

TAG 176 ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

What is the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 176?

ISO Technical Committee (TC) 176 is an international technical committee whose members develop international standards on quality management and assurance, including the ISO 9000 series. Members of the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO/TC 176 develop U.S. positions on those standards. Participation in TAG 176 provides an opportunity for representatives of U.S. constituencies such as industry, commerce, and government to influence the development of international standards on quality.

What is the U.S. International Standards Connection Fund?

Each year a different member country's TAG hosts the annual meeting of ISO/TC 176. Although the United States plays a significant role on the committee, it has not hosted an international meeting in more than 10 years. TAG 176 formed the **U.S. International Standards Connection Fund** to help raise a minimum of \$100,000 to host an international meeting in 2013.

Why is it important for the U.S. TAG to host an international meeting of ISO/TC 176 in the United States?

As an established leader in ISO standards development, the United States plays a significant role on ISO/TC 176. Hosting an international meeting emphasizes the country's position as an influential pacesetter. In addition, a meeting in the United States reduces travel costs for our TAG members, who are volunteers, and allows more of them to attend. A larger U.S. delegation allows the United States to have increased influence on the standards development process. It will be especially important for the United States to have increased influence in 2013, the anticipated host year, because the revision of ISO 9001 will begin that year.

How does supporting standards development benefit my organization?

The international standards developed by ISO/TC 176, including the ISO 9000 series, bring consistency, reliability, and quality to the global market. They contribute to making the development, manufacturing and supply of products and services more efficient, safer, and cleaner. They make trade between countries easier and fairer. The widespread adoption of international standards also means that suppliers can base the development of their products and services on reference documents that have broad market relevance.

Even if your organization doesn't use these standards, many of the small and medium-sized enterprises in your supply chain use them to ensure their continued ability to serve your organization. ISO 9001-certified companies traditionally demonstrate higher levels of quality, reliability and responsiveness to customer needs. Your support of this effort emphasizes the high value that your organization places on quality.

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By donating financial resources to help underwrite an international meeting of ISO/TC 176 and related activities, your organization receives global recognition as a supporter of international standards development. Your donation highlights your organization's position in the global economy and demonstrates to your employees, clients, and competitors that your organization strongly values quality. You support an audience of quality experts from around the world and increase your organization's visibility. Your donation is tax deductible.

Will the TAG receive funding for the meeting from the U.S. government or other sources?

While most countries' standards development organizations (SDOs) are supported by their national governments, U.S. SDOs do not receive any support from the U.S. government. TAG 176 is administered by two nonprofit organizations, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the American Society for Quality (ASQ), and partially supported by member dues, which help cover the operating costs of the TAG. Funds to host the meeting will come almost entirely from individual donations and corporate sponsorships.