

Abstract:

Normative Committees.

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This presentation describes the role normative committees have in the development of techniques and in the improvement of product reliability and performance.

Often the development of methods for specific instrumental techniques promotes that technique over others. In the commercial world we live in this is seen as simple competition. Normative committees such as ASTM, ISO, CEN and BSI to name a few promote best practice in all aspects of their business. These organisations however all rely on participation, usually freely given by manufacturers, suppliers, academics, consultants and even lay people with no specific backing, just an interest.

To promote new technology in highly regulated industries norm committees involvement is essential both for the technology owner and the end user. Other aspects of norm involvement are to create markets for products and this relies on industry willingness to participate and acceptance that a norm will bring improvements in performance and/or reduction of cost.

The issues come with involvement. To promote a technology certain essential processes in assessment must be accomplished. The typical steps include:

1. drafting a method,
2. testing for ruggedness,
3. final method protocol
4. the round robin.
5. statistics for measurement

This presentation will try to explain what involvement means, potential costs, where XRF norms are created, the organisations involved and an insight into newly released/proposed methods, personal gains and a plea to the users of XRF for participation.