AAMI STANDARDS PROGRAM
Policies and Procedures

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Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation
4301 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, VA 23013-1633
Telephone: 703-525-4890, ext. 1250
E-mail: standards@aami.org
www.aami.org

Contact: Jennifer Moyer (jmoyer@aami.org)
Contents

1. Program scope and objective ................................................................. 5
   1.1 Program scope ............................................................................. 5
   1.2 Program objective ....................................................................... 5
   1.3 Program benefits ......................................................................... 5
   1.4 Types of technical committee documents/publications .................... 6
   1.5 Metric Policy ............................................................................. 7

2. Due process .......................................................................................... 7
   2.1 Due process in the development of standards ................................. 7
   2.2 Consensus .................................................................................. 7
   2.3 Openness ................................................................................... 7
   2.4 Lack of dominance ...................................................................... 8
   2.5 Balance ..................................................................................... 8
   2.6 Coordination and harmonization .................................................... 8
   2.7 Notification of standards development ......................................... 8
   2.8 Consideration of views and objections ......................................... 8
   2.9 Consensus vote .......................................................................... 8
   2.10 Written procedures ..................................................................... 8

3. Program organization .......................................................................... 8
   3.1 General ..................................................................................... 8
   3.2 Technical Committees/Consensus bodies ..................................... 8
   3.3 AAMI Standards Board ............................................................... 9
   3.4 AAMI Board of Directors .......................................................... 10
   3.5 AAMI staff ............................................................................... 10
   3.6 AAMI Committee on Standards Strategy .................................... 10

4. Consensus body membership and structure ....................................... 10
   4.1 Definition of consensus body ...................................................... 10
   4.2 Consensus body leadership (chairs) ............................................. 10
   4.3 Consensus body size .................................................................. 11
   4.4 Members of consensus bodies .................................................... 12
   4.5 Interest categories (stakeholders) ............................................... 13
   4.6 Selection of consensus body members ........................................ 14
   4.7 Termination of consensus body membership for cause .................. 16

5. Consensus body policies and operations ............................................ 16
   5.1 Patent policy ............................................................................ 16
   5.2 Commercial terms and conditions .............................................. 16
5.3 Antitrust policy .................................................................................................................. 16
5.4 Transaction of consensus body business ......................................................................... 16
5.5 Announcement of meetings .............................................................................................. 17
5.6 Conduct of meetings .......................................................................................................... 17
5.7 Public participation in meetings ....................................................................................... 17
5.8 Closed meetings ................................................................................................................. 17
5.9 Documentation of meetings ............................................................................................... 17
5.10 Distribution of documents ............................................................................................... 17
5.11 Executive boards .............................................................................................................. 17
5.12 Task groups and project leaders ..................................................................................... 18
6. Development of consensus standards and TIRs.............................................................. 18
  6.1 New Work Proposal .......................................................................................................... 18
  6.2 Working Draft stage ........................................................................................................... 19
  6.3 Committee ballot and public review (Committee Draft) .................................................. 19
  6.4 Consideration and responding to comments .................................................................. 21
  6.5 Decision regarding further action .................................................................................... 22
  6.6 Final consensus body review and notice to public reviewers (recirculation) .............. 22
  6.7 Standards Board approval of final documents ............................................................... 23
  6.8 Publication........................................................................................................................ 24
  6.9 Records ............................................................................................................................. 24
  6.10 Discontinuation of a standards project .......................................................................... 24
7. Additional procedures for development and maintenance .................................................. 24
  7.1 Interpretations of standards ............................................................................................... 24
  7.2 Amendments of standards and TIRs ................................................................................ 25
  7.3 Periodic maintenance of standards .................................................................................. 25
  7.4 Periodic review of TIRs ................................................................................................... 25
  7.5 Withdrawal for cause (administrative withdrawal) ......................................................... 25
  7.6 Revisions .......................................................................................................................... 26
  7.7 Continuous maintenance .................................................................................................. 26
  7.8 Provisional standards ........................................................................................................ 26
  7.9 Adoption of international documents by AAMI ............................................................ 26
8. Appeals ................................................................................................................................... 27
  8.1 General ............................................................................................................................... 27
  8.2 Actions and inactions subject to appeal .......................................................................... 27
  8.3 Appeal procedure ............................................................................................................. 28
  8.4 Appeal to the AAMI Board of Directors ....................................................................... 29
8.5 Appeal of ANSI decisions on American National Standards .................................. 30
Annex A – AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct........................................ 31
Annex B – AAMI Antitrust Policy .................................................................................. 32
AAMI Standards Program National Procedures Manual

1. Program scope and objective

1.1 Program scope

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) is recognized as one of the foremost voluntary standards-setting organizations in the United States. The AAMI standards program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the organization that coordinates the development and promotion of all U.S. voluntary standards and that officially represents the United States in international standards-setting. AAMI’s accredited scope is as follows:

“Standards for medical devices and for healthcare products and services”

AAMI’s standards and technical reports are developed by technical committees or working groups operating as consensus bodies with membership drawn from a variety of backgrounds—clinicians, patient advocates, academicians, engineers, medical device manufacturers, regulators, etc. Collectively, these interdisciplinary groups develop standards and other technical documents intended to advance medical technology and patient safety.

AAMI also manages international technical committees that develop international standards and administers U.S. technical advisory groups (TAGs) that participate in the development of international standards on behalf of the U.S. The international aspects of the AAMI standards program are governed by the policies and procedures of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and ANSI. AAMI has developed a separate manual that sets forth policies for AAMI’s administration of U.S. TAGs.

Through its national and international technical committees and advisory groups, AAMI plays a significant global role in the development of medical device standards. Procedures and polices provided in this document—the AAMI Standards Program Policies and Procedures—refer only to the AAMI National Standards Program, unless otherwise specified.

1.2 Program objective

The AAMI standards program works to assist the healthcare community globally in the use, acceptance, and advancement of medical technology.

1.3 Program benefits

AAMI standards and other technical documents reflect the combined knowledge of medical device producers, users, regulators, and specific technology experts. They are intended to be voluntary and to be applied at the discretion and judgment of the reader. Consequently, the AAMI standards program benefits industry and healthcare professions without restricting technological advancement.

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1Hereafter “Policies and Procedures”.
1.4 Types of technical committee documents/publications

1.4.1 General

AAMI technical publications are classified according to their objectives or the level of consensus they reflect. The types of technical publications described below are only examples—AAMI committees may develop other types of documents in response to specific technical issues.

1.4.2 Standards

A standard may recommend to a manufacturer the information that should be included with a product, basic safety and performance criteria, and conformance measures that can be used to assess compliance. The inclusion of design specifications in a standard is permitted when circumstances warrant, but design specifications usually are avoided as they can hinder the advancement of technology.

A standard may provide clinical users with guidelines for the use, care, evaluation, or processing of medical devices.

AAMI’s standards require national consensus.

