

Voluntary Standards Groups and the Bureau of Standards



Voluntary Standards Groups ([VSGs](#)) are formed by industry representatives, [cellular councils](#) at level 6 and higher, and interested parties, to create industry standards and disclosures that limit liability. They are formed under the auspices of the Bureau of Standards (BOS). The BOS is supported by VSG membership.

The BOS is not a bureaucracy that writes regulation, but one which oversees the writing of standards. It is similar in function to the private American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Unlike ANSI, it has law enforcement powers.

While ANSI standards are completely voluntary, VSG standards require violation disclosures. Failure to disclose is a violation of civil and/or criminal law. Unlike ANSI, certification is done by third-party agencies and not the bureau itself.

These standards do not prohibit any business activity. Rather, they are concerned with the nature and extent of disclosure for violating standards.

Each VSG creates a scope document that covers the commercial use of their standard. The BOS through the consumer senators (see table below) reconciles conflicting scopes, merges VSGs, and creates new VSGs as needed.

Those people currently employed as lobbyists will find a natural home in the BOS. Rather than merely lobbying, they will be setting standards for their industry. The dues from each paying member support a qualified [consumer advocate](#) who will sit on the same VSG.

Rather than consumer advocates vs. industry representatives, it is more likely the advocates will mediate between large industries that favor tough standards and newer entries that cannot afford to meet those standards and must display an embarrassing and customer-losing violations of standards document ([VOS](#)).

A VSG meets one day each week. Dues-paying lobbyists, as well as paid consumer advocates, can theoretically sit on a maximum of five VSGs, although the workload would be prohibitive. Each VSG ranges in size from 20 to 200, not including alternates. All decisions require a majority vote. Oversized VSGs can be broken up into multiple VSGs by the consumer senators.

While the BOS is not a regulatory body, the VSGs can recommend [class II](#) regulations for violating child standards and regulations for everyone, where the VOS seems inadequate. Before going to the dominions for possible adoption, the recommendations should be declared class II with [judicial preview](#).

In the table that follows, BOS actors and their functions are described:

Bureau of Standards – Employees and Members		
Title	How Paid	Function
Consumer senators	Member dues, government distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected from each level-5 cell. • Should have a respected history in consumer advocacy. • Hire/fire consumer advocates. • Coordinate, create, and merge the VSGs. • Set policy for democratic procedures within the groups. • Set formatting standards. • Publish and distribute the latest standards to affected enterprises and inspection agencies.
Members	By the sponsoring institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay dues to support BOS and consumer advocates. • Sit on VSGs and lobby for VOS standards. • Sponsored by corporations, trade groups, schools, special interest groups, and wealthy interested parties. • Each sponsor can seat a delegate and alternate in a VSG, but only one can vote. • VSG can unseat shadow corporations, wealthy interested parties, and disruptors by 2/3 vote.
Consumer advocates	Member dues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One consumer advocate for each VSG member. • \$2000/month (2022 dollars) salary per VSG. • Normally sits on two VSGs. • Technical certification in VSG subject matter required. • Access to Federation Library for research. • No financial or family ties to any VSG members.
Regulators	Negotiated fines in lieu of penitentiary from improper or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 to 6 per VSG. • Investigate complaints. • Report complaints of inconsistent language, or inadequate or contradictory standards, to VSG.

	fraudulent VOS, member dues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute in court if need be. • Overseen by the judiciary.
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The VSG plays a role that goes beyond the creation of standards and the production of VOS requirement documents. They play a critical role in the distribution of [intellectual property](#) payments (royalties) within the trade, art, or profession.

The VSG creates test questions used for consumer advocate membership qualification. Positions are offered to advocates in order of test score when demand exists. Test questions are similarly created for career certification in the associated trade. All tests are assembled and administered by the Department of Education.

The VSG creates curriculum standards at different levels of education to prepare students to enter the trade, art, or profession.

Sponsoring organizations pay membership dues of \$2,500/VSG/month (2022 dollars). \$2,000 pays the salary of the corresponding consumer advocate and \$500 supports the consumer senators and Bureau of Standards generally. Dues entitle delegates and alternates to Federation Library research privileges.

Dues can be raised, if there are an insufficient number of qualified available consumer advocates to match industry supply. To prevent an increase in dues, shadow corporations and interested parties not actively engaged in research studies or education programs can be suspended by 2/3 of the VSG. When the supply of consumer advocates meets the demand, dues can be lowered back to the base and suspended members welcomed back.

No more than 49% of paying members of a VSG can be dominated by a single business, its shadow corporations, or individuals in collusion with that business. VSG merger is the remedy.

VSGs at Lower Levels of Federation

VSGs at lower levels are tools for creating regional standards. Regional standards groups are hosted by regional bureaus of standards at levels 4, 5, and 6. These are optional and exist only on demand. As in the federation-wide BOS, demand comes from industry representatives, interested parties, and cellular councils. A hierarchy of standards bureaus can exist at these three levels, although practicality might

dictate multiple level-4 VSGs, each with the same scope, being part of the same level-5 bureau.

Consumer senators, elected at level 5, serve on both the BOS and their own regional bureaus. This fosters coordination between the scope of federation-wide standards and regional standards.

Although federation standards can delegate scope to regional standards, regional standards generally must be more severe than federation standards. For instance, a VOS warning label cannot be removed at the regional level, but it can be made bolder.

Education and certification are likely to be two areas where regional VSGs are active. Today, certification is typically at the state level. Lawyers are certified by the Indiana Bar, or the Colorado Bar. A doctor whose VOS shingle reads certified at the federation level, but NOT IN THE LEVEL-5 [DISTRICT](#) OF TEXAS, will need to charge a much lower fee to attract rebate-seeking patients in Houston.

Although there might be some level-5 [Earth Dividend](#) governing money to support regional bureaus, they must be predominantly self-funding like their BOS counterpart, although probably with lower dues and lower salaries for consumer advocates. Working several years in lower-level VSGs will be a path to employment as a consumer advocate at the Bureau of Standards.