

# Standards Actions

Technical Standards Program Newsletter

June 2024



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | OFFICE OF  
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## TECHNICAL STANDARDS ACTIVITIES

### History and Refresher on the Technical Standards Program Coordination Process

The DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) has a long history of developing and maintaining much needed DOE Technical Standards. Since its inception in the early 1990's, the program has been designed to handle complex coordination of important draft technical standards documents. Before the internet was commonplace, the infrastructure consisted of a hardcopy and postal mail system, where draft standard comments were mailed from commentors in the field to the standard writer for resolution. If any debate was required in reaching comment resolution, it generally took place over the phone and using fax machines to send draft standard markups back and forth between commentors and writers or writing teams. By the mid-90's, the internet was in full swing, and with it came the first iterations of the email system which made draft technical standards coordination efforts a more efficient process. However, even with this advance in technology, it was becoming clear that there was still a weak point in the process – the inability to easily create a historical record of comments and responses, and to be able to maintain document version control in one concise and efficient system.

By the late-90's various vendors were working on just such a system. In fact, the DOE TSP was invited to be a part of the conceptual design phase for one of these systems being developed, along with members of the DOE Directives Program (DP). In 2004, Doxcelerate's RevCom system (one of several being developed at the time) officially became the TSP coordination platform, making the complexity of technical standards document coordination a much more efficient process for all stakeholders.

Two key aspects of the RevCom platform are “workflow” and “phasing”. RevCom is designed as a workflow database that tracks draft technical standards through various phases in a coordination cycle. These phases have become better defined over the years, making RevCom invaluable in the coordination of DOE Technical Standards documents. Key phases and their durations now include:

- Project Justification Statement (PJS): 15 Days [Seeking Concurrence on PJS]
- Draft Review and Comment: 60 Days [Seeking Comments]
- Writer's Response: 30 Days [Developing Responses to Comments]
- Response Negotiation: 30 Days [Negotiating Resolutions Between Writers and Commentors]

- Concurrence: 10 Days [Seeking Concurrence on Final Draft Technical Standards]

The two phases not originally part of the TSP coordination process are: (1) Project Justification, and (2) Response Negotiation.

### **Project Justification:**

Several years after RevCom was established as the coordination platform, the TSP determined that the justification to develop or maintain DOE Technical Standards should be addressed in a more effective manner. By that time, it was also becoming more imperative that federal agencies document their ability to implement the OMB requirement ([OMB Circular A-119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities](#)) to use private sector voluntary consensus standards when they are appropriate and applicable. The Project Justification Statement (PJS) Phase does just that.

### **Response Negotiation:**

Based on feedback from TSP stakeholders, there needed to be an intermediate phase established between the Response and Concurrence Phases in RevCom. This would allow some time for commentors to negotiate with the writer on comment resolutions that fall short of their organization's expectations. Before the TSP developed this phase, there was no time for discussion to take place between the commentor and the writer about resolution issues prior to starting the Concurrence Phase. Since the Concurrence Phase is intended as a final acknowledgement of the completed DOE Technical Standard prior to its publication, and not a phase intended for negotiation, the Response Negotiation Phase was included in the RevCom workflow to alleviate the problems associated with a potentially complex Concurrence Phase.

In conclusion, TSP draft technical standards coordination has evolved over 30 years into the efficient coordination process it is today. This is possible, in large part, because of the RevCom platform workflows and phasing. We appreciate when all those involved in coordinating technical standards understand how the process works. Please take the time to visit the TSP webpage for additional information about TSP coordination.

For more information on the TSP coordination process please visit the following webpage on the TSP Portal: [DOE Technical Standards Phases](#).

**Written by Jeff Feit, TSP Program Manager**

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## **Upgrades to the Technical Standards Program Web Portal**

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We have been working on updating the TSP Web Portal and are getting ready to roll it out for everyone.

Why the new portal?

- The core components have been upgraded to the latest versions of portal software.
- This upgrade includes the latest security features and provides full compliance with the ADA/Section 508 for accessibility.
- This upgrade has better, faster searching capability with more options for limiting your queries and filtering search results.
- This upgrade provides better compatibility for tablet devices and phones.

What are the main features and characteristics of the new portal?

