
The U.S. Standards And Conformity Assessment System

**Maximizing Trade with the
United States Under the FTA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Importance of Standards to Business
- U.S. Standards and Conformity Assessment System
- Helpful Resources for Understanding the U.S. Market Access Requirements



**Importance of Standards &
Conformity Assessment to Do
Business with the U.S.**

Standards impact companies' bottom lines.

When developed and used responsibly, standards and conformance facilitate a company's ability to open and access markets.

WHAT IS A STANDARD?

➤ **It is a document**

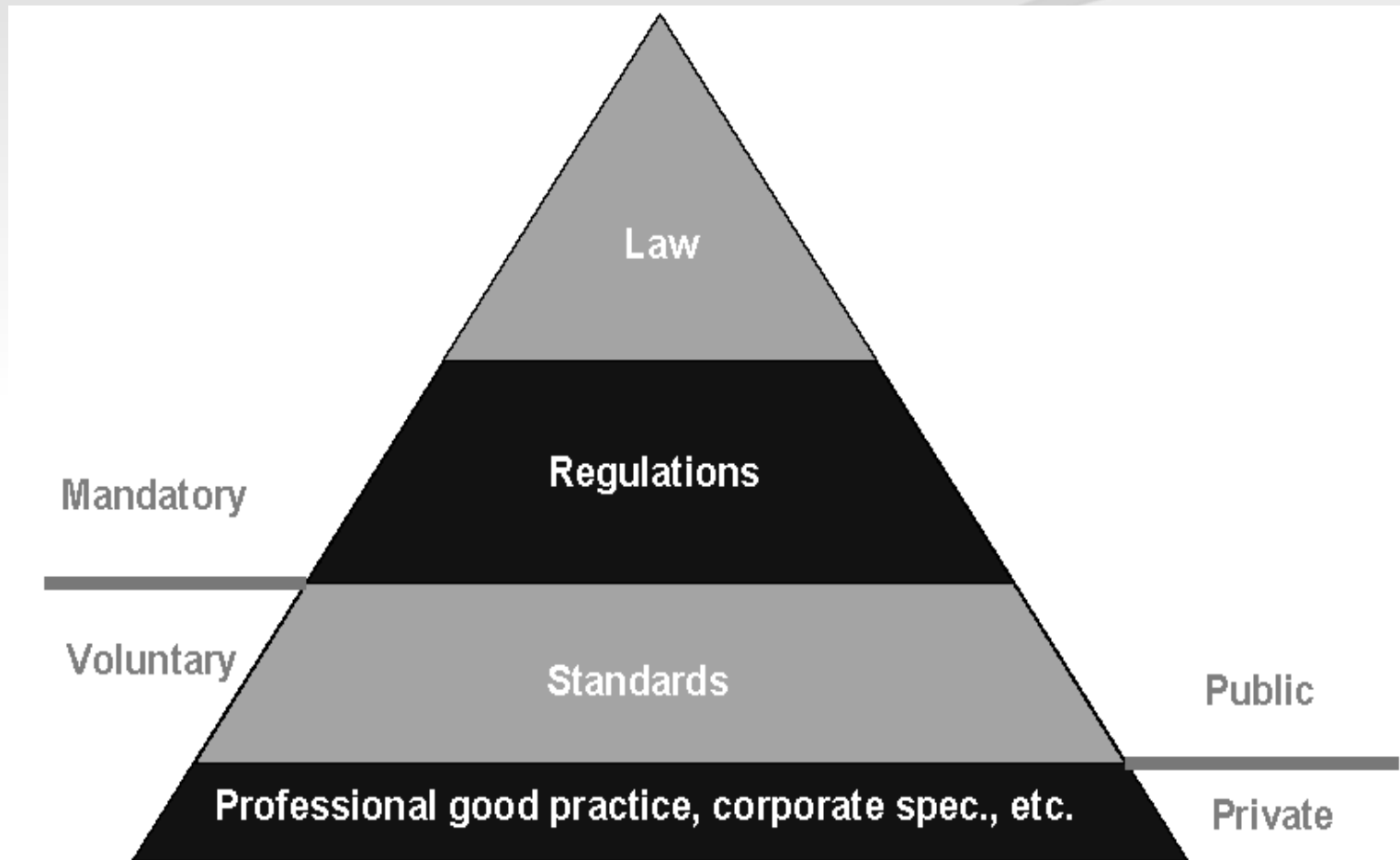
- voluntary in application
- established by all interested parties
- reflects consensus
- approved by a recognized body
- for common and repeated use

