



Monday, January 19, 2026 Morning Sessions

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: Registration

Grab a coffee while networking with fellow attendees.

9:00AM - 12:00 PM

Welcome to Day One - What Makes us a Community?

com-mu-ni-ty: a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of common attitudes, interests, and goals. A perspective of the conformity assessment community, which includes industry, government, conformity assessment bodies, ANAB and others; what we have in common including a mission of trust and confidence; how all our activities, much like standardization, are linked by needs and demands that arise as goods and services are traded; and why we should periodically gather as a community to share perspectives about current and future issues.

The Interface of Conformity Assessment in the EU and in the US

For nearly 40 years the approach to conformity assessment (including accreditation) in these two markets has impacted the growth and diversity of the global conformity assessment community. The interface of the two approaches has affected efforts to create a coherent conformity assessment and accreditation infrastructure to serve increasingly globalized industries. ANAB accreditation, for example, lives at this interface and other intersection points in the globalized conformity assessment community. Perspectives on the impacts and a look ahead to likely future impacts will be presented.



Monday, January 19, 2026 Afternoon Sessions

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

AI's Impact on Conformity Assessment

Technologies have historically made a significant impact on how our community performs its activities; consider telecommunications, computers, smart phones, and the internet. AI is the next technology making an impact. What, if anything, needs to change? For example, the ANAB perspective is to consider the effectiveness of existing requirements before considering new requirements or limitations on AI. And AI will also have an impact as something new and different that can be subjected to conformity assessment. Perspectives on both impacts will be shared and discussed.

Effectiveness of Accreditation Today and Tomorrow - What's Working, Improvements Needed, What should the Future Look Like?

Accreditation is one activity which brings together wide and divergent interests in our community. A discussion of the effectiveness of accreditation, both now and in the future, will provide a look into the challenges and opportunities for the mission of the broader community. A panel from Industry, Conformity Assessment Bodies, and Scheme Owners (including regulators) representing various views will provide their perspectives, engage with one another, and respond to questions and observations from attendees.

Monday, January 19, 2026 Evening Reception

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Enjoy food and beverages while networking and meeting the exhibitors.



Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Morning Sessions

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Welcome Back to Day Two - ANSI, the Standards Community, and the Conformity Assessment Community

*Standards and conformity assessment have long been used hand in hand. The current perspective about the communities for each and their current and future relationship will be presented by **Laurie Locascio**, the new President and CEO of the American National Standards Institute.*

Development of Standards and Conformity Assessment

Standards development processes engage interested parties as a critical element to the broad acceptance and use of standards. The conformity assessment community, including ANAB as an accreditation body serving the entire community, uses the deliverables from standards setting organizations. Observations about conformity assessment as an activity growing organically out of standard setting activities will be shared and compared to conformity assessment developing separately after the publication of standards.

Conformity Assessment in a Government Context

Serving assurance needs in the context of government is a major focus for conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies like ANAB. In fact, based on the evolution of combined public/private initiatives, government is a critical part of the community. Presentations on government utilization of conformity assessment solutions (including accreditation) relevant to timely issues and concerns will provide insights on the continued growth and maturity of the community in the government context.



Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Afternoon Sessions

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Breakout Sessions for Segments of the Conformity Assessment Community

In parallel with the workshop, breakout sessions will explore key current topics affecting conformity assessment and accreditation in specific segments of the community. Sessions led by ANAB will focus on Testing/Inspection/Related Activities; Forensic Testing/Inspection; Personnel Certification/Certificate Programs; Management System Certification; Product/Process/Service Certification; and Validation/Verification.

Workshop – ISO/IEC Standards for the Conformity Assessment Community

*In parallel with the breakout sessions, ANAB will offer a workshop on the common basis for all ISO/IEC standards for conformity assessment and accreditation bodies. Understanding this context will bring new clarity and effectiveness in applying the requirements in these standards and implementing fulfillment of them. Our instructor, **Keith Mowry**, brings 35 years of background and experience in ISO/IEC Guides and Standards for conformity assessment, including development of the principles of conformity assessment on which ISO/IEC standards are now based.*

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Observations about the symposium by ANAB Leadership responsible for engaging and understanding the conformity assessment landscape will provide an introduction for attendee comments and observations. All will be asked to share their perspective on conformity assessment as a community and thoughts for the future of the community and community events.

Summary

This summary above provides an overview of the sessions and events planned for both days of the symposium. More details, including speakers, will be added, so check back as we near the event. We hope to see you there!