1.4.3 American National Standards

An AAMI standard designated as an "American National Standard" has been developed in accordance with ANSI’s requirements for consensus, due process, public review, and ANSI review.

AAMI may choose to develop consensus standards without submitting them for ANSI approval as American National Standards.

1.4.4 Technical information reports

A technical information report (TIR) is a review of technical issues relevant to a particular technology and a statement of expert opinion. A TIR may include discussion of different sides of an issue or may be issued when a committee believes that the procedures for developing a standard would unduly delay the promulgation of needed information. A TIR may serve as an interim statement by a committee working to develop standards. A TIR also may provide additional guidance to an AAMI or American National Standard or advice on how a standard might be implemented.

A TIR represents committee consensus but is not subject to public review.

1.4.5 Other technical publications

The AAMI standards program develops technical communications tailored to the specific needs of its membership and the healthcare community at large. AAMI committees are not limited to the categories of technical publications described in the foregoing paragraphs but may choose to devise innovative approaches to education and technology assessment.
1.5 Metric Policy

The use of International System of Units (SI) is preferred in all AAMI consensus documents. For situations where the SI unit is not commonly used or where the SI unit is not the term of art, the more commonly used measurement or term of art may be used. The value in SI units, however, also may be included parenthetically.

2. Due process

2.1 Due process in the development of standards

Due process means that any person (organization, company, government agency, individual, etc.) with a direct and material interest has a right to participate by expressing a position and its basis, having that position considered, and having the right to appeal. Due process allows for equity and fair play.

AAMI standards are developed by consensus, in accordance with policies and procedures designed to ensure due process. AAMI shall abide by all applicable requirements for due process provided in the ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards.²

2.2 Consensus

Consensus means substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. This signifies the concurrence of more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that an effort be made toward their resolution. Consensus is achieved when individuals and organizations having a direct and material interest in a standard achieve substantial agreement according to the judgment of the AAMI Standards Board. Consensus does not require that all objections be withdrawn.

Establishing a consensus on a standard or TIRs entails the following:

a) substantial agreement³ by written ballot among the members of the responsible consensus body;

b) appropriate public review (for standards);

c) resolution of comments; and

d) concurrence that consensus has been achieved in the judgment of the AAMI Standards Board.

2.3 Openness

Participation shall be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the activity in question. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Voting membership on the consensus body shall not be conditional upon membership in any organization, nor unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements.

²Hererafter “ANSI Essential Requirements”.

³“Substantial agreement” is defined as minimum approval of at least two-thirds of those voting (excluding abstentions), with at least two-thirds of eligible voters returning ballots (including abstentions). However the voting record of each interest category also may be considered.
2.4 Lack of dominance
The standards development process shall not be dominated by any single interest category, individual, or organization. Dominance means a position or exercise of dominant authority, leadership, or influence by reason of superior leverage, strength, or representation to the exclusion of fair and equitable consideration of other viewpoints.

2.5 Balance
The standards development process should have a balance of interests. Participants from diverse interest categories shall be sought with the objective of achieving balance. If a consensus body lacks balance, outreach to achieve balance shall be undertaken.

2.6 Coordination and harmonization
Good faith efforts shall be made to resolve potential conflicts between AAMI standards and existing standards promulgated by other standards developers.

2.7 Notification of standards development
Notification of the development of AAMI standards and TIRs shall be announced in suitable media as appropriate to afford an opportunity for participation by directly and materially affected persons.

2.8 Consideration of views and objections
Prompt consideration shall be given to the written views and objections of all participants, including those commenting during public review.

2.9 Consensus vote
Evidence of consensus in accordance with these requirements and, where appropriate, the ANSI Essential Requirements, shall be documented.

2.10 Written procedures
These Policies and Procedures shall be available upon request to any interested party.

3. Program organization

3.1 General
AAMI national standards and technical documents are developed by a consensus body (a technical committee or working group) assisted by staff and overseen by the AAMI Standards Board.

3.2 Technical Committees/Consensus bodies
Committees and working groups composed of volunteer technical experts are the heart of the AAMI standards program. Each AAMI committee has a defined scope of work and operates under established policies and procedures. An AAMI committee evaluates the need for standards and other technical publications within its area of competency. An AAMI committee also may assist staff in developing educational programs or may advise AAMI on responses to government initiatives and other public policy matters.
A committee may establish working groups to address particular technological areas within the scope of the parent committee.

AAMI standards are developed by a committee or working group acting as a consensus body. Consensus bodies provide the technical resources for developing, approving, and revising standards and TIRs.

Some committees, working groups, or subgroups not only serve as consensus bodies but also may act in an advisory, organizational, or oversight capacity in the standards process. The provisions given in this document governing organization, membership, participation, and operations of consensus bodies do not apply to groups when not acting as consensus bodies.

3.3 AAMI Standards Board

3.3.1 General

The Standards Board directs and supervises AAMI consensus body activities relating to the national standards program.

3.3.2 Membership

The members of the Standards Board are the President of AAMI, AAMI’s Vice President of Standards Policy and Programs (nonvoting), and eight or more additional experts appointed at the discretion of the President. The membership of the Standards Board should reflect balanced representation of interest groups. Two individuals, preferably representing different interests, co-chair the Standards Board.

3.3.3 Terms

The chairs of the Standards Board serve three-year terms that are renewable at the discretion of the President. Members serve three-year renewable terms. Under normal circumstances, members should serve on the Standards Board for no more than two consecutive terms, although additional terms may be approved by the President.

3.3.4 Responsibilities

The Standards Board determines whether AAMI policies and procedures have been followed in the development of standards and TIRs. The Standards Board’s responsibilities also include the following:

a) advising the President of AAMI on the appointment of consensus body chairs;

b) reviewing the progress of consensus body work;

c) authorizing the initiation and termination of consensus bodies and consensus body activities;

d) endorsing new or revised policies for approval by the Board of Directors; and

e) hearing appeals of consensus body decisions.

Only the Standards Board can authorize new projects or certify that AAMI standards or TIRs were developed in accordance with these Policies and Procedures, can be published as final
AAMI documents, or, if applicable, can authorize the submission of a document to ANSI for final approval as an American National Standard.

3.4 AAMI Board of Directors
The Board of Directors establishes or revises the *AAMI Standards Program Policies and Procedures* and serves as the final AAMI appellate body for disputes concerning standards or TIRs.

3.5 AAMI staff
AAMI staff manages the program on a day-to-day basis, advising consensus bodies on AAMI policies and procedures, scheduling meetings, maintaining records, preparing documentation, editing technical documents, administering ballots, overseeing public review, and coordinating consensus body and Standards Board activities.

