in a timely manner.

A.3.5.1 Meeting Note Content

Meeting notes shall include at a minimum:

- Date(s), type of meeting (i.e., virtual meeting, conference call, face-to-face), leadership, person taking the notes;
- Attendance list;
- Approved agenda;
- Identification of issues discussed at the meeting and their status;
- A notation of corrections/additions made to a previous meeting record;
- Points noted/alternatives discussed including opposing viewpoints;
- Agreements reached;
- Action items indicating responsible party and due date;
- Participants' contributions or similar documents or, a reference to where those documents are available on the ATIS website; and
- Copies of presentations made during the meeting or, a reference to where the presentations are available on the ATIS website.

A.3.6 Parliamentary Procedures

For any procedural issues not covered under these procedures, Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall apply on questions of parliamentary procedure.

A.4 NOTIFICATION OF STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

Notification of Standards activity shall be announced in suitable media as appropriate to demonstrate provision of opportunity for participation by all directly and materially affected persons. At the initiation of a project to develop or revise a Standard, notification shall be transmitted to ANSI using the Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) form, or its equivalent, for listing in Standards Action. A PINS form may be submitted, but is not required, at the initiation of a project to reaffirm or withdraw a Standard.

A.5 SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

A substantive change in a Standard is one that directly and materially affects the use of the Standard. Examples of substantive changes are below:

- “shall” to “should” or “should” to “shall”;
- the addition, deletion or revision of requirements, regardless of the number of changes; or
- the addition of mandatory compliance with referenced standards.

A.6 VOTING PROCEDURES FOR LETTER BALLOTS

A.6.1 Letter Ballots

Documentation associated with American National Standards will undergo the letter ballot process. Substantive changes to and interpretations of all Standards shall be approved by letter ballot of the Committee.

Editorial changes to Standards may be decided by a majority of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee or by letter ballot.

A.6.2 Voting

Each member shall vote one of the following positions on letter ballots:

- Affirmative;
- Affirmative with comment;
- Negative, with reasons (If possible, the negative ballot shall include specific actions that will resolve the negative.); or
- Abstain.

A.6.3 Voting Rights

The member's representative(s) shall ordinarily cast that member's vote. The member's alternate representative(s) shall cast that member's vote only if the member's representative fails to vote. In the event that the member's representative and alternate representative submit votes, only the member representative's vote shall be counted.

A.6.4 Proxies

Proxies are not permitted.

A.6.5 Voting Period

The closure date for letter ballots shall be at least 30 days from the date of the issuance of the ballots. The Secretariat shall be authorized to grant an extension of the voting period if deemed necessary.

A.6.6 Approved Actions

Approvals of, substantive changes to, and interpretations of all Standards shall be considered approved when all of the following conditions have been met:

- At least 50 percent of the members have returned their letter ballot;
- At least 75 percent of the votes cast, excluding abstentions and negatives without reasons, are affirmative; and
- All negative votes with reasons have been addressed in accordance with A.6.9.

A.6.7 Reporting Votes

The results of each vote on all Standards shall be reported as follows:

- Number of members;
- Number of members voting affirmatively;
- Number of members voting negatively with reasons;
- Number of members voting negatively without reasons;
- Number of members abstaining; and
- Number of members not returning ballots.

A.6.8 Negative Votes

A negative ballot shall be required to be accompanied by a reason and, if possible, should include specific wording or actions that would resolve the objection. A negative ballot not supported by a reason is not required to be recirculated but is recorded as a negative without comment on the BSR-9 during submittal to ANSI. The ballot shall be counted as returned for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

A.6.9 Consideration of Views and Objections

The Committee shall use the following procedures in attempting to resolve negative votes.

All negative ballots and comments will be forwarded to the Committee for response and resolution. The Committee Leadership (with other Committee members as necessary) will draft the response on behalf of the Committee. Negative ballots may be judged as valid, invalid or non-germane. All comments are given a comprehensive response.