➤ **International Standards i.e. ASTM, ISO, IEC**

➤ **Regional Standards i.e. AIDMO, CEN, CANENA, GSO**

➤ **National Standards e.g. ANSI, BS, BSMD, DIN, and SASO**

HOW STANDARDS EVOLVE



THE U.S STANDARD SYSTEM

U.S. STANDARDS SYSTEM

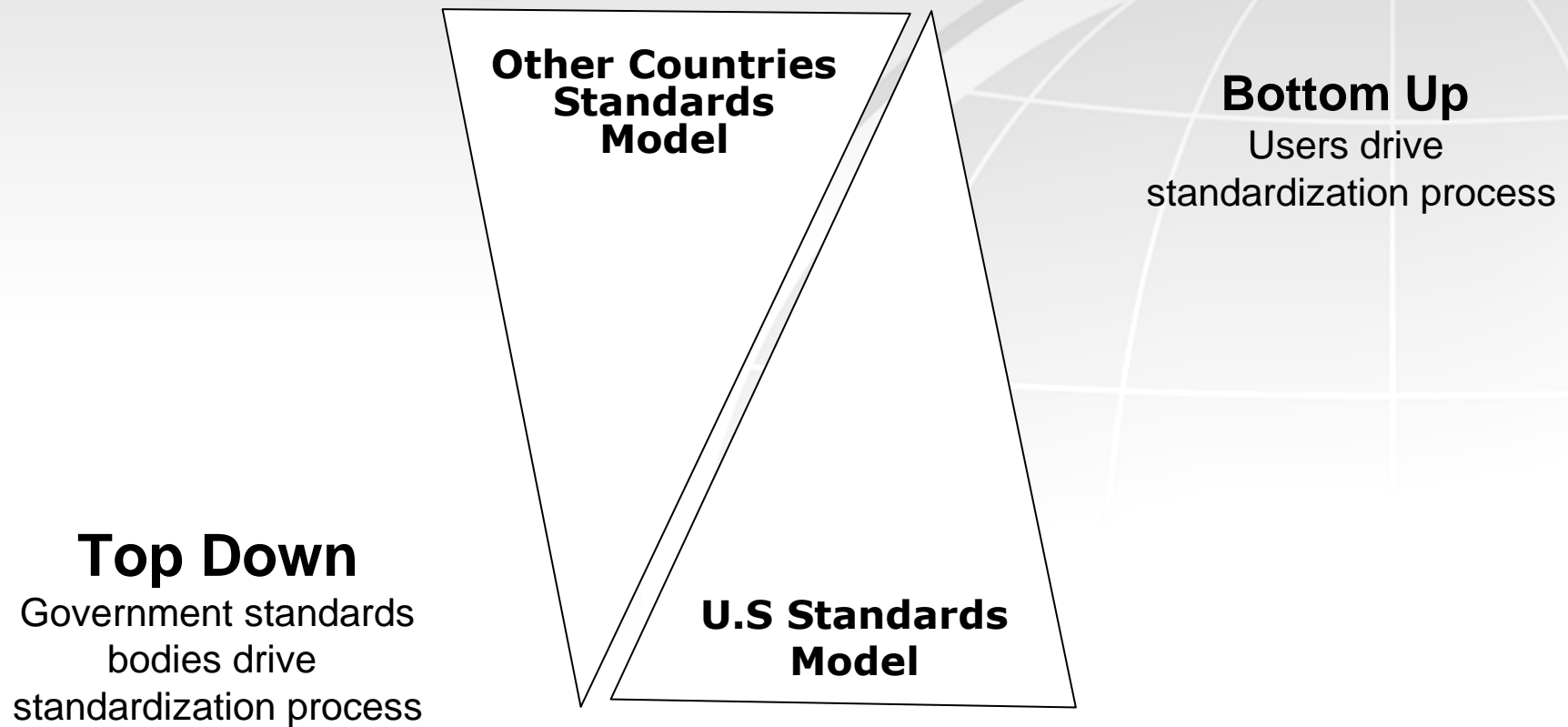
Reliable – Flexible – Responsive

In the U.S. most standards are developed and used on a voluntary basis

- Most standards are developed by technical committees formed within the private sector
- Government and industry representatives participate as “equal partners” in many of these technical committees
- Costs are borne by the participants

U.S. STANDARDIZATION MODEL

PRIVATE SECTOR DRIVEN



U.S. STANDARDS SYSTEM

COMPARISON WITH MANY OTHER ECONOMIES

- **Emphasizes private-sector** standards solutions
- **Relies on private-sector** compliance verification **for both regulatory and non-regulatory functions**
- **Provides greater authority to standards users and stakeholders**