3.6 AAMI Committee on Standards Strategy
The AAMI Committee on Standards Strategy (CSS) is a strategic committee responsible for advising staff on AAMI’s strategy relating to standards development and positions on proposed policies of other national, international, or regional standards bodies (e.g., ANSI, ISO, IEC, CEN [European Committee for Standardization], CENELEC [European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization]). In addition, the committee serves as a sounding board for other AAMI programs related to standards and regulations. The chair and members of the committee serve at the discretion of the AAMI President for two-year, renewable terms. The chairs of the Standards Board serve as ex officio members of the CSS, and the CSS is invited to comment on any changes to AAMI standards or TAG procedures proposed by the Standards Board.

4. Consensus body membership and structure

4.1 Definition of consensus body
A consensus body is a “group that approves the content of a standard and whose vote demonstrates evidence of consensus” (*ANSI Essential Requirements*).

When a committee or working group is actively developing and approving AAMI standards or TIRs, that group is acting as a consensus body.

4.2 Consensus body leadership (chairs)

4.2.1 General
Most AAMI consensus bodies have two chairs—one representing commercial (medical technology producer) interests and one representing non-producer interests (clinical, regulatory, academic, or general interests). If suitable candidates from disparate interests cannot be found, two chairs from the same interest category may serve or the consensus body may be chaired by a single member.

4.2.2 Selection of chairs
The President of AAMI appoints consensus body chairs with appropriate consultation with the AAMI Standards Board and AAMI staff.
In the event that a consensus body has no chair and there is pressing business before the group, the President may appoint an interim chair.

If a chair is not able to attend a meeting, an acting chair may be appointed by staff to lead the meeting.

4.2.3 Terms of chairs

The term of a consensus body chair appointment is for three years, renewable for a second three-year term. Additional terms may be approved by the President in consultation with the Standards Board.

4.2.4 Qualifications of chairs

Consensus body chairs must be experts in the technology covered in the scope of the group. The producer chair of a consensus body shall be a representative of an AAMI corporate member, unless this requirement is waived by the AAMI President. For non-producer chairs, preference is given to individual AAMI members and representatives of AAMI institutional members.

4.2.5 Responsibilities of chairs

Specifically, chairs are responsible for:

a) conducting committee meetings;
b) implementing the policies, objectives, and priorities of the Association;
c) efficiently managing consensus body activities to ensure timely completion of work;
d) advising staff, when requested, on membership matters;
e) appointing task group members or other consensus body officers;
f) advising staff on technical and administrative matters relevant to the consensus body’s work;
g) documenting consensus body meetings in the absence of AAMI staff; and
h) representing the consensus body at public meetings or hearings when requested by the AAMI President or appropriate standards department staff.

Unless authorized by appropriate standards department staff or the AAMI President, consensus body chairs may not speak officially for the Association.

4.2.6 Termination of chair appointments

A chair appointment may be terminated at any time by the President should it become evident that the chair has insufficient time or resources to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, is not properly executing AAMI’s policies and procedures, or is not abiding by AAMI policies. In such a case, the chair will receive written notification that the appointment has been terminated and may appeal this dismissal.

4.3 Consensus body size

There is no restriction on the size of consensus bodies.
4.4 Members of consensus bodies

4.4.1 Member qualifications

A consensus body member should have a direct and material interest in the work of the consensus body, either as an individual or through association with an organization. Members who do not have a direct and material interest also may serve as voting members, subject to AAMI approval, provided that they are knowledgeable about the subject of the consensus body's work or possess needed expertise. A consensus body member also must have sufficient time and resources to fulfill the responsibilities of membership and is required to review and vote on all balloted documents or proposals.

Consensus body members need not be individual members of AAMI or represent institutional or corporate members of AAMI; however, AAMI may impose cost-reimbursement fees on for-profit companies that are not corporate members of AAMI or on not-for-profit institutions (including associations, societies, government agencies and the like) that are not institutional members of AAMI.

Consensus body members also must provide adequate contact information. Because consensus body communications and documents are normally distributed electronically, members must have access to the Internet and a functioning e-mail address.

4.4.2 Representative members and alternates

A representative member is anyone who meets one or more of the following criteria:

a) The individual receives remuneration or expense reimbursement from an organization (a company or institution) to support or in exchange for participation in an AAMI consensus body.

b) The individual is expected to vote for or speak for an organization with respect to standards under development by the consensus body.

c) The individual is compensated to be an information source for an organization with respect to the activity of a consensus body.

A representative membership in a consensus body is held by the organization represented rather than the individual serving as a representative.

Organizations may appoint one voting representative per consensus body. (A parent corporation and its divisions or subsidiaries are usually considered one organization for purposes of voting representation.)

Organizations may appoint one alternate representative. An alternate’s vote is counted only if the principal representative fails to vote.

Organizations also may appoint one organizational liaison to a consensus body who can participate in the consensus body’s work but does not have voting rights.

\[4^{th} \text{With appropriate standards staff approval, multiple organizational liaisons from a single organization may be permitted.}\]
An organization or its representative can appoint a temporary alternate as a proxy representative to participate in specific meetings if the organization’s primary and alternate representatives are unable to attend.

A single individual participating in AAMI consensus standards development may only represent a single organization.

4.4.3 Independent expert members

Qualified individuals who do not meet the criteria of representative members may serve on consensus bodies and vote on matters as independent expert members.

4.4.4 AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct

All participants in AAMI consensus bodies shall comply with the AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct (Annex A).

4.5 Interest categories (stakeholders)

4.5.1 General

Every consensus body member (stakeholder) shall be classified by interest category. AAMI recognizes five different interest categories: Industry, User, General, Regulatory, and Other. Consensus bodies should strive for participation from all affected interest categories. Members are classified by their overall interest (or the overall interest of the organization they represent) in the AAMI Standards Program’s body of work rather than by their interest relative to the work of a specific consensus body or document.

4.5.2 Declaration of interest and disclosure of potential conflicts of interests

Consensus members must declare the interest they represent on AAMI standards committees and must disclose all potential conflicts of interests. Consensus body members also must comply with any applicable conflict of interest policies set by the AAMI Standards Board or the AAMI Board of Directors.

4.5.3 Industry Interest members

A member of a consensus body who, as an individual or organizational representative, is involved in the commercial production, promotion, sale, use or distribution of materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of technical documents developed by AAMI shall be classified as an Industry Interest stakeholder. Individuals in this interest category include manufacturers, those involved in supply chains, employees of test labs or commercial labs, industry consultants, etc.

4.5.4 User Interest members

A member of a consensus body who, as an individual or organizational representative, purchases, utilizes or receives the materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of technical documents developed by AAMI in the delivery of healthcare shall be classified as a User Interest stakeholder. Individuals in this interest category include clinicians, employees or representatives of Healthcare Delivery Organizations, clinical consultants, patients, etc.
4.5.5  Regulatory Interest members

A member of a consensus body who, as an individual or organizational representative, is involved in the regulation of the materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of the technical documents developed by AAMI shall be classified as a Regulatory Interest stakeholder. Individuals in this interest category would include those representing federal, state, local, foreign, or other government entities.

