

PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

South African National Standards are developed using a process of negotiating and the principle of consensus-building through groups of experts, within technical committees (TCs). A key strength of these standards is that they are developed by people that need them. Industry experts drive all aspects of the standard development process, from deciding whether a new standard is needed to defining all the technical content that will influence the future direction and performance of our economy and that will help society and protect the environment.

Stakeholders required for the standards development process include manufacturers, retailers, consumer groups, NGOs, government agencies, researchers, students, professional societies and other stakeholders. All participation is on a voluntary basis, and you can be involved in helping to develop standards by becoming a committee member. The numerous benefits of participating in standards development as a professional and an organisation include:

Professional

- Gaining a better insight into why a standard has been developed
- Having the opportunity to shape the future development of a standard
- Gaining a greater understanding of sector and industry trends, both nationally and internationally
- Keeping abreast of the latest technical innovations in your field
- Networking with fellow experts from industry and