THE WTO PRINCIPLES

Transparency

Openness

Impartiality

Effectiveness and relevance

Consensus

Performance-based

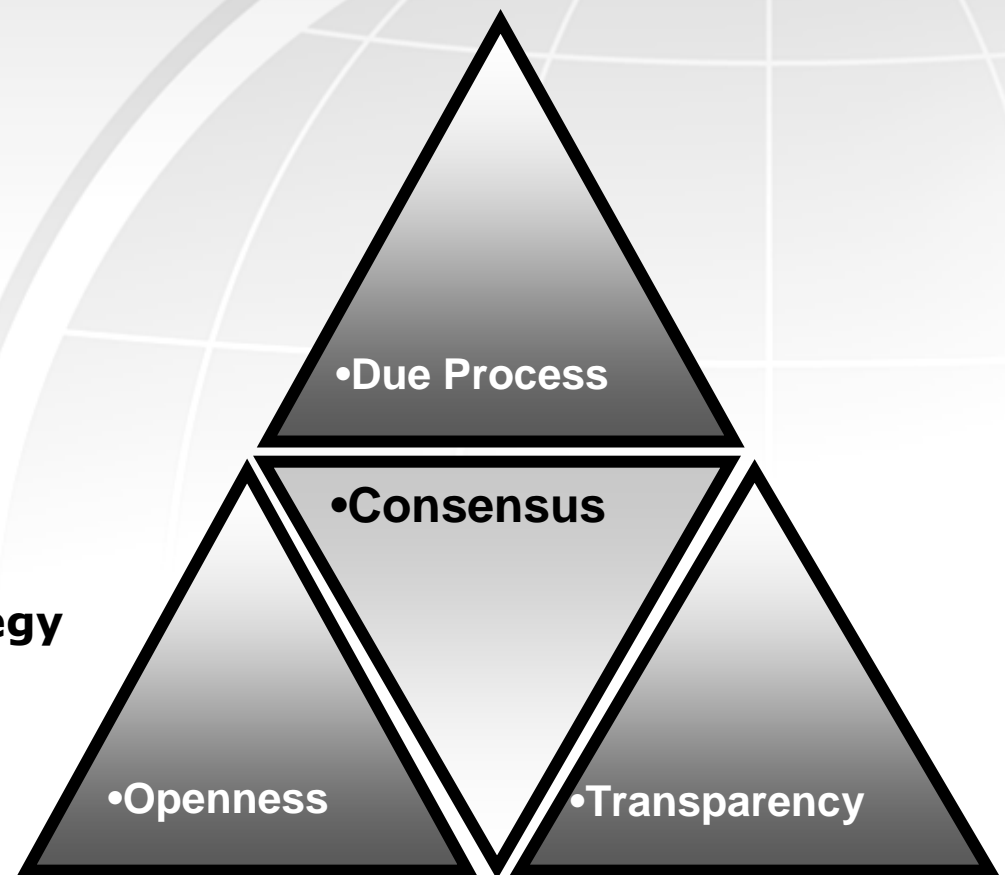
Coherence

Due process

Technical Assistance

Also in the U.S. Standards Strategy

Flexible | Timely | Balanced



U.S. STANDARDS STRATEGY

- Market-driven
- Flexible and sector-based
- Industry-led and government-supported

As defined in the *United States Standards Strategy*,

this system is designed to . . .

- **Support** stakeholder engagement
- **Address** emerging priorities
- **Allow** stakeholders to find custom-fit solutions


www.ansi.org/usss

U.S. STANDARDIZATION SYSTEM STRUCTURE

- **ANSI – Coordinator of the Private Sector**
 - Private sector, non-profit, membership organization
 - Supported by membership fees, sale of publications, funded programs and a periodic government grant
- **Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs)**
 - Private trade and professional organizations, often non-profit
 - Some, but not all, accredited by ANSI
- **NIST (National Institute of Standards & Technology)**
 - Coordinates the standards activities of Federal agencies
 - Sets Legal Metrology Standards; Accredits Laboratories

**ANSI IS THE "UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION" FOR THE
U.S. STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY
ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

**Private Sector
& Public Sector
Working Together**



Academia
Individuals
Government
Manufacturers
Trade Associations
Professional Societies
Service Organizations
Standards Developers
Consumer and Labor Interests

ANSI is not a government agency or a standards developer.

ANSI

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and promote U.S. policies and positions related to standards and conformity assessment and advocate these in appropriate regional and international fora
- Serve as the U.S. representative to ISO, IEC and other regional bodies
- Accredit Standards Development Organizations and approve documents as American National Standards (ANS)
- Accredit conformity assessment bodies
- Provide neutral forum for discussion and engagement of cross-stakeholder interests