4.5.6  General Interest members

A member of a consensus body who, as an individual or organizational representative, has a general material interest in the materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of the technical documents developed by AAMI and who does not fit into any of the preceding categories shall be classified as a General Interest stakeholder. Individuals in this category would include noncommercial academicians, noncommercial researchers, patient or consumer advocates, representatives of accrediting organizations, representatives of other organizations, etc.

4.5.7  Other Interest members

A member who does not fit into any of the preceding interest categories but who still has an identifiable material interest in or specialized knowledge of the materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of technical documents developed by AAMI in the delivery of healthcare shall be classified as an Other Interest stakeholder. The particular interest shall be declared and documented.

4.5.8  Categorization of membership associations

A membership association (e.g., trade association, professional society) shall be categorized according to the appropriate interest category of its members.

4.6  Selection of consensus body members

4.6.1  General

Members of a consensus body are selected by application or by invitation.

4.6.2  Terms

There is no set term for consensus body membership.

4.6.3  Application process

Any person wishing to join an AAMI consensus body must apply for consensus body membership. A completed application should be submitted to the AAMI Standards Department for review and approval by staff. Industry stakeholders shall disclose any corporate parent/subsidiary relationships and any financial relationships with concerned commercial entities. User, General, Regulatory, or Other Interest stakeholders shall disclose any potential conflicts of interest (e.g., consulting arrangements with manufacturers, service on a corporate board).
A potential conflict of interest does not necessarily disqualify an applicant from independent voting status on a consensus body.

If an applicant (or the organization represented by the applicant) clearly has a direct and material interest in the devices and/or processes covered in documents under development by the consensus body, the application may be approved by authorized AAMI staff.

4.6.4 Refusal of membership

Consensus body membership may be refused for one or more of the following reasons:

a) The applicant (or organization represented) does not have a direct and material interest in the devices or processes covered by the consensus body.

b) The work of the consensus body is nearing completion.

c) The organization the applicant would represent already is fully represented on the consensus body.

d) For User, General, Regulatory, or Other Interest stakeholders, the applicant has a substantial relationship or conflict of interest that precludes granting independent voting status.

e) For Industry Interest representatives, the sponsoring firm is neither a corporate nor an institutional member of AAMI and is not willing to pay any required cost reimbursement fee.

f) The applicant refuses to complete the application fully or to disclose relevant financial relationships or possible conflicts of interest or provides incomplete or erroneous information in the application.

g) The applicant is not in compliance with or has previously violated the terms of the AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct, the AAMI Antitrust Policy, or the AAMI Patent Policy.

An applicant has the right to appeal if membership is denied.

4.6.5 Responsibilities

Consensus body members shall actively participate in all consensus body business. In particular, they shall respond to all consensus body ballots in a timely manner. Regular attendance at meetings is desirable but is not required.

Consensus body members are responsible for notifying AAMI of changes in e-mail address or affiliation, and organizations represented on consensus bodies are responsible for advising AAMI of desired changes in representation.

4.6.6 Change of interest category or representation

To ensure lack of dominance, balance, and due process, the membership of any individual on a consensus body terminates when that individual’s interest category or representation changes. Such a change shall be disclosed, and continued participation in the consensus body by that individual requires that the individual reapply in his or her new capacity.


4.6.7 Temporary designation of alternate

A consensus body member who cannot attend a meeting may designate a proxy for that meeting by notifying AAMI in writing in advance.

4.6.8 Organizational Liaisons

Organizational liaisons to technical committees are representatives of an organization who receive all committee documentation but who cannot vote.

Standards staff approve organizational liaisons and can deny or discontinue liaisons for cause.

4.7 Termination of consensus body membership for cause

AAMI staff or the AAMI Standards Board may terminate an individual's or an organization's consensus body membership for lack of participation or interest, especially for failure to record a vote or abstention on two consecutive letter ballots. Substantive violation of AAMI policies, including violation of the AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct, the AAMI Antitrust Policy, or the ANSI Patent Policy, also is cause for termination of membership.

Failure to disclose a change in interest category or representation or to disclose a conflict of interest is grounds for termination of membership.

Membership in a consensus body also may be terminated if it is determined that the individual or company's continued membership or actions may be detrimental to the work of the consensus body, to the interests of AAMI, or to the public good.

Persons, institutions, or corporations whose voting representation on a committee has been terminated for any of the above reasons will be notified in writing and will retain all other rights afforded them by due process.

If AAMI is not able to contact a member or if a member cannot provide a working e-mail address, that individual's membership may be terminated without further notice.

5. Consensus body policies and operations

5.1 Patent policy

The consensus body and its members shall comply with the current ANSI patent policy.

5.2 Commercial terms and conditions

The consensus body shall comply with the current ANSI policy for commercial terms and conditions.

5.3 Antitrust policy

The consensus body and its members shall comply with AAMI’s Antitrust Policy (Annex B).

5.4 Transaction of consensus body business

Consensus body business is conducted via electronic correspondence, conference calls, webinars, and face-to-face meetings.
5.5 Announcement of meetings

All consensus body meetings will be announced as early as possible but at least 30 calendar days in advance for face-to-face meetings. Meetings held by teleconference or webinar also should be announced as early as possible but not less than 15 calendar days in advance, except in unusual and urgent circumstances. An agenda and any necessary agenda materials should be distributed in advance of the meeting.

5.6 Conduct of meetings

Consensus body meetings are conducted by the chairs, standards staff, or a designee. There is no quorum requirement to hold the meeting, but absent consensus body members shall be given the opportunity to object to any final substantive actions relating to the disposition of a proposed document.

Meetings are conducted in accordance with general parliamentary principles and procedures, with some consensus body decisions made by motion and vote. Only voting members of the consensus body or a member’s appointed alternate or proxy may vote at a meeting. Less consequential matters may be decided less formally.

Formal votes on consensus body approval of a candidate document as a standard or TIR must take place via electronic or postal correspondence (not at meetings), and all consensus body members must be afforded the opportunity to vote.

5.7 Public participation in meetings

All AAMI consensus body meetings are open to the public; however, at the discretion of the chairs, it is permissible to limit comments to members.

5.8 Closed meetings

Meetings of standing consensus bodies shall not be held in closed session on matters related to standards or TIRs. Executive boards or task groups may, however, conduct meetings in closed session.

5.9 Documentation of meetings

All consensus body meetings, including substantive actions taken by the consensus body, shall be documented by minutes or a brief report.

5.10 Distribution of documents

Meeting minutes, documents in progress, and other consensus body materials are normally distributed by AAMI staff. Only materials distributed by or with the explicit permission of AAMI staff are part of the official record.

5.11 Executive boards

Consensus bodies may create executive boards to advise the chairs in developing and directing the consensus body’s program of work. The consensus body chairs appoint the members of an executive board in consultation with AAMI staff or the Standards Board. Such boards should have balanced representation from significant interest categories.
5.12 Task groups and project leaders

Task groups may be appointed by the consensus body chairs to address specific technical issues, research technical questions, organize work, or prepare early drafts. Assigning a project leader to write the first draft of a document or revise a working draft in response to consensus body input also is acceptable.

