

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding BISSC/ANSI

### What is ANSI? - American National Standards Institute

ANSI has served in its capacity as administrator and coordinator of the United States private sector voluntary standardization system for more than 100 years. The Institute oversees the creation, promulgation and use of thousands of norms and guidelines that directly impact businesses in nearly every sector. ANSI is also actively engaged in accrediting programs that assess conformance to standards – such as BISSC.

### What is BISSC? - Baking Industry Sanitation Standards Committee

The corporation provides a certification and third-party verification programs to indicate compliance with sanitary design standards. The design standards used as reference are ANSI/BISSC Z50.2-2015 Sanitation Standard for the Design of Bakery Equipment. This standard was developed as voluntary standards for the design and construction of bakery equipment and was last updated in 2015.

### Are BISSC and ANSI the same?

No. The ANSI/BISSC Z50.2 standard is a standard for the sanitary design of bakery equipment. ANSI is the body that oversees the process of developing and writing various industries' standards, including ANSI/BISSC Z50.2. The BISSC Corporation manages the certification and third-party verification program that shows an equipment manufacturer has designed and built equipment in compliance with this standard.

Around 2002, BEMA along with others in the baking industry in accordance with the ANSI rule making process, worked together to make BISSC an ANSI accredited standard. This process took about 2 years. This was finalized in 2003 with the American Society of Baking (ASB) as the managing body. (Secretariat)

### What are the types of BISSC Certification?

The BISSC Office of Certification offers two equipment certification programs to manufacturers with equipment built to ANSI/BISSC/Z50.2-2015 Sanitation Standard for the Design of Bakery Equipment criteria:

- **Certification** - manufacturers who can warrant that equipment conforms to the criteria of the ANSI/BISSC/Z50.2-2015 Sanitation Standard for the Design of Bakery Equipment can display the BISSC Certified symbol on the equipment
- **Third-Party Verification** - manufacturers already registered and certified with BISSC who successfully pass a third-party inspection by a BISSC-appointed independent testing agency can display the BISSC Verified symbol.

### **What is the process of BISSC certification?**

Certification is the most common method used by manufacturers to verify their compliance with BISSC. Manufacturers are required to have at least one BISSC-trained individual on site to certify equipment; click here for [BISSC Certification Requirements](#). Certification classes are offered through AIB International (AIBI).



- **Certification/ aka Self-Certification** - Manufacturers pay an annual registration fee per company of \$440 (in 2018). They can then request authorization for specific equipment pieces (\$260 application fee per piece in 2018). The in-house trained inspector and a company official attest in writing that their equipment meets the design criteria in the ANSI/BISSC/Z50.2-2015 standard. The equipment can then be labeled “BISSC Certified”.



- **Third Party Certification/aka Verification** - A company must be registered and the equipment certified before applying for verification. An AIBI representative will visit the manufacturer, inspect the equipment and verify that it complies with the design criteria. The company can then apply the BISSC Verified label to the specific equipment and market their product as BISSC Verified.

BISSC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIBI in 2007. This decision was made in an effort to enhance the BISSC certification program and promote the ANSI/BISSC/Z50.2-2015 standard.

Contacts for BISSC related services:

Schedule verification audits or training - [Tamren Sturges](#)

Annual renewal, new equipment authorization, or ordering BISSC labels [Jennifer Porter-Thomas](#).

### **Is Third-Party Verification required?**

It was at one time, but general belief is that mandatory third-party verification is too costly.

### **Does anyone else cover what the BISSC standard covers?**

The NSF (National Science Foundation) is the closest for a baking equipment environment. If NSF was requested to complete a BISSC audit, they could do so because the BISSC standard is public. (However, the ANSI accreditation process made it so that the BISSC standard cannot be “copied” as part of another standard.)

### **What is the responsibility of the secretariat?**

ASB (ANSI/BISSC Z50.2 Secretariat) collects comments throughout each year from industry, academia and bakers/users. ASB’s Z50 committee meets annually (around March 1st during their annual conference). Collected comments are reviewed and the committee decides to update or not update the standard. In order to maintain the standard under the ANSI umbrella, ANSI accreditation must be renewed every 5-years.

### **Who is on the Z50 Committee?**

The committee is made up of 1/3 from industry, academia and users/bakers. Currently, Toby Stewart manages the process of keeping and renewing the Z50.1 (Safety) and Z50.2 (Sanitation) standard. The process is to collect data from industry, academic and bakers/users. To enhance this process, BISSC has set up an advisory committee. This committee meets annually to review the standard and present potential changes and/or additions to the Z50 committee.

### **What is the current state of ANSI/BISSC Z50.2?**

The BISSC standard was submitted to ANSI in 2017 for renewed accreditation. It is now good for 5 years.

Conformity assessment is defined as a "demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled." There are many of these conformity assessment activities applied in today's marketplace including accreditation, certification, inspection, registration, supplier's declaration, and testing. The one dimension that ANSI is directly engaged with is accreditation.

Ultimately, the marketplace and customers of conformity assessment services measure the beneficial value of accreditation. For most suppliers, the primary benefit of accredited third-party certification is to meet a purchaser's or regulator's requirement for this independent evaluation of compliance. Increasingly, suppliers' procurement organizations are specifying and government agencies are recognizing accredited, third-party certification as an optional dimension of their systems for risk management. In the rapidly growing area of greenhouse gas emissions reporting, ANSI accredited verification and validation bodies gain recognition of the nationally renowned reporting programs for inventories and projects.

*(Excerpted from [www.ansi.com](http://www.ansi.com))*

### **If the standard is okay with ANSI why is there an issue with some local and state health departments?**

Some states now require third-party verification, which is not achieved through BISSC self-certification.

### **Why is BISSC certification or third-party verification not accepted in California?**

The state of California requires food processing equipment used in retail and food service organizations to be third party verified by an ANSI accredited product certifier. The process for becoming an ANSI accredited product certifier is very different in procedure and intent from the process of writing an ANSI approved standard. The product certifier is the organization that follows a specific ANSI process in order to establish a business model that can verify equipment is designed and built to meet a specific design standard.

**Why can't I call AIBI and get my equipment Verified?**

The BISSC office of certification begins the process of certification and third-party verification and must determine if the appropriate paper work and fees are submitted. The verification inspection can be scheduled to mutual satisfaction between the equipment manufacturer and the AIBI inspector.

With respect to the requirement for an ANSI accredited product certifier to perform third party verification, AIBI is not accredited through ANSI as a product certifier to perform third-party **ANSI** certifications.

**Why does AIB want to continue with BISSC and 3rd party certification?**

AIBI sees this as purely a service to the industry despite flat or slightly dwindling interest. 2017 gained 1 new company and lost 7 companies. The list of [companies](#) can be found on BISSC website.