

Mandatory Standards: Coming to a Consensus

June 19, 2013

1-2:00 p.m. (EDT)

Presenters

- **John Nakoski**, Branch Chief, Performance and Reliability Branch, Division of Risk Analysis, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Research
- **Adam West**, Programs Executive Officer, Technical Standards Program, NASA, Office of the Chief Engineer

Summary

Facilitator: Mike Lipka, Knowledge Officer, NASA Safety Center

Attendees: 75 (approximately)

Purpose of the Safety and Health Learning Alliance: Share experiences and collaborate ideas across various government and defense agencies, related industries, and professional organizations for the mutual goal of achieving high levels of safety and health.

Goal: Increase involvement, communication, and participation among safety and health professionals.

The [SHLA website](#) includes a video of the presentation. Please submit questions, comments, and event recommendations on the website or by emailing NASA-NSC@nasa.gov.

Questions

Round 1: Assessing Your Safety Culture

- **Is there a difference between requirements and regulations, or are they interchangeable?**

Nakoski

Regulations are a specific subset of requirements. Requirements are a broader term—regulations would include things we impose on licensees through a license commitment mechanism such as their technical specification or a specific line item in their license. Regulations are a subset of requirements, but they are entwined.

- **Is the development of standards specifically funded or does that task fall under “other duties as assigned?”**

Nakoski

Typically standards development is specifically funded. For example, we have several people on my staff that are actively engaged in the joint committee between ASME and A&S to establish PRA standards. That is their job and they do it because it enhances our effectiveness. Most standards organizations are voluntary organizations that include about 25 to 35 individuals.

- **Where can I sign up to receive generic NRC communications?**

Nakoski

It is possible to sign up for various forms of generic NRC communications through a link on our public website: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/#gen>. Also, <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html> provides a link to Lyris services through which you can be sent an email when new generic communications are issued.

- **How do you apply oversight onto or receive insight into the operations of NASA’s commercial space partners are doing operations and standards for NASA? How are you sure that they’ve accepted or not accepted NASA’s standards into their processes?**

West

NASA’s programs and projects establish their own requirements and sometimes it can become very difficult for a contractor to implement these requirements. Therefore, to allow the contractor some flexibility to meet and/or exceed the specific intent of these requirements’ “shall statements” through an alternate means, NASA’s Tech Authority process is used to help enable this cooperative exchange to occur.

- **What is your criteria or restrictions on reusing or not reusing non-NASA standards?**

West

OMB Circular A119 tells us that whenever possible we should be using voluntary consensus standards instead of developing our own unique standards. As such, we promote the use of VCS usage through NPR 7120.10 and through OCE’s endorsed standards list. We’re not completely there yet, and some might say that we’re so unique that we are unable to only use voluntary consensus standards. So for those unique cases, we try to offer a little flexibility.