

What is a standard?

- ◆ A standard is a technical document designed to be used as a rule, guideline or definition for common and repeated use.
- ◆ Standards might include requirements and/or recommendations for products, systems, processes or services. They might describe a measurement or test method or establish common terminology so that there is no misunderstanding among users.



How are standards developed?

- ◆ Standards are developed through sharing knowledge and building consensus among technical experts who are nominated by interested parties and stakeholders.



What is a voluntary consensus standard?

- ◆ A voluntary consensus standard is developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. It helps the government fulfill its mandate to provide sound technical solutions without additional cost and operations burdens.
- ◆ A voluntary consensus standards body is characterized by openness, balance of interest, due process, an appeals process, and consensus. Objections are fairly considered and resolved. Each objector is advised of the disposition of his or her comments(s).

What is Federal policy?

- ◆ OMB Circular A-119 directs Federal agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical.
- ◆ It encourages Federal agencies to participate in voluntary consensus standards bodies so that standards meet both public and private sector needs.



What is Federal policy?

- ◆ Agency representatives participate in voluntary consensus standards bodies to minimize development or maintenance of Government-unique standards.
- ◆ Participation ensures that government interests are represented in and influence development of standards.
- ◆ Public Law 104-113, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, codified policies in OMB Circular A-119.



Benefits of standards

- ◆ Access to Web-based geospatial information depends on standards that cut down on time to find information, combine different information layers, and share information on remote servers.



Benefits of standards

- ◆ Standards harmonize technical specifications of products and services and make industry more efficient; optimize operations to improve the bottom line; improve quality; enhance customer satisfaction and increase sales; prevent trade barriers and open up global markets; increase productivity and competitive advantage; and benefit users by reducing costs and enhancing performance.



Benefits of standards

- ◆ International standards facilitate international trade by ensuring compatibility and interoperability of components, products and services.
- ◆ By integrating international standards into national regulation, the government benefits from expert opinion and ensures that requirements for imports and exports are the same the world over, thereby facilitating movement of goods, services and technologies from country to country.

