



CROSSWALK

Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program Target Criteria for Preparedness, Candidate Standards for Implementation (NFPA 1600, ASIS SPC.1, BS 25999 Parts 1 and 2) and the IBHS *Open for Business*® Toolkit

IBHS has recently produced a crosswalk between the *Open for Business*® program and the criteria established by DHS/FEMA (the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency) for implementation of the Private Sector Preparedness Program (known as PS-Prep), and the ANSI standards that meet those criteria.

- What is PS-Prep?
- What is an ANSI Standard?
- What does a crosswalk do for IBHS, its member organizations and our small business clients?

PS-Prep

PL 110-53 is the Act signed into law August 3, 2007 to implement recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Title IX of that Act addresses Private Sector Preparedness and assigns DHS responsibility to develop guidance or recommendations and identify best practices to assist or foster action in a number of task areas common to business of all sizes. This includes:

- identifying potential hazards and assessing risks and impacts;
- mitigating the impact of a wide variety of hazards;
- managing emergency preparedness and response resources;
- developing mutual aid agreements;
- developing and maintaining emergency preparedness and response plans, and associated operational procedures;
- developing and conducting training and exercises to support and evaluate emergency preparedness and response plans and operational procedures;
- developing procedures to respond to requests for information from the media or the public.

PL 110-53 identified NFPA 1600 as a Standard that could be used in implementing PS-Prep, but left the selection of other standards and definition of the program to DHS. On December 24, 2008 DHS published a notice in the Federal Register and request for comment from the public on its target criteria for selecting standards and implementing the PS-Prep program. IBHS submitted comments. ([PS-Prep Comments 1 – IBHS](#))

On February 11, 2009 DHS published a notice in the Federal Register that it was holding a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC on February 23, 2009 to engage in dialogue with DHS leadership and program managers regarding PS-Prep. IBHS provided comments at this meeting.

On October 15, 2009, DHS published another notice in the Federal Register finalizing the criteria to be used in selecting standards for the PS-Prep Program and stating its intent to select three standards for use in implementing the Program. These standards include: NFPA 1600:2007, the ANSI standard for Disaster / Emergency Management and Business Continuity; ASIS SPC.1:2009, the ANSI standard for Organizational Resilience: Security Preparedness, and Continuity Management Systems; and BS 25999 Part 1 and Part 2, the British Standard Institute's Code of Practice and Specification for Business Continuity Management. IBHS submitted comments. ([PS-Prep Comments 2 – IBHS](#))



Although the focus of each standard is slightly different, DHS has determined that each meets the spirit and intent of Public Law 110–53, follows the target criteria and is not industry specific. (Target criteria are defined as a “common set of criteria for preparedness, disaster management, emergency management, and business continuity programs.”)

Standards

Standards are documents developed by organizations that have applied for recognition as a standards developing organization. In the US, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has recognized both the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) as standards developing organizations. BSI British Standards is the UK's National Standards Body. The British Standards Institute is recognized by them as a standards developing organization.

A Standard is a published document containing definitions, technical specifications, rules and guidelines provided for common and repeated use to promote quality and consistency of use. In other words, it is a reference point against which programs and activities can be evaluated. Standards provide a set of uniform criteria for *voluntary* adherence and compliance. They establish a basis for good business practice and provide the means to evaluate adherence to those practices.

Purpose of the Crosswalk

A crosswalk of the **Open for Business**® toolkit against the target criteria for PS-Prep and the standards selected to implement PS-Prep accomplishes two goals. One is internal and relates to continuous improvement of the **Open for Business**® toolkit. The other is external and relates to alignment of the toolkit with standards and guidelines recognized nationally and internationally for their applicability to organizations of all sizes in disaster preparedness, organizational resilience and business continuity planning.

Value of the Crosswalk

The IBHS **Open for Business**® toolkit has been developed and updated with guidance and assistance from those who use the program as well as subject matter experts in the emergency management, disaster preparedness and business continuity fields. With the final definition of its target criteria for PS-Prep and DHS's naming of the candidate standards for implementing the Program, IBHS has benchmarked the **Open for Business**® toolkit to illustrate alignment of the toolkit with the target criteria and each of the three standards.

The results of that benchmark are contained in Version 2 of the Crosswalk of IBHS **Open for Business**®, the Target Criteria for the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation, NFPA 1600 (2010 Pre-Print version), ASIS SPC.1:2009, BS 25999-1:2006 and BS 2559-2:2007.

This crosswalk provides a simple, visual reference to ensure sponsor organizations and clients that the approach to planning and preparedness used in the **Open for Business**® toolkit:

- provides a reasonable and practical approach to disaster preparedness for small and medium businesses (SMB);
- is consistent with standards and practices applicable to other companies in their supply chain;
- is consistent with standards and practices applicable to other organizations involved with community preparedness and resiliency;
- is consistent with standards and practices proposed for use in private sector preparedness.

IBHS fully supports the goal of PS-Prep – to provide the business community with tools that will allow for voluntary implementation of preparedness programs to make individual businesses, local communities, and our nation more resilient in the face of a natural or human-caused disaster, technological failure, or terrorism event.