6. Development of consensus standards and TIRs

6.1 New Work Proposal

6.1.1 Initiating new work

AAMI shall make available a new work proposal form detailing information necessary to consider developing a new standard or TIR. To propose new work, a completed form shall be submitted to the AAMI Standards Department. Any individual or organization having a material interest may propose new work, but the work must be within the standards program’s approved scope.

Whenever possible, a detailed outline or first draft of the proposed document should accompany the proposal.

AAMI staff will review all new work item proposals for completeness, clarity, compliance with the Association’s procedures and to ensure such work is not already in AAMI’s program of work or that of another standards developing organization. Where appropriate, staff may request that proposals be amended to correct deficiencies, provide clarity, or respond to questions.

6.1.2 Evaluation and approval of new work

Proposals may be sent to appropriate parties within AAMI for review, and where appropriate, input may be sought from outside stakeholders with regard to the need and feasibility of the proposed work, as well as to whether AAMI is the appropriate organization to develop the work. Such review may include distribution to appropriate AAMI committees, working groups, or other experts for evaluation. A proposal under consideration should be announced via AAMI publications, the AAMI website, or press releases.

6.1.3 Approval of new work

After completion of the evaluation, staff shall submit the new work proposal for consideration by the AAMI Standards Board with all received input from review and any observations by staff.

The Standards Board shall consider the need for the new work, the priority of the work for AAMI, the feasibility of completing the work, whether the work is in AAMI’s scope, and whether AAMI has sufficient resources—including stakeholder participation—to undertake the new work. In addition, the Standards Board should consider whether a more appropriate technical organization should undertake the work.

The Standards Board may approve initiation of new work or the formation of a consensus body at a meeting or by a ballot. At least two-thirds of those members submitting votes must support the proposal.
6.1.4 Creation and termination of consensus bodies

If the work does not fall under the scope of any existing AAMI consensus body, the AAMI Standards Board may authorize the formation a new consensus body to develop the proposed standard or TIR.

The Standards Board also may dissolve a consensus body and terminate its program of work, based on lack of progress, apparent lack of interest, or other cause.

The decision to dissolve a consensus body can be appealed.

6.1.5 Announcement of new consensus body or new work project

Upon Standards Board approval, new work items shall be publically announced in AAMI publications, on the AAMI website, or by other appropriate means. For documents proposed as American National Standards, announcements shall comply with the ANSI Essential Requirements. Announcements of new work on prospective standards shall comply with the requirements for openness. Any comments resulting from these announcements will be addressed in accordance with 2.5 of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

6.1.6 Outreach

Standards staff shall perform and document outreach to materially affected parties to promote participation of affected stakeholders and a balance of interests on the consensus body.

6.2 Working Draft stage

The consensus body shall prepare the initial Working Draft in accordance with AAMI practices, procedures, and editorial style.

After the initial Working Draft has been prepared, the document will be circulated to the responsible consensus body for informal review and comment. Written responses are not required to comments submitted at the Working Draft stage.

Comments from individuals outside of the consensus body are not normally accepted at this stage. If such comments are received, the commenter will be advised that the draft is not available for public review and, for standards, invited to submit comments during public review.

Several iterations may be required at the Working Draft stage before advancing a TIR for ballot or a proposed standard for concurrent ballot and public review.

6.3 Committee ballot and public review (Committee Draft)

6.3.1 Decision to initiate ballot and public review

After a decision has been made that a document is ready for formal consensus body ballot and, for a standard, proposed public review, it is designated a Committee Draft. The decision to issue a Committee Draft can be approved by the chairs or by a simple majority of voting members present at a meeting (subject to approval by AAMI staff).
6.3.2 Formal consensus body ballot

Proposed standards or TIRs are balloted by the responsible consensus body only. Other consensus bodies or working groups may be offered the opportunity to comment during formal ballot but may not vote on the documents.

All formal consensus body voting on approval of a candidate document as a standard or TIR shall be conducted via correspondence (postal or electronic), and all members of the consensus body shall have the opportunity to vote.

AAMI staff conducts all formal approval ballots. A copy of the document with all necessary background information shall be distributed to voting consensus body members with ballot instructions.

6.3.3 Ballot period

The ballot period for a full ballot generally is six weeks. Shorter ballot periods are discouraged. No ballot for approval of a Committee Draft as a standard or TIR shall be less than three weeks.

6.3.4 Voting

Consensus body members may vote in the affirmative (e.g., “affirmative,” “yes,” or “approve”), in the negative (e.g., “negative,” “no,” or “disapprove”) or may abstain. A consensus body member should vote in the affirmative if the member endorses the document whether or not his or her comments are accepted. A consensus body member should vote in the negative if substantive technical changes are necessary to resolve one or more of the member’s comments.

Negative votes shall be accompanied by comments; otherwise, they shall be recorded as “negative without comments” without further notice to the voter. Affirmative votes may include comments; however a vote of approval cannot be contingent upon acceptance of those comments.

Abstentions should be accompanied by an explanation.

All comments and objections, whether accompanying affirmative or negative ballots, must be specific and include the following information:

a) the number of the paragraph containing the text in question;
b) the rationale for the objection;
c) alternative text that would resolve the objection; and
d) an indication as to whether the comment is technical, editorial, or general in nature.

6.3.5 Ballot return and approval requirements

For a ballot to be valid, at least two-thirds of the consensus body members shall record a vote or an abstention. For a document to be considered as approved, at least two-thirds of those voting (excluding abstentions) must return an affirmative vote (with or without comments).
6.3.6 Public review

Public review is a process by which proposed standards are made available for review by interested parties.

AAMI TIRs are not subject to public review.

Public comment is solicited by notice in appropriate AAMI publications or on the AAMI website and, for standards intended as American National Standards, by announcement in accordance with the requirements set forth in the ANSI Essential Requirements. This notice shall announce the proposed standard, state its availability for review and comment, explain how to obtain a copy of the document, and provide a deadline for submitting comments.

The public review period shall be in accordance with the provisions of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

AAMI public review periods may be extended at the discretion of the staff.

6.4 Consideration and responding to comments

6.4.1 Return of comments

AAMI reserves the right to return for resubmission any ballot or public review comments that are illegible or that reference a specific company, product, or product line other than the commenter’s company or product, unless the comment refers to a section of a proposed draft that cites the specific company, product, or product line.

6.4.2 Response to ballot and public comments

6.4.2.1 Rationale for not accepting a comment

For any technical comment that is not accepted, the consensus body shall provide an explanation for the rejection in writing. If the comment is understandable, is specific, and offers a rationale, the explanation shall explain a technical basis for rejecting the comment. The response may refer to an explanation provided in response to another comment. The consensus body’s explanation for rejecting other types of comments may be of a more general nature.

