



# SYSTEMS ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE

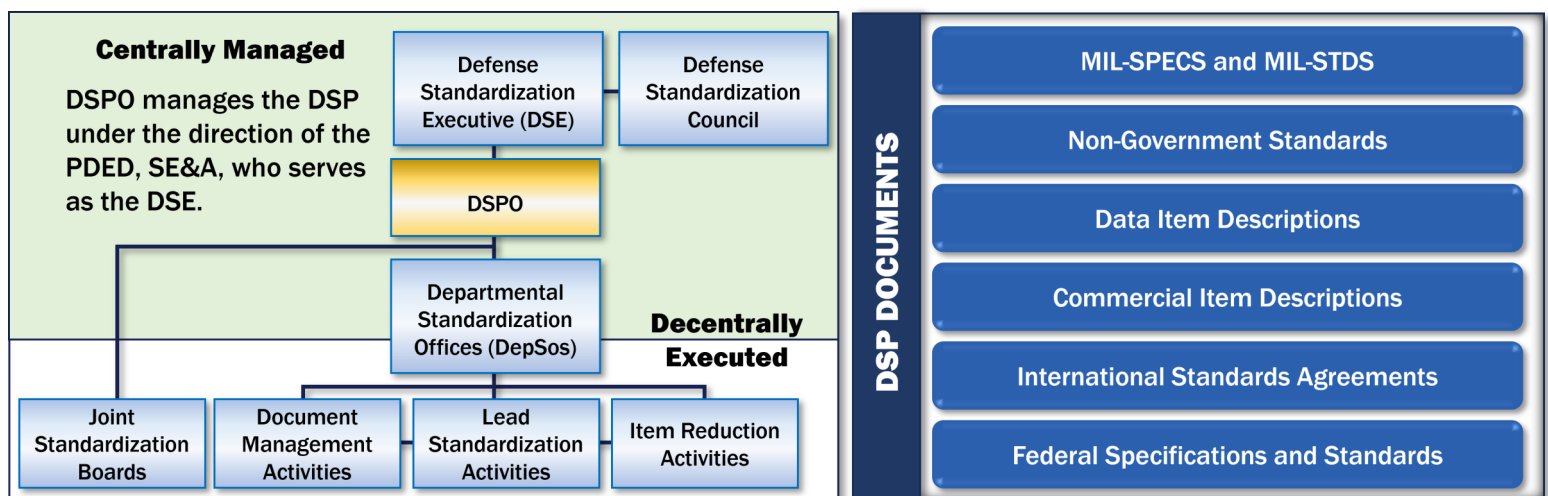
ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT:

JULY 2025

## DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM OFFICE

**DSPO**

The Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) manages the day-to-day activities of the Defense Standardization Program (DSP) to champion standardization processes, products, and services to provide the warfighter with interoperable, reliable, technologically superior, and affordable equipment. DSPO develops DoD-wide standardization policies and procedures and serves as the DoD representative to Federal agencies, non-Government standards bodies, international organizations, treaty organizations, and industry. DSPO also serves as executive sponsor for Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS) and Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP).



DSPO provides DoD standardization policy, procedures, tools, and training to standards users and more than 100 standardization management activities across the Department.

### ❖ STANDARDIZATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Defense Standardization Program originated with the 1952 signing of the Cataloging and Standardization Act, which directed the Secretary of Defense to establish a single, unified standardization program for the development and maintenance of specifications and standards. It requires the DoD to achieve the highest practicable degree of standardization of items and processes, in addition to standardization and interoperability of equipment with our NATO allies. The DoD uses military specifications, standards, and lists of qualified products to establish requirements for military-unique products, processes, procedures, practices, or methods or to modify non-government standards to meet military-unique requirements. To standardize with other Federal agencies, the DoD uses Federal specifications and standards, and uses commercial item descriptions when acceptable commercial items satisfy the government's needs.