Examples of ANSI-Accredited Standards Developers

ASTM
International



American
Society of
Mechanical
Engineers



International
Code Council



American
Dental
Association



National
Electrical
Manufacturers
Association



National Fire
Protection
Association



SAE International™

Society of Automotive Engineers



Institute of
Electrical and
Electronics Engineers



**Underwriters
Laboratories Inc.®**

Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

American
Society
of Civil
Engineers



American
Petroleum
Institute



**And more than 200
additional organizations**

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Activities Specific to the Middle East

- Memoranda of Understanding with:
 - GSO 

هيئة التقييس
المجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization
 - Bahrain 

Kingdom of Bahrain
Ministry of
Industry & Commerce
 - Qatar 

QATAR STANDARDS
 - Saudi Arabia
- Standards Expert from GSO hosted at ASTM, October-November 2007
- GSO Head of Training attended ASTM Officers Training Workshop in 2008
- Technical assistance training events in November in Riyadh and Doha

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

- **The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA, Public Law 104-113)** and implementation guidance OMB Circular A-119
- **National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) – Technology Administration (TA) - U.S. Department of Commerce**
 - www.nist.gov
 - Coordinates the standards activities of Federal agencies
 - Sets Legal Metrology Standards; Accredits Laboratories
- **International Trade Administration (ITA) – U.S. Department of Commerce**
 - <http://trade.gov/index.asp>
 - Looks at standards issues as they are implemented and the role they play in ensuring market access for international trade

**HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR
UNDERSTANDING U.S. MARKET
ACCESS REQUIREMENTS**

U.S. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The National Conformity Assessment Principles (NCAP) for the United States document explains key aspects of compliance verification.

The NCAP is a guidance document that can be considered in conjunction with the *United States Standards Strategy* (USSS).