The responses to unresolved negative ballots (and other comments that result in a substantive change) will be circulated to the Committee by a second or subsequent ballot in order to give the commenter the opportunity to change his/her vote based on the reply. Additionally, all members of the Committee will have the opportunity to change their vote.

In the case of public review comments (which are not votes), said comments, with the accompanying responses will be circulated with the appropriate ballot.

All substantive changes shall be submitted to ANSI via the BSR-8 for further public review.

Voting members who have unresolved negative votes (or public review commenters) shall be notified of their right to appeal and of the appeals process.

A.7 DRAFT AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRIAL USE

Upon approval by the Committee, a draft document is normally forwarded for approval as a draft proposed American National Standard. However, upon Committee approval, a draft standard may be forwarded for approval as a "draft standard for trial use." ASC O5 complies with the procedural and publication requirements as established in the ANSI Essential Requirements with regard to draft American National Standards for trial use.

Materially affected interests wishing to initiate a challenge at ANSI to a decision at the Committee level to register with ANSI a draft standard for trial use shall first exhaust all methods of challenge at the Committee level prior to submitting an appeal to the ANSI Executive Standards Committee (ExSC). The only basis on which such an appeal shall be filed is the alleged failure of the Accredited Standards Developer to follow either its own procedures or any other relevant ANSI

requirements. The burden of proof shall be on the appellant. An announcement regarding the appeal will appear in *Standards Action*.

“Draft standards for trial use” are published by ATIS. Draft standards for trial use shall not be issued to address a need for an emergency standard.

A.8 INTERPRETATIONS

A.8.1 Processing Interpretations

Requests for interpretations of Standards shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat and shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to Committee Leadership. Proposed interpretations may be prepared by any Committee member with particular expertise on the subject in question. All proposed interpretations shall be prepared in writing and shall be submitted to the Secretariat for a letter ballot of the Committee. Interpretations shall be approved in accordance with section A.6.6.

A.8.2 Notification of Interpretations

Notification of approved interpretations shall be sent in writing to the requester. Notification shall also be given to other users of the Standards via the appropriate Committee e-mail exploder list(s) and posted on the ATIS website.

A.9 METRIC POLICY

In accordance with 3.4 of the ANSI Essential Requirements, ASC O5 accepts ANSI’s Metric Policy which states that, “Units of the International System of Units (SI), the modernized metric system, are the preferred units of measurement in American National Standards.”

A.10 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Proposals for new Standards or reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal of existing Standards shall be transmitted to ANSI for listing in *Standards Action* for comment. The Secretariat shall determine whether listing of proposed standards actions shall be concurrent with the final committee letter ballot and whether announcement in other suitable media is appropriate. All comments that are received shall be considered by the Committee and the commenter shall be notified, in writing, of the Committee’s decision/response.

A.11 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS POLICY

A.11.1 General Policy Statement

In all matters of intellectual property rights, it is the intention of ASC O5 and the Secretariat to benefit the public while respecting the legitimate rights of intellectual property owners.

A.11.2 Confidentiality

As a general rule, neither ASC O5 nor the Secretariat shall consider any contributions, presentations, or other documentation that is subject to any requirement of confidentiality or any restriction on dissemination. Neither ASC O5 nor the Secretariat assume any obligations of confidentiality with respect to any contribution, presentation, documentation, or other submissions. Exceptions to the general rule are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Committee Leadership in conjunction with ATIS General Counsel and are only appropriate where the work cannot be accomplished through other means. Prior to the distribution or discussion of any materials accorded exception status and considered as confidential or otherwise restricted, full disclosure of the status must be made to the Committee.

A.11.3 Copyright

A.11.3.1 Copyright Policy

In order that ATIS and the Secretariat may facilitate, promote, and disseminate the work of ASC O5, it is necessary that each contributor grant ATIS the rights necessary to adapt, copy, and publicly distribute any contribution or submittal made to ASC O5. In accordance with this policy, each contribution or document submitted is subject to an unlimited perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, world-wide right and license to ATIS of any copyrights in such contribution. This license includes the right to copy, publish, and distribute the contribution in any way, and to prepare derivative works that are based on or incorporate all or part of the contribution, the license to such derivative works to be of the same scope as the license of the original contribution.