6.4.2.2 Withdrawn comments

The consensus body is not required to respond to comments that are withdrawn by the submitter. “Comment withdrawn” shall only be entered into the resolution column at the request of the commenting member or alternate.

6.4.2.3 Late comments

The consensus body is not required to consider or respond to late ballot or late public review comments in deciding whether to advance the document. If the document is reballoted, the late commenter shall be invited to resubmit comments during the subsequent ballot or public review. If the document advances to approval, the outstanding late comments shall be documented and can be held for consideration at the next revision, unless the commenter wishes the late comments to be treated as a proposal to begin an amendment or revision following publication.
6.4.2.4 Comments not related to the proposal undergoing ballot

The consensus body also is not required to consider comments that are not related to the proposal; however, such comments shall be documented and the commenter invited to submit a proposal for new work.

6.4.2.5 Negative votes without comment

Negative votes without comments or with comments not related to the proposal being balloted shall be treated in accordance with the provisions set forth in the \textit{ANSI Essential Requirements}.

6.4.2.6 Unresolved objections

Unresolved objections exist when a negative vote is sustained by a member of the consensus body or when written comments submitted during public review have not been resolved in accordance with the provisions set forth in the \textit{ANSI Essential Requirements}.

6.4.2.7 Distribution of responses

The compilation of comments and their resolutions shall be distributed in writing to all consensus body members and to any public review commenter.

6.5 Decision regarding further action

If disposition of comments results in substantive technical changes, public review shall be conducted of at least those changes and, unless there is a full reballot or a ballot of the substantive changes, consensus body members shall be given the opportunity to change their votes or raise objections before submission to the AAMI Standards Board.

If ballot results establish consensus, there are no outstanding objections, and only nonsubstantive changes have been made to the document, the document may be submitted to the AAMI Standards Board for approval.

The decision to approve submission to the Standards Board may be decided by the consensus body chairs in consultation with AAMI staff or by the consensus body at a meeting.

If there have been substantive changes or there are outstanding objections to approval, submission for final approval is subject to final consensus body review (recirculation).

6.6 Final consensus body review and notice to public reviewers (recirculation)

Members of the consensus body and any public reviewers with outstanding objections shall be informed of the decision to submit the document to the Standards Board and, if applicable, to ANSI. All consensus body members and commenters shall be provided with documentation of the voting results, resolutions of all comments from or subsequent to the last full ballot and public review, and copies of any outstanding objections to the resolution of comments or final approval.

Recipients shall be given a minimum of 15 calendar days in which to object to final approval of the document or (for members of the consensus body) to change their votes.
The voting results at the end of final consensus body review/recirculation still must support consensus for the proposed document to be submitted to the AAMI Standards Board.

6.7 Standards Board approval of final documents

6.7.1 General

The Standards Board must approve publication of a consensus document as a final TIR or standard and, when appropriate, approve its submittal to ANSI for final approval as an American National Standard.

6.7.2 Procedural review

The Standards Board decision to approve a standard or TIR requires that a consensus has been established in accordance with the Policies and Procedures and all ballot and public comments have received fair consideration and response. The Board does not conduct a technical review or technical evaluation of comments or objections.

6.7.3 Documentation

In its decision making, the Standards Board reviews the following documentation:

a) copies of all consensus body and public comments on the last full ballot/public review;
b) the consensus body's responses to those comments;
c) any further comments from persons objecting to the disposition of their comments; and
d) objections to the finalization of the document and any other documentation that staff deems relevant.

The Standards Board also reviews the consensus document itself to ensure that it conforms to AAMI policies.

6.7.4 Standards Board action

The Standards Board may take final action on a consensus document at a meeting or by correspondence (including electronic means). In the latter case, the following procedure applies:

e) All relevant documentation shall be circulated to the members of the Standards Board, along with a letter ballot. The initial voting period will be a minimum of 14 calendar days and subject to extension if insufficient response is received.
f) The letter ballot offers each member the opportunity to vote for final approval, to abstain, or to vote, with an explanation, for holding the matter for deliberation via a meeting or conference call/web meeting. Any vote to hold the decision for deliberation is honored.
g) Three-fourths of the voting membership of the Standards Board must return ballots.

6.7.5 Denial of approval

If the Standards Board denies approval, the document is returned to the responsible consensus body along with explanation for the disapproval.
6.7.6 Notification to objectors
Any consensus body member or public reviewer maintaining an objection to approval of the standard or TIR will be informed in writing of the Standards Board decision to approve a document and, if appropriate, advance for ANSI approval. Those parties also shall be informed that appeal rights exist under these Policies and Procedures and that they may file an appeal in accordance with those procedures.

6.8 Publication
Consensus documents shall be published and made available as soon as possible upon final approval or reaffirmation. Publication of standards approved as American National Standards shall comply with the requirements given in the ANSI Essential Requirements.

6.9 Records
Substantive records of the development and approval of any consensus document shall be maintained for a minimum of five years or until approval of the subsequent revision or reaffirmation of the document, whichever is longer.

Substantive and relevant records concerning withdrawn consensus documents shall be retained for at least five years from the date of withdrawal.

Substantive records of any American National Standard shall be kept in accordance with the requirements of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

6.10 Discontinuation of a standards project
AAMI may decide to abandon or discontinue the processing of a proposed new or revised standard or TIR or portion thereof at its own discretion and without a vote of the relevant consensus body.

For candidate American National Standards, AAMI shall notify ANSI immediately of any such decision.

7. Additional procedures for development and maintenance
7.1 Interpretations of standards
The AAMI standards program does not provide interpretations of its standards or TIRs. Any verbal or written interpretations provided by committee members, chairs, or other authorities are their personal interpretations and not the official position of AAMI or of the responsible consensus body.

If clarification of a standard is necessary, the consensus body shall revise or amend the standard to provide this clarification. Any amendment or revision will be developed following AAMI’s full consensus procedures.

This provision does not prohibit the publication of corrigenda (errata) to correct clear and unambiguous errors in AAMI standards or TIRs.
7.2 Amendments of standards and TIRs

Amendments of published AAMI standards and TIRs may be proposed at any time. Requests for amendments shall be made in writing to the Standards department, shall offer specific text changes, and shall include rationale for the recommended changes. A request for an amendment shall be approved or denied by ballot of the responsible committee and the committee's decision made available for public review and comment. The same balloting, public review, and final approval procedures for original documents apply to amendments. An approved amendment and information on how to obtain a copy shall be published by AAMI.

7.3 Periodic maintenance of standards

Within five years of the last approval of a current AAMI or American National Standard, the standard shall be balloted for reaffirmation to the responsible consensus body and be placed on concurrent review.

For identical adoptions of an ISO or IEC standard, the procedures in clause 4.0 of the ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO and IEC Standards as American National Standards apply

If a consensus body proposes to withdraw a document at any time, this proposal will be balloted and placed on public review.

