

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology**

[Docket No: 960726209-6209-01]

**Accreditation Body Evaluation Program and NIST Fastener Laboratory Accreditation Program****AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, (NIST) Commerce.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by section 6 of the Fastener Quality Act (FQA) (Pub.L. 101-592, as amended by Public Law 104-113, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has established the following two programs: The Accreditation Body Evaluation Program (ABEP) to evaluate and approve/recognize qualified entities to accredit laboratories that perform testing of fastener products or materials, implemented in subparts D, E, and F of Part 280 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and the Fastener Laboratory Accreditation Program under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) to accredit laboratories that perform inspection and testing of fastener products or materials, implemented in subpart C of Title 15, Part 280 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. This notice invites interested entities to submit applications for accreditation to the ABEP, and also invites interested laboratories to submit applications for accreditation to the Fastener Laboratory Accreditation Program.

**DATES:** Applications for the program are available from NIST. NIST will begin processing the applications after the effective date of the regulations. Completed applications returned to NIST will be scheduled for accreditation or assessment visits on a first come first served basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For the ABEP: Robert L. Gladhill, Program Manager ABEP, NIST, Building 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; telephone 301-975-4273, telefax 301-963-2871 or E-mail robert.gladhill@nist.gov.

For the Fastener Laboratory Accreditation Program: David F. Alderman, Deputy Chief NVLAP, NIST, Building 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; telephone 301-975-4016, telefax 301-926-2884, E-mail david.alderman@nist.gov OR by writing to: Chief, NVLAP, Building 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any laboratory accreditation entity or testing

laboratory which considers that it can demonstrate conformance to the criteria published in the relevant subpart of Part 280 of Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations may apply for approval/recognition or accreditation, respectively. The requirements of the programs, application materials, instructions and fee schedules may be obtained from the addresses listed above. These programs are required to be operated on a cost-reimbursable basis. All costs incurred in the evaluation of applicant accreditation entities and testing laboratories must be paid by the applicant prior to the granting of approval/recognition/accreditation.

To allow time for an adequate number of laboratories to obtain accreditation, the FQA regulations will not be applicable to fasteners for 180 days after the effective date of publication of the regulations. If NIST determines that the number of laboratories is insufficient, this period may be extended.

Dated: September 16, 1996.  
Samuel Kramer,  
*Associate Director.*  
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[Docket No: 960726209-6209-01]

**Consensus Standards Organization Under the Fastener Quality Act****AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Fastener Quality Act (Act) (Pub. L. 101-592) as amended by Public Law 104-113 requires that certain fasteners sold in commerce conform to the standards and specifications to which they are represented to be manufactured. For the purposes of the Act, the fasteners covered by the Act are those manufactured in accordance with the standards and specifications published by a consensus standards organization or by a government agency. This announcement provides a provisional list of "consensus standards organizations," and seeks comments on this list from interested organizations and individuals. Specifically, NIST is interested in receiving comments on: (1) Why any of the U.S., foreign national, or international organizations listed in this notice should not be defined as "consensus standards organizations"; and (2) if there are additional U.S., foreign national, or international organizations which produce standards for the manufacture or alteration of

fasteners, as those terms are defined in the Act and regulations, that should be defined as "consensus standards organizations." Following the comment period, NIST will publish a final list in the Federal Register.

**DATES:** Comments will be accepted until December 10, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Subhas G. Malghan, NIST, Building 820, Room 316, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Tel. No. 301-975-4500. Telefax 301-975-2183. E-Mail Malghan@nist.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with section 3(2) of the Act, NIST reserves the right to add or delete organizations from its list of "consensus standards organizations" at any time, based upon decision criteria contained in this notice. Prior to amending the list, NIST will notify affected organizations and provide an opportunity for comment. As defined in the Act, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) are "consensus standards organizations." According to an industry source, nearly 95% of the commercial fasteners in the US and Canada are manufactured using standards and specifications developed by ASME, ASTM, and SAE. Therefore, any US or foreign standards-setting organization that wants to be recognized under the Act and regulations, has to meet the same criteria as these organizations to be included in the list of "consensus standards organization."

A. United States "Consensus Standards Organizations"

The Act defines "consensus standards organizations" as ASTM, ANSI, ASME, and SAE, or any other consensus standards-setting organization determined by the Secretary of Commerce to have comparable knowledge, expertise, and concern for health and safety in the field for which such organization purports to set standards. According to this definition, the following nineteen organizations have been provisionally determined by NIST to be "consensus standards organizations" within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the Act, as amended; and listed below in alphabetical order.

1. American Architectural Manufacturers Association, AAMA
2. American Boilers Manufacturers Association, ABMA
3. American Concrete Institute, ACI
4. American Gas Association, AGA
5. Aerospace Industries Association of America Inc., AIA/NAS