National Conformity
Assessment Principles
for the United States
www.ansi.org/ncap

U.S. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT CONSISTS OF:

1. Standards & regulations.
2. Inspection.
3. Testing.

- Standards & regulations provide the baseline for assessment.
- Conformity assessment systems are classified by which party performs the inspection and testing.

1st party - supplier's declaration of conformity (SDoC).

2nd party - customer's assessment (customer satisfaction).

3rd party - "independent" assessment.

- Used voluntarily for "brand building" and risk mitigation.
- Mandated for market access.



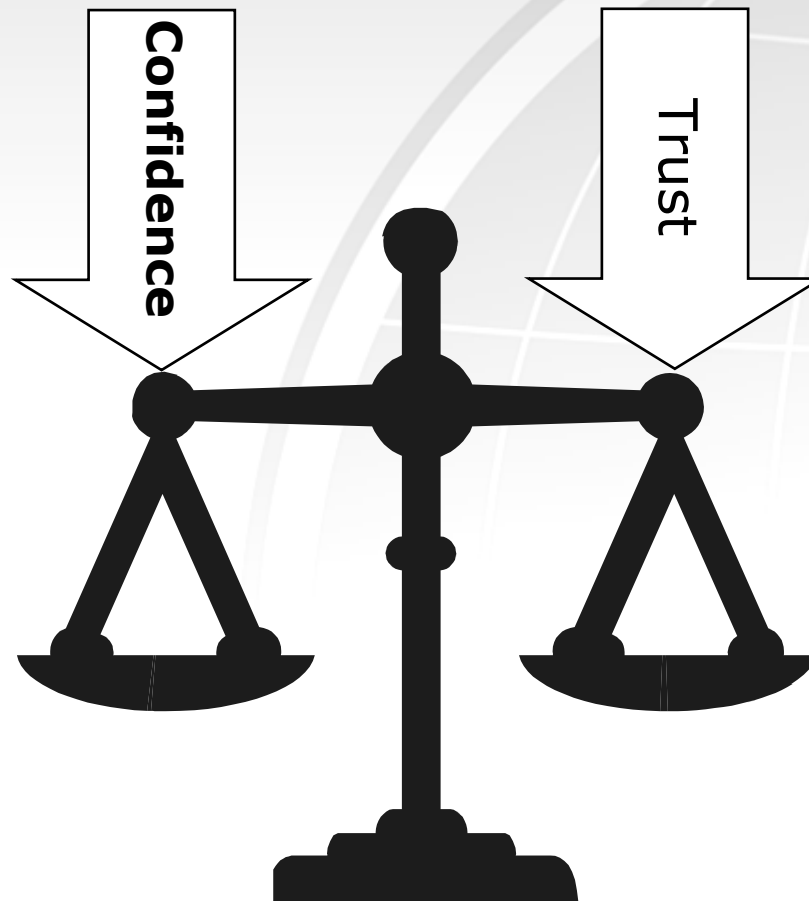
U.S. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Trust and Confidence in Trade