A.11.3.2 ATIS Deliverables

All ASC O5 guidelines, standards, and other deliverables are copyrighted by ATIS. Except as expressly permitted by ATIS, no ASC O5 guideline, standard, or other deliverable, or any portion thereof, may be reproduced or distributed in any form, without the prior express written permission of ATIS.

A.11.3.3 Notice

The following copyright notice shall be included in all ASC O5 guidelines, standards, or other deliverables:

“Copyright © ATIS [date of publication]. All Rights Reserved.”

A.11.4 Patents

ASC O5 has adopted the ANSI Patent Policy, as outlined in section 3.1 of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

A.12 CORRESPONDENCE

A.12.1 Committee Correspondence

Correspondence from a Committee member to the entire membership of the Committee shall be forwarded to the Secretariat for screening and distribution. All official Committee correspondence, including meeting notices, agendas, reports, and letter ballots, shall be distributed by the Secretariat. Copies of all other correspondence between Committee members, relating to ASC O5 Standards activities, shall be forwarded to the Secretariat.

A.12.2 External Correspondence

All official Committee correspondence to external parties must be approved by the Committee or its delegated representative and distributed by the Secretariat. Inquiries relating to the Committee and Standards shall be directed to the Secretariat. Committee members should advise individuals who contact them that responses to all inquiries are handled by the Secretariat.

A.13 APPEALS

A.13.1 Complaint

Persons who have been or may be affected by any Committee action or inaction shall have the right to appeal such action or inaction. The appellant shall file a written complaint with the Secretariat within 30 days after the date of notification of any action, or at any time with respect to inaction. The complaint shall state the nature of the objection, the procedures or the sections of the Standards that are at issue, the action or inaction at issue, and the specific remedial action(s) that would satisfy the appellant's concerns. Previous efforts to resolve the objections and the outcome of each shall be noted.

A.13.2 Response

Within 30 days after the receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat shall respond in writing to the appellant, specifically addressing each allegation in the complaint to the extent possible. The Secretariat shall attempt to resolve, informally, the complaint of the appellant.

A.13.3 Appeals Panel and Hearing

If the Secretariat is unable to informally resolve the complaint, it shall appoint an appeals panel to hold a hearing on a date agreeable to all participants, with at least 15 working days notice. The appeals panel shall consist of three individuals who have not been directly involved in the dispute and who will not be materially affected by any decision made in the dispute. At least two members of the panel shall be acceptable to the appellant and at least two shall be acceptable to the Secretariat.

A.13.4 Conduct of the Hearing

The appellant has the responsibility of demonstrating improper action or inaction, the adverse effects there from, and the efficacy of the requested remedial action. The Secretariat has the responsibility to demonstrate that the Committee took all actions in question in compliance with these procedures.

A.13.5 Decision

The appeals panel shall render its decision in writing within 30 days of the hearing, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, stating its findings of fact and conclusions with reasons therefore, and citing the evidence. The Secretariat shall notify the appellant and the Committee of the decision of the appeals panel, which shall be binding and final on all concerned.

Further appeal may be made directly to ANSI. If the appellant gives notice to the Secretariat that such a further appeal to ANSI is intended, all relevant materials, including the decision made by the appeals panel set forth above, shall be submitted to ANSI by ATIS.

A.14 REVISIONS TO PROCEDURES

These Operating Procedures are maintained by ATIS. Proposed revisions to these Operating Procedures may be submitted in writing by any ASC O5 Member to ATIS along with the supporting rationale for the proposed change. ATIS will review the proposed revisions and present them to the ASC O5 members for review and consideration. If substantive changes are made, the revised procedures are then submitted to ANSI for public comment, and ANSI review and approval. Any approved revisions to these Operating Procedures shall be effective upon publication.

The Secretariat shall be responsible for the interpretation of these Operating Procedures.