- A new drop-down menu replaces the toolbar from the current site. The drop-down menu icon is in the upper right corner of every page and provides access to all the primary support and reference pages on the site. A link to RevCom is provided in the upper right corner of every page.
- In the quick-search box at the top of every page, a drop-down menu has been added that can be used to search titles, document descriptions, and the full text of documents. Searches can be conducted of the entire site, as well as the DOE Directives and NNSA Directives sites, as needed.

- When browsing the Standards documents or looking at search results, the display has features that allow the user to filter and sort by numerous document attributes (e.g., ID, Title, SLM Organization, Issue Date, Invoked Standards).

To review and test the new TSP Web Portal, use this test site address:

<https://standards.dev.doxcelerate.com>

More information about the new portal is available through a link on the test site:

The link is [https://standards.dev.doxcelerate.com/doe-techstdsportal-whatsnew\\_05-22-2024.pdf/@@download/file](https://standards.dev.doxcelerate.com/doe-techstdsportal-whatsnew_05-22-2024.pdf/@@download/file)

Once testing is complete, the new portal will replace the current site at the same address as previously used:

<https://www.standards.doe.gov>

**Written by Jim McDonald, Doxcelerate Corporation**

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## DOE Technical Standards Updates

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The following is an overview of recent Technical Standards actions for March, April, and May 2024. A complete list of DOE Technical Standards actions can be found on the “Monthly Status Reports” posted on the Technical Standards Program website: [www.standards.doe.gov](http://www.standards.doe.gov) and in the Monthly TSMC Minutes posted on [Organizational Excellence \(energy.gov\)](http://www.energy.gov).

**Project Justification Statement (PJS) Posted in RevCom for 15-day Review:**

Proposed Revision of DOE-HDBK-1101-2004, *Process Safety Management for Highly Hazardous Chemicals*  
POC: Regina Price, EHSS-11, Office of Worker Safety and Health Policy, Phone: 301-903-2031

**In RevCom for 60 Day Review:**

Proposed Revision of DOE-STD-1149-2016, *Safety and Health Program for DOE Construction Projects*  
POC: Kristina Fehringer, EHSS-11, Office of Worker Safety and Health Policy, Phone: 301-903-7618

**Final Concurrence:**

Proposed New Document DOE-STD-1239-YR, *Chemical Safety Management Program*  
POC: April Brown, EHSS-11, Office of Worker Safety & Health, Phone: 301-903-0370

Proposed Revision of DOE-HDBK-1221-2017, *Suspect/Counterfeit Items Resource Handbook*  
POC: Gabrielle Holcomb, DOE-EHSS-20, Office of ES&H Reporting and Analysis, Phone: 240-255-8299

**Publications:**

DOE-STD-8003-2023, *Worker Safety and Health Program Functional Area Qualification Standard*  
POC: Melissa Otero, National Training Center, Phone: 505-845-6651

DOE-STD-1177-2024, *Emergency Management Functional Area Qualification Standard*  
POC: Melissa Otero, National Training Center, Phone: 505-845-6651

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## Upcoming Events and Workshops

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### **ANS 26th Technology of Fusion Energy Meeting (TOFE 2024)**

When: July 21-25, 2024

Where: Madison, WI/The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club

### **ANS Utility Working Conference and Vendor Technology Expo (UWC 2024)**

Nuclear Momentum: Advancing Our Clean Energy Future

When: August 4-7, 2024

Where: Marco Island, FL JW Marriott Marco Island

### **ANSI Announces World Standards Week 2024**

When: November 12-14, 2024

Where: Washington, DC

### **ANSI Consumer Safety Central Webinar**

When: August 6, 2024

Where: Free Webinar-Zoom

Please register in advance - you will receive the meeting Zoom link after registering for this event.

### **ASME 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Energy Sustainability**

When: July 15-17, 2024

Where: Anaheim, CA/Hilton Anaheim

### **ASME IDETC-CIE International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers & Information in Engineering Conference**

When: August 25-28, 2024

Where: Washington, DC/JW Marriott Washington

For more information on the listed meetings or events, please see the organization's website listed below:

<http://www.ans.org/>

<https://www.ansi.org/>

<https://www.nfpa.org/>

<https://www.asme.org>

To learn more about the DOE Technical Standards Program or to view  
the *Standards Actions* newsletters,  
visit the website:  
[www.standards.doe.gov](http://www.standards.doe.gov)