1st party

Supplier of product or services

Need to have confidence they will be adequately compensated for their work



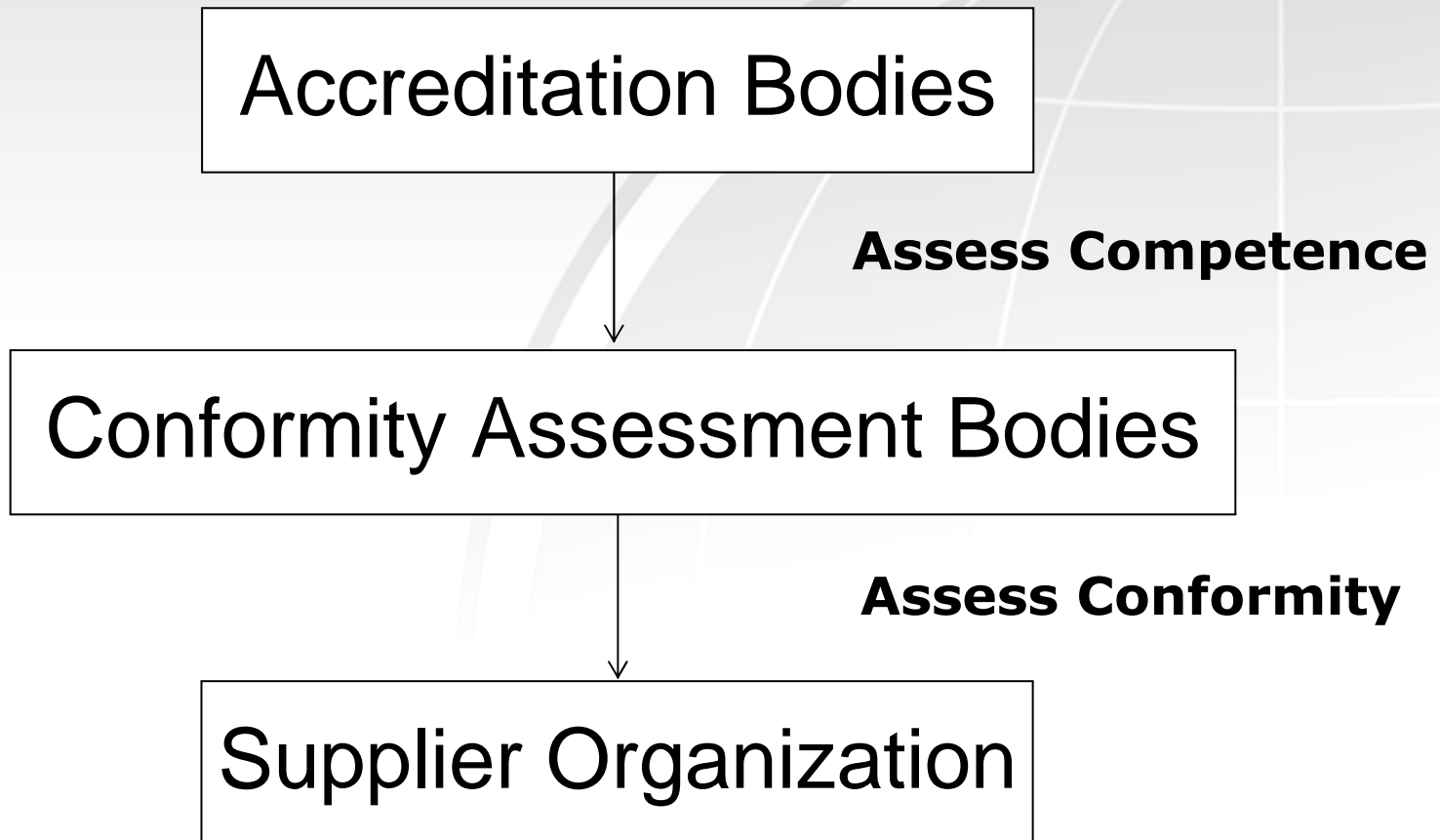
2nd party

Consumer of product or services

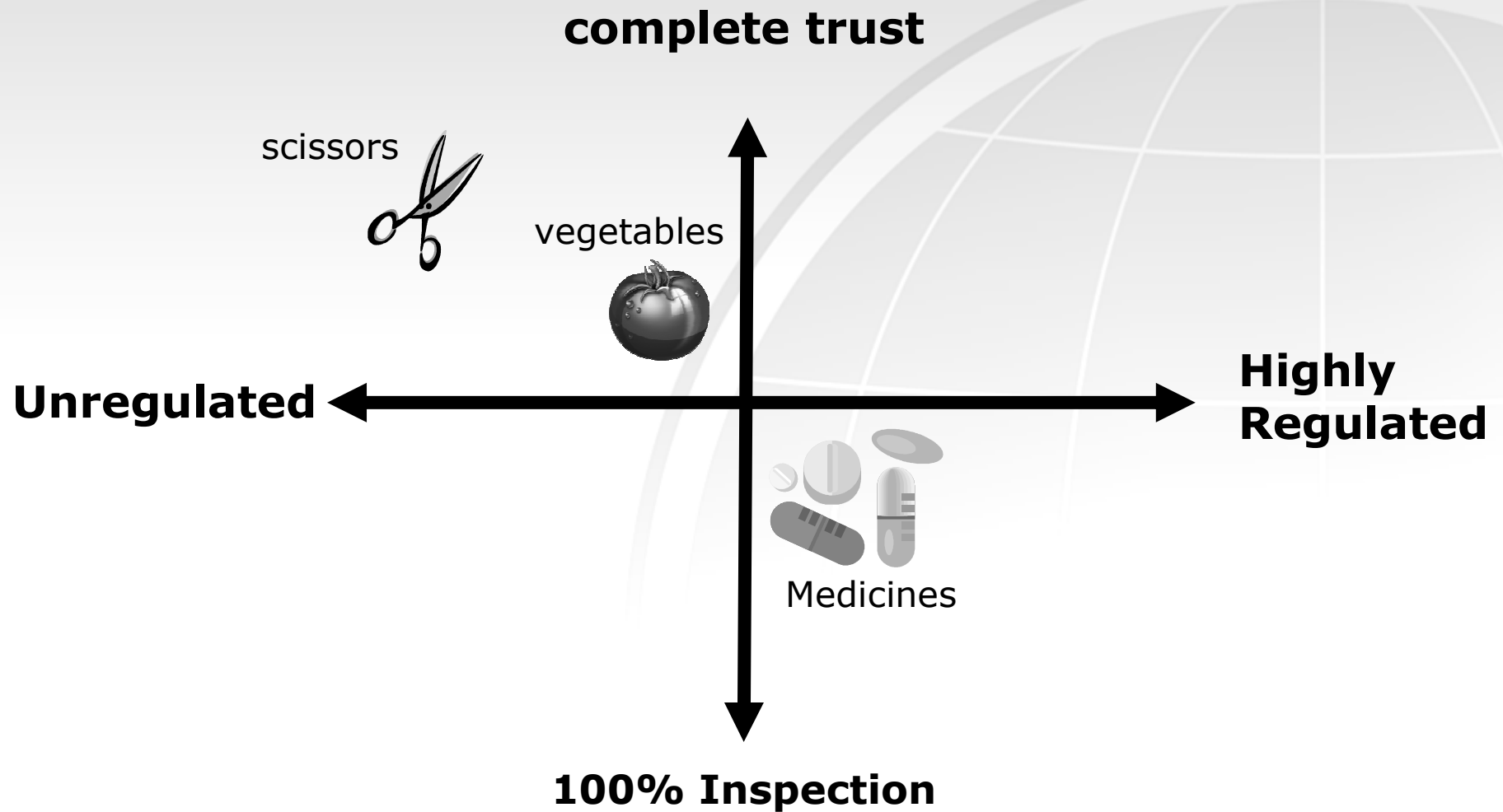
Need to have confidence their expectations will be met in exchange for their payment

ACCREDITED THIRD-PARTY HIERARCHY

(ISO/IEC 17011 STANDARD FOR ACCREDITATION BODIES)



CONFIDENCE/REGULATION SPECTRUM



USEFUL LINKS

- www.ansi.org
webstore.ansi.org
www.nssn.org
- www.astm.org
 - Standards - www.astm.org/Standard/index.shtml
 - Technical committees – www.astm.org/COMMIT/
 - Proficiency Training – www.astm.org/STATQA/
 - Technical and Professional Training – www.astm.org/TRAIN/
 - Global Cooperation site – www.astm.org/GLOBAL

Thank You