



SETTING THE STANDARD

Harmonization and Standardization

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Harmonization and Standardization

- What is a standard?
- What is harmonization?
- What is convergence?
- What is the role of the Convergence Board?

What is a standard?

Standard:

A set of technical definitions, instructions, requirements, guidelines, or characteristics set forth to provide consistent and comparable results, including:

- Items manufactured uniformly, providing for interchangeability
- Tests and analyses conducted reliably, minimizing the uncertainty of the results
- Facilities designed and constructed for safe operation

...not enough!

What is a standard?

Standards also:

- Reflect regulatory requirements and practices
- Reflect the culture of the industry (Sections I and III are very different)
- Reflect the system of jurisprudence

AND

- Reflect the knowledge of industry and regulators (the WHY of the standard)
- Reflect best industry practices (the HOW of the standard)

Concern: Organizations that apply standards without understanding the HOW and WHY of the standard.



What is harmonization?

Harmonization:

Requirements are considered to be technically identical, even if there are inconsequential differences in wording (e.g. due to language translation), as long as the wording does not change the meaning or interpretation of the requirement.

Differences in paragraph numbering are not considered as long as the same requirement exists in both standards.

- Requirements are NOT country specific.
- Requirements MAY provide alternatives.

What is convergence?

Convergence:

Requirements are not technically identical.

Convergence occurs when some requirements are harmonized such that the overall technical requirements of the standards coming closer together.

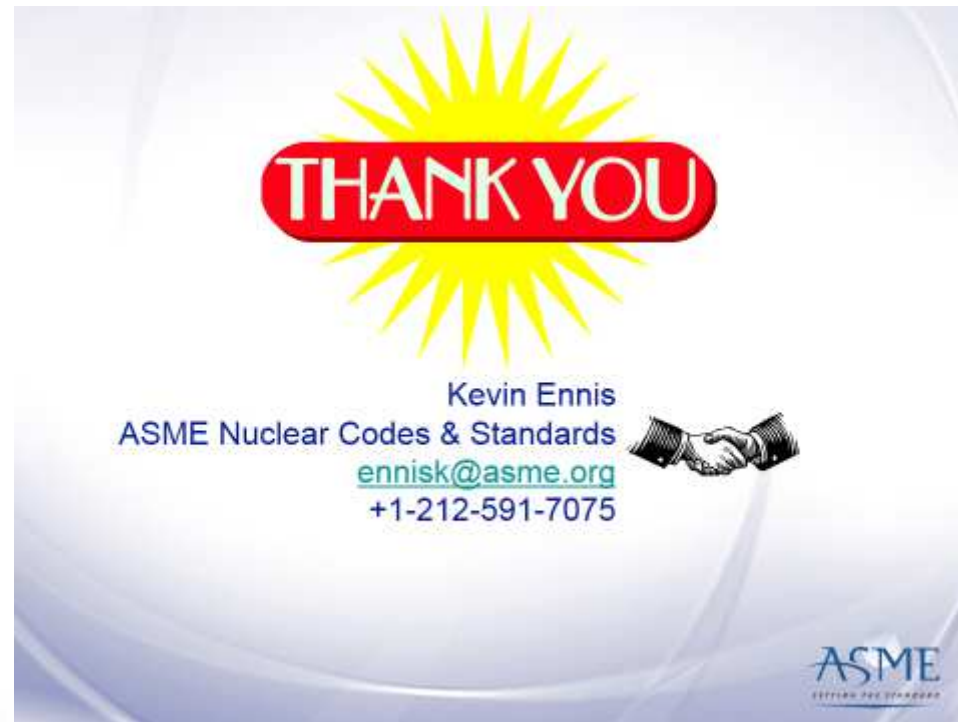
What is the role of the Convergence Board?

Convergence Board:

Provides a forum for SDO's can exchange information and discuss possible strategies.

Also, ASME is pursuing the establishment of International Working Groups.

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