Standards Deliver Cost Savings to the Oil & Gas Industry

By Ross Philo, President & CEO, Energistics

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tandards are funny things. For most of us, they are invisible. Some of us, busy and literal-minded, go through life without noticing them, yet we rely on them implicitly. If they were not there, our lives would be much more frustrating, much chaotic, and much more dangerous. Most of us, probably, not even aware we need them when the topic of standards comes up.

Yet, think about a few examples:

- Cellphone standards that allow us to travel virtually anywhere in the world and still call home.
- Driving rules, road signage, airbag standards, and visibility of indicators on vehicles, extension cords, and fuel ratings—i.e. standards that help make driving safer and cleaner.
- Food quality, food testing procedures, temperature for storage and transport—i.e. standards that help keep our food from getting us sick.
- Standards that allow us to travel virtually anywhere in the world and still be able to buy, use, and enjoy products.
- Standards that help us trust what we buy—i.e. standards that help ensure the quality of content, additives, colorings—i.e. standards that help ensure the safety of our food.
- Cellphone standards that help us send and receive messages.
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The list is almost endless, yet each such standard reflects the need to cut through the clutter and determine the requirements for a technical standard. The other times there can be an industry mandate imposed by a government agency that requires a standard in order to ensure consistent reporting of information. Most of us, familiar with bodies like ISO, ANSI and standards-setting industry organizations like IEEE, API, etc., in fact, there are thousands of standards groups across all industries working to make our jobs easier.

Oftentimes, CIOs, of course, have their own standards to work with when mapping their systems. As a result, they must develop and maintain a multitude of standards and different interfaces between their applications. Imagine the total cost for the industry when you multiply this by the number of oil and gas companies, each of whom must develop and maintain multiple interfaces. Ross Philo, President & CEO, Energistics