



A Standard Can Reduce Threats to Health and Safety

DEVELOPING STANDARDS IN CANADA

Some countries have developed standards without consumer input. Two unhappy results are possible: i.) the standard does not include *user* input so is inappropriate when implemented, or ii) a domestic seller has gained a barrier to trade so consumers are not allowed to import some good or service. Canada does much better with its standards.

Standards are developed through consensus by committees of affected stakeholders. Participants are from industry, governments, academia and the public interest, *including consumers*. The Consumers Interest Alliance Inc. (CIAI) represents you on many standards committees for the development of standards for Canada and for International use.

The basic process by which a standard is developed is similar among standard development organizations. The following is a simplified breakdown of the process:

- Identification of the need for new standard
- Preliminary study and preparation of a draft outline
- Establishment of a committee (pre-existing or new)
- Committee meetings and consensus building on the draft
- Vote on the draft standard
- Publication of the standard

National Standards Development

The Canadian standards development organizations have generally agreed to act in areas of specialty that reflect the expertise of their technical committees.

Once a new standard has been developed it may be sent to the Standards Council of Canada where it will be evaluated to see if it meets the criteria of a National Standard of Canada.

To become a National Standard of Canada, a standard must meet these criteria:

- Developed by consensus of a *balanced* committee of stakeholders
- Subjected to public scrutiny
- Published in both official languages
- Consistent with or incorporates existing international and pertinent foreign standards
- Does not act as a barrier to trade.

National Standards of Canada can be submitted to international standards development organizations for consideration and adoption as international standards.

International Standards Development

International non-governmental standards are primarily developed by two organizations:

- [International Organization for Standardization \(link is external\)](#) (ISO)
- [International Electrotechnical Commission \(link is external\)](#) (IEC)

[Source](#)