

To Whom it May Concern:

It would seem reasonable that any law, or set of standards related to the law should be available to the public for free, and that this should be a requirement of any agency, body, individual or organization writing those laws. Transparency is essential to an effective democratic society.

Access to laws and codes is clearly a public good. Private citizens, even if they aren't subject to a regulation, are still directly and indirectly affected by it. I don't have to follow any laws about the design of airbags, but I have a right to know against what standards they are evaluated. It makes me a more educated consumer.

The costs of developing and maintaining standards should be paid in full by the government just as the costs of writing and maintaining the rest of the legal code are. If this results in increased expenditures, it is a small price to pay for transparency.

Sincerely,
A concerned Citizen.