Ballot forms for periodic maintenance shall include the following choices: reaffirm, withdraw, or abstain. Contingency votes (e.g., "reaffirm as long as the committee starts working on a revision") are not allowed, though a consensus body member may propose revision in response to periodic review. Comments shall be required only for a vote contrary to the proposed action (i.e., "reaffirm" or "withdraw").

The approval process for a reaffirmation or withdrawal of a standard follows that for the approval of a new standard except that reaffirmations without outstanding objections are not subject to Standards Board approval.

7.4 Periodic review of TIRs

TIRs should be reviewed every three years to determine if the document should be maintained, withdrawn, revised, or advanced to become a standard.

7.5 Withdrawal for cause (administrative withdrawal)

The AAMI President, the Standards Board, or the Board of Directors can withdraw any AAMI standard or TIR upon a sufficient showing that one or more of the following conditions applies:

a) A significant conflict with another AAMI standard or TIR is identified and cannot be resolved.

b) ANSI's requirements for designation, publication, and maintenance were violated.

c) Supporting the document is contrary to the interests of the public or of the Association.

d) The document contains unfair provisions or that due process requirements were violated in the document’s development or maintenance.

Administrative withdrawal of any American National Standard shall comply with applicable provisions for administrative withdrawal set forth in the ANSI Essential Requirements.
7.6 Revisions
A proposal to revise a standard or TIR does not require a new work proposal form. The proposal to begin a revision of a standard or TIR shall be made to the consensus body that authored the document. Approval to begin a revision requires a majority vote at a meeting or by correspondence.

The initiation of a revision does not obviate the requirement for timely periodic review.

A revision of a standard or TIR otherwise follows the procedures detailed in section 6 of these Policies and Procedures.

The revision of any American National Standard shall comply with 2.5 of the ANSI Essential Requirements with regard to the submission of PINS form and announcement in ANSI Standards Action.

7.7 Continuous maintenance
Appropriate standards or TIRs may be maintained on a continuous basis with approval of the Standards Board. A consensus body proposing continuous maintenance for one of its documents shall prepare a documented program for periodic publication of revisions and timely consideration of each formally submitted request for change. Standards Board approval of the proposal and the program is required.

Continuous maintenance shall comply with all the applicable provisions of these Policies and Procedures and, for any American National Standard, with the applicable provisions of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

7.8 Provisional standards
AAMI may develop provisional American National Standards following the provisions set forth in Annex B of the ANSI Essential Requirements.

7.9 Adoption of international documents by AAMI

7.9.1 Adoption of international standards

For adoptions of ISO or IEC standards, the requirements set forth in the ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO or IEC Standards as American National Standards and the applicable provisions from these Policies and Procedures apply with the following exceptions:

a) A new work proposal form is not required to adopt an International Standard produced by an ISO or IEC Technical Committee or Subcommittee for which AAMI holds the U.S. TAG, nor is Standards Board approval required. The appropriate consensus body may propose and initiate adoption.

b) Staff approval is required to adopt any document produced by an ISO or IEC Technical Committee or Subcommittee for which AAMI does not hold the U.S. TAG. Any such adoption shall comply with the ANSI Policy Regarding Rights to Nationally Adopt ISO Standards or Otherwise Use IEC and ISO Material.

c) For parallel adoption, the consideration of comments concerns only which comments to submit (either as written or with modification) or reject for submission as part of the U.S.
consensus position; however, the consensus body can decide to accept a comment rejected internationally and publish the adoption with deviations.

d) For parallel adoption, the responses of the U.S. consensus body shall be provided along with the ISO or IEC documentation indicating how all comments (U.S. and non-U.S. comments) were resolved.

e) For parallel adoption of International Standards, the AAMI Committee Draft ballot and public review occur at the international Enquiry stage (Draft International Standard for ISO and Committee Draft for Vote for IEC).

f) The expedited procedures set forth in the *ANSI Procedures for the National Adoption of ISO or IEC standards as American National Standards* may be employed.

g) Periodic maintenance shall follow the provisions for adoptions of International Standards set forth in the *ANSI Essential Requirements*.

AAMI also may adopt ISO or IEC Technical Specifications as AAMI TIRs in accordance with the applicable procedures and provisions given above, but the adoptions shall be registered in accordance with the *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*.

### 8. Appeals

#### 8.1 General

This section sets forth formal appeal mechanisms for the impartial handling of complaints regarding substantive procedural actions or inactions related to AAMI standards and TIRs. Procedural appeals cannot be based on simple error or omission but require substantive error, action, or inaction in the development process.

To appeal an action or inaction, an appellant shall demonstrate that his or her due process rights were compromised and shall have a direct and material interest that is or may be adversely affected.

#### 8.2 Actions and inactions subject to appeal

The following actions may be appealed:

a) approval or denial of a new work proposal;

b) approval or disapproval of a document as a final or reaffirmed standard or TIR;

c) authorization or refusal to submit a document to ANSI for approval as an American National Standard;

d) withdrawal of a published AAMI standard or TIR;

e) establishment of a new consensus body or initiation of new work on a standard or TIR;

f) termination of a consensus body or cessation of work on a standard or TIR;

g) refusal or termination of membership on a consensus body;

h) dismissal of a consensus body chair;

i) other substantive uncorrected committee actions that deny due process rights;

j) substantive procedural inactions, not covered above, that violate the due process rights of the adversely affected party.
8.2.1 Fee

The fee for an appeal with the Standards Board is $1,500 (U.S.) payable by the appellant. The fee for a subsequent appeal with the Board of Directors is an additional $1,500 (U.S.).

Fees are payable by the appellant within seven calendar days of notification of the decision by the appeal body (the Standards Board or the AAMI Board of Directors) to hear an appeal.

An appellant may request that AAMI reduce, waive, or refund these fees and must provide a rationale for this request (e.g., demonstrable financial hardship). The decision to reduce, waive or refund any appeal fee will be made by the AAMI President after review of the request and rationale.

8.3 Appeal procedure

8.3.1 Appeal to the AAMI Standards Board

8.3.1.1 Filing of an appeal

An appeal of a covered action shall be filed within 15 calendar days of notification of the action.

There is no deadline for appealing a procedural inaction.

The appeal shall state the nature of the objection, including the details of the denial of due process rights, the real or potential adverse effects upon the appellant, the actions or inactions at issue, and the specific remedial action that would satisfy the appellant’s concerns. Previous efforts to resolve the objection and the outcome shall be reported. Upon the filing of a properly executed appeal, the responsible consensus body and Standards Board are notified and the original action is suspended until the appeal can be resolved or considered.

8.3.1.2 Initial staff review of the appeal (informal resolution phase)

Within 30 calendar days of the filing of an appeal, AAMI staff shall make a preliminary determination as to whether a substantive error or omission occurred that violated the appellant’s due process rights. If staff determines that a procedural error or omission appears to have occurred but is correctable by further consideration or action of the consensus body, staff will consult with the Standards Board and chairs of the consensus body to determine what action can be taken to cure any real or potential adverse effect.

