



# The Environmental Protection Agency's Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards

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# EPA Activities

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- Regulatory
  - Based on legal mandates
  - Enforceable by Federal and State Authorities
  - Incorporate voluntary consensus standards whenever possible
- Voluntary Programs
  - Partnerships with stakeholders
  - Incentive programs
  - Use voluntary consensus standards as applicable

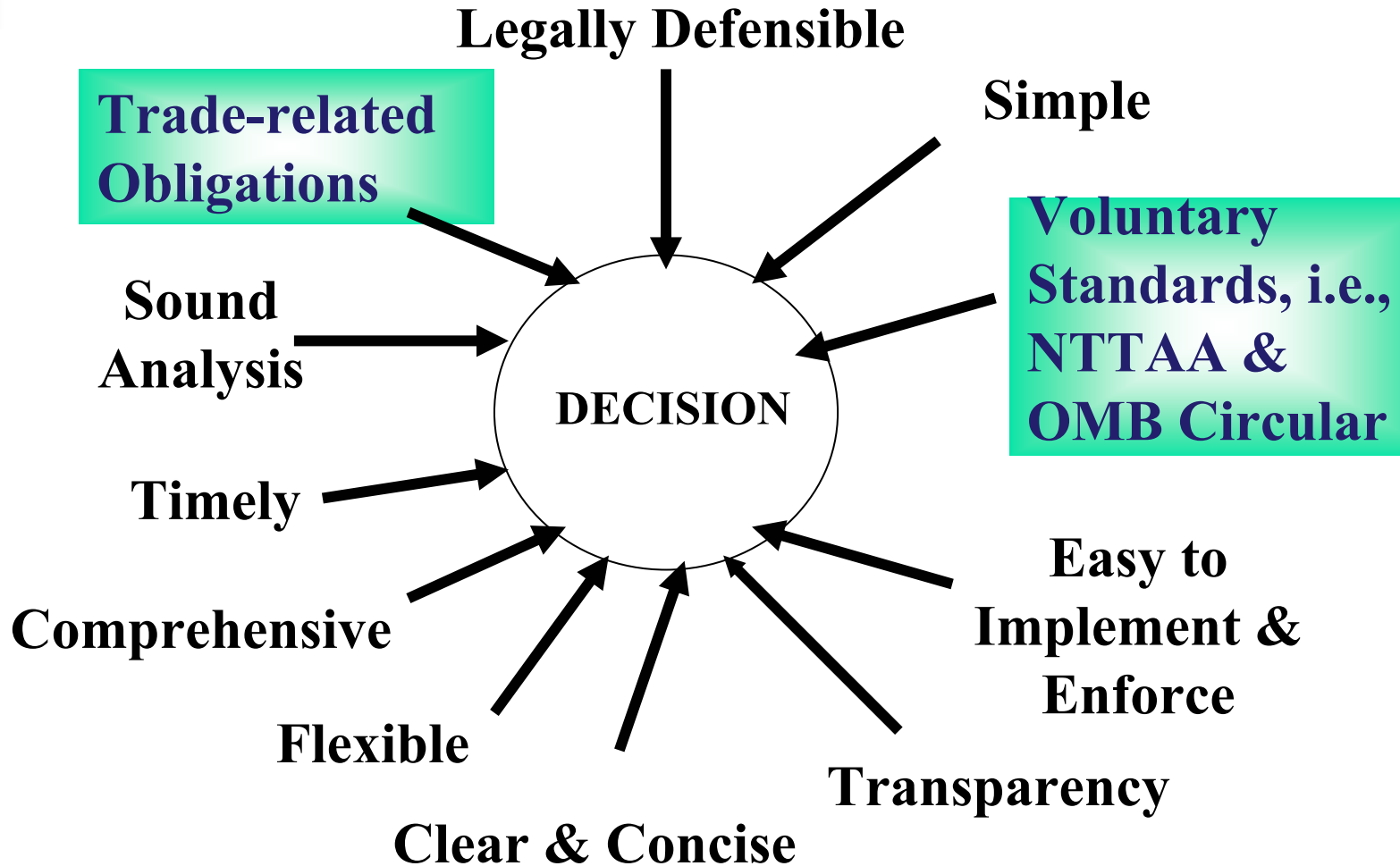


# Regulatory Actions

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- **Laws for Environment, Health, Safety**
  - Toxic Control Substances Act
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
  - Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act
- **Law on Standards and Conformity Assessment**
  - National Technology Transfer & Advancement Act
- **Trade Agreements**
  - World Trade Organization
    - TBT – Technical Barriers to Trade
    - SPS – Sanitary and Phytosanitary

# Considerations in the Development of Technical Regulations





# Voluntary Standards Used in Regulations: Examples

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- Regulatory Use of Voluntary standards for:
  - Refrigerant recovery equipment
  - Methods for examination of water and wastewater for E. coli
  - Permeation of liners for underground storage tanks
  - Measurement of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide content of exhaust gas from chemical recovery combustion sources



# Voluntary and Incentive Programs at US EPA: Examples

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- Energy Star – product oriented
- Environmental Management Systems – help Federal agencies implement EMS
- Pollution Prevention
  - Mercury reduction
  - Green purchasing
  - Recycling of Electronic Products



# Using Voluntary Standards in Voluntary and Incentive Programs

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- Voluntary and incentive programs use voluntary standards for:
  - Best practice guides in the Federal Energy Challenge – standards for green buildings, product manufacturing and use, etc.
  - Environmentally Preferable Products – ASTM product testing standards
  - Energy Star – various standards
  - Environmental Management -- ISO 14001
  - Recycling of Electronic Products – IEEE 1680



# Regulatory Resources

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- Introduction to Laws & Regulations  
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/lawintro.htm>
- Current Laws & Regulations  
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/rules.html>
- EPA Test Methods  
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/index/>
- U.S. Govt.-wide Regulations  
<http://www.reginfo.gov>





# Standards Resources

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- American National Standards Institute  
<http://www.ansi.org>
- Standards In Government  
<http://www.standards.gov>
- Conformity Assessment  
<http://www.nist.gov>  
[http://web.ansi.org/public/ca\\_act.html](http://web.ansi.org/public/ca_act.html)
- Search Engine  
<http://www.nssn.org>