### ❖ DSP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

DSPO maintains tools to automate processes and enable analysis by standards management activities:

- **ASSIST** – Official source for DSP documents, and workflow tool for managing standards; integrates with QPD, the NATO Standardization Document Database, DISR Baseline, and WSIT
- **Qualified Products Database (QPD)** – For managing and accessing qualified products/manufacturers lists (QPL/QML)
- **Weapon System Impact Tool (WSIT)** – Enables tracing the use of standards and specifications by weapon systems and parts
- **Pin Point** – Government-only query engine for federal supply chain parts and commercial parts

### ❖ DSPO FOCUS AREAS

- Specifications, standards, and guidance, including standards enabling digital engineering, additive manufacturing, and modular open systems approach
- Government Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP)
- Parts Management
- Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS)
- Qualification
- Data Item Descriptions



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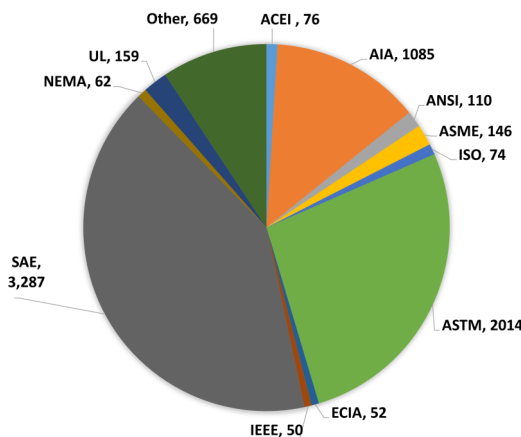
## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT:

## DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM OFFICE cont'd

### ❖ COLLABORATION AND CONSENSUS-BASED STANDARDIZATION

Standardization is an enabler for operational readiness and reducing the cost of defense systems. Through the DSP, DoD activities collaborate across the Military Services, with partners in academia and the defense industry, and with international partners and allies to standardize in support of the warfighter. To ensure national security over the long term will require accelerated technology advancement and innovation. To align with this intent, the Department needs to enable defense standardization activities to meet the current and future warfighter needs.

### ❖ NON-GOVERNMENT STANDARDS



DoD prefers the use of NGS, using adopted (charted above) and non-adopted NGS in engineering and procurement.

DSPO provides guidance for implementing Federal and DoD policy for participating in and using Non-Government Standards (NGS). Participation in NGS bodies (NGSBs) fosters relationships so the NGSBs might better understand DoD needs and assist in supporting DoD's commercial acquisition goals. Using NGS conserves DoD resources, supports the U.S. industrial base, allows for dual-use technology, and improves DoD's mobilization capabilities. Use of NGS is codified in the following:

- Public Law 104-113 The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995
- OMB Circular A-119 Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities, 2016
- DoD Manual 4120.24, Defense Standardization Program

### ❖ JOINT STANDARDIZATION BOARDS

The Defense Standardization Executive (DSE) charters, and DSPO helps facilitate, Joint Standardization Boards (JSBs) as forums for Military Departments, Defense Agencies, the defense industry, academia, and allies and partners (e.g., NATO) to achieve common, mutually satisfactory standardization solutions. Current JSBs include Aerial Refueling, Expeditionary Shelters and Basing Equipment, Mobile Electric Power, and Fuze & Initiation Systems.

### ❖ INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

International standardization supports DoD's involvement in activities to develop, maintain, and implement international standardization agreements with allies and partners. DSPO participates in the development of standardization policy and procedures, coordinates U.S. positions within the DoD, and engages with allies and partners on standardization policy, procedures, and other related matters of mutual interest, including in the following bodies:

- ANSI International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Council, and International Policy Advisory Group
- European Defence Standardisation Committee (EDSC)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Standardization Management Group (NATO SMG)

### ❖ RESOURCES

DSPO Website - <https://www.dsp.dla.mil>

ASSIST (DSP Documents) - <https://assist.dla.mil>

Scan the QR code for more information



***Standardization is foundational to interoperability, innovation, and competition.***