If, in staff's estimation, a cure cannot be agreed upon by the parties or if staff cannot establish that a procedural omission or error occurred, the appeal shall be submitted to the Standards Board with all relevant documentation.

8.3.2 Standards Board consideration of the appeal

The Standards Board will be asked to review the appeal to determine if significant evidence exists of a substantive procedural error or omission that violated the due process rights of the appellant and that created potential or actual harm to the appellant. A decision by the Standards Board to hear an appeal requires approval by a majority of the Standards Board by ballot or at a meeting. When the Standards Board reaches a decision, the appellant and the responsible committee are notified in writing within 60 calendar days of the filing of the appeal.
If the Standard Board decides not to hear the appeal, the appellant may submit his or her appeal to the AAMI Board of Directors as detailed below.

If the Standards Board agrees to hear the appeal, a hearing will be scheduled in accordance with the following provisions.

8.3.2.1 Standards Board Hearing

The Standards Board shall set a time to hear the appeal via a face-to-face meeting, web meeting, or conference call within six months of the date on which the appeal was filed (or on a date mutually agreeable to all parties). The appellant and the responsible committee shall be invited to be represented at the hearing with at least 30 calendar days' notice. Any committee member or other materially interested party may attend the public portion of the appeal hearing, provided advance notice of attendance is given. Upon hearing all arguments, the Standards Board will decide the matter in closed session. A two-thirds vote of eligible Standards Board members is required to modify an original action or position.

8.3.3 Notification of Standards Board decision

Standards Board decisions on appeals are rendered only in writing. The appellant and the responsible committee shall receive written notification of the Standards Board decision and reason(s) thereof within 15 calendar days of the decision.

8.4 Appeal to the AAMI Board of Directors

8.4.1.1 Filing of an appeal to the Board of Directors

An appeal to the AAMI Board of Directors shall be filed in writing within 15 calendar days of notification of the results of an appeal to the Standards Board and must explain why the Standards Board decision should be modified.

A decision by the Board of Directors to hear an appeal requires approval by a majority of the Board of Director by ballot or at an electronic or in-person meeting. The complete Standards Board case file shall be made available to the Board of Directors for consideration in reaching a decision on whether to hear the appeal. When the Board of Directors reaches a decision, the appellant and the responsible committee shall be notified in writing.

8.4.1.2 Board of Directors Hearing

If the Board of Directors agrees to hear an appeal, the appellant and the responsible committee are invited, with at least 15 calendar days' notice, to be represented at the hearing. The hearing may be held in person or via a web meeting or conference call. The chairs of the Standards Board participate in the Board's deliberations without vote. Any consensus body member or other interested party may attend the public portion of the appeal hearing with advance notice to the Vice President of Standards Policy and Programs. Upon hearing all arguments, the Board of Directors will decide the matter in closed session. To reverse a Standards Board decision, a majority vote of all eligible voting members of the Board of Directors is required.
8.4.1.3 Notification of Board decision

Board decisions on appeals are rendered only in writing. The appellant, the responsible committee, and the Standards Board shall receive written notification of the Board of Directors' decision within 30 calendar days of the appeal hearing.

8.5 Appeal of ANSI decisions on American National Standards

Persons who maintain negative votes on and/or unresolved objections to proposed American National Standards also may have rights of appeal under ANSI's procedures.
Annex A – AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct

This AAMI Consensus Body Member Code of Conduct (Code) is adapted from the *ISO Code of Conduct for the technical work*.  

The goal of this Code is to facilitate AAMI's standards development work—work that is carried out in a multi-stakeholder environment. The Code also is intended to ensure that consensus body deliberations are conducted in a respectful and professional manner by all parties. 

It applies to anyone who chooses to participate on an AAMI consensus body. The Code is an obligation for participation. 

As participants in AAMI's standards program, we acknowledge the responsibility and value of participating in the development of standards and TIRs. We therefore adhere to this Code in accordance with the terms below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work for the net benefit of the healthcare community</th>
<th>We recognize that the development of standards is for the net benefit of the healthcare community, over and above the interests of any individual or organization. We are committed to advancing standards within their agreed scope, and we will not hinder their development. We support AAMI's goal of advancing patient safety and medical technology.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uphold consensus and governance</td>
<td>We will uphold the key principles of AAMI's standardization: consensus, due process, honesty, openness, transparency, fairness, effectiveness, relevance, and coherence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree to a clear purpose and scope</td>
<td>We are committed to having a clear purpose, scope, objectives, and will work to ensure the timely development of standards and technical documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate actively and manage effective representation</td>
<td>We agree to actively participate in standards development projects. We will make our contributions to the work according to the <em>AAMI Standards Department Policies and Procedures</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escalate and resolve disputes</td>
<td>We will identify and escalate disputes in a timely manner to ensure rapid resolution. We will uphold the agreed dispute resolution processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behave ethically</td>
<td>We will act in good faith and with due care and diligence. We will avoid collusive or anticompetitive behavior. We will promote a culture of fair and ethical behavior.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Respect others in meetings | We are committed to respecting others and the professional culture of standards development. In meetings we are committed to:  
  • conducting ourselves in a professional manner;  
  • respecting others and their opinions;  
  • accepting group decisions; and  
  • ensuring that the views of all are heard and understood. |
Annex B – AAMI Antitrust Policy

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION

Antitrust Statement

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation ("AAMI") and its Board of Directors are committed to the activities of the Association, including meetings held for the purpose of:

1) Promoting the common interests of its members and the general welfare of the healthcare and patient communities through lawful activities.
2) Performing, in a lawful manner, such civic, commercial, industrial, professional, and social events and activities to promote or foster the advancement of medical technology.
3) Preparing and disseminating among its members and others accurate and reliable information concerning the medical technology community, including standards, other publications, education, and other services.
4) Participating in international, foreign, and national standards activities to promote the welfare of the business, professional and patient care community.
5) Participating in scientific, consensus and educational activities and other lawful endeavors for the advancement of the public’s and members’ interests.

However, AAMI recognizes that in the process of these lawful activities, opportunities may arise that could result in violations of antitrust laws. Violations of antitrust laws are serious, criminal, and civil violations, which are punishable by jail terms, fines and treble damage penalties. Therefore, all AAMI members and guests are reminded that AAMI meetings cannot be used, in violation of antitrust laws, to:

1) Discuss pricing, pricing policies, or any marketing policy with an indirect effect on pricing.
2) Confer about division or allocation of sales territories or customers.
3) Establish blacklists or boycotts of suppliers, purchasers, or competitors.
4) Coerce members or others to implement particular programs or policies.
5) Resolve problems in an arbitrary or unreasonable manner or based solely on the needs of a single party or a small, select group.

If you believe a potential antitrust problem has arisen or is occurring during this meeting, please immediately contact the person(s) chairing the meeting or an AAMI staff person.

Approved November 30, 2007

By the AAMI Board of Directors