

# SAFETY FIRST WITH WORLD CLASS STANDARDS



The oil and natural gas industry works tirelessly to make every stage of its exploration and production lifecycle as safe, efficient and reliable as possible. The internationally-recognized standards they utilize are a critical component to achieving this goal. These comprehensive standards provide a framework of best practices that protect workers, the public, and the environment all as part of efficient and effective oil and natural gas operations.

## BACKGROUND:

Since 1924, API has been a leader in establishing, maintaining and disseminating hundreds of standards to ensure the safe and sustainable development of oil and natural gas in the U.S. and across the world.

The process to create and manage them has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the body that accredits similar programs at several U.S. national laboratories. This method brings together academics, government regulators and industry experts to improve and advance the safety of energy development. Each standard is reviewed at least every five years to maintain their integrity.

API's standards represent industry safety practices based on the best available science and research. This is one reason they are widely cited, and sometimes incorporated, in federal and state regulations. International regulators often reference the standards in their country's regulations, as well.

As these standards are implemented and their effects measured, they add to the body of knowledge of industry best practices and lessons learned, and deliver significant improvements to system integrity, reliability and integrated safety.

## FAST FACTS:

- » API has engaged and collaborated with over 7,000 technical experts from more than 2,000 separate organizations, including government <sup>1</sup>, academia and relevant companies, to develop and review these standards.
- » API maintains a portfolio of more than 700 standards that cover all aspects of the oil and natural gas industry, including 260 focused on exploration and production activities.
- » Over 130 API standards are referenced in more than 430 citations by U.S. government agencies.
- » State regulators frequently reference API's standards, with over 270 API standards cited over 4,140 times in state regulations.
- » Additionally, international regulators in 14 producing regions referenced the standards 225 times, including 49 API Manual of Petroleum Measurement (MPMS) standards, according to a recent study. <sup>2</sup>
- » API's actions to establish and maintain standards for the worldwide oil and natural gas industry has helped the industry invent and manufacture superior products consistently, provide critical services, ensure fairness in the marketplace for businesses and consumers alike, and promotes the acceptance of products and practices globally.
- » API standards, recommended practices, equipment specifications, other technical documents, and reports and studies to help the oil and natural gas industry safely, efficiently, and responsibly supply energy to billions of people around the world.

## REFERENCES:

1. The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, PL 103-113 mandates the use of consensus standards in regulations and also states "Federal Agencies and departments shall consult with voluntary, private sector consensus standards bodies and shall participate with such bodies in the development of technical standards." Guidance on the Implementation of the NTTAA regarding standards can be found in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities", updated in 2016.
2. Regulator's use of standards, OGP Report No. 426, March 2010.