March 26, 2021

Subject: ASME Procedures for Standards Development Committees Revisions to Increase Operational Efficiency.

ASME Volunteer Standards and Certification Committee Volunteers,

This message is intended to provide an update on the effort to revise our current standards development committee procedures to increase operational efficiency.

Beginning in late 2017, a team led by staff, in collaboration with volunteers, undertook the task of assessing the ASME standards development process. The existing procedures were compared with other standards development organizations’ processes and the ANSI Essential Requirements, which outline the requirements ASME must meet to qualify for ANSI accreditation. This process identified many procedural improvement opportunities.

By June of 2019, a final report containing 107 recommendations addressing ways to improve process and efficiency was delivered to ASME’s Standards and Certification senior management. Those related to revisions or additions to the Codes and Standards Policies (CSP) were reviewed and approved by the Council on Standards and Certification and have been implemented. Those recommendations containing proposed revisions to the procedures were forwarded to the Board on Council Operations (BCO), an administrative committee operating under the Council on S&C that has oversight and approval of ASME’s standards development procedures. Through a series of ballots and meetings taking place from June 2019 through February 2020, the BCO evaluated and endorsed revisions to the current operating procedures.

Since that time, a staff team has been diligently working to integrate the BCO endorsed revisions into the existing procedures and to reorganize the procedures for clarity and flow. That work is nearing completion and we expect that the revised procedures will be forwarded to the volunteer committees this year.

The end goal of this effort is to produce one common set of ASME Standards Committee Operating Procedures that all committees will be required to follow, without deviation. To ensure that we meet that goal, supplemental procedures will be replaced with an operational preferences form that will allow committees to select how they prefer to operate from options allowed by the procedures. For this reason, we ask that all standards committees stop work currently being undertaken to modify committee supplemental procedures. We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work towards achieving consistency within ASME’s standards development approval processes and
operating procedures. Once in place, we believe that these revisions will increase volunteer and staff's operational efficiency.

Sincerely,

Claire Ramspeck
Managing Director, Standards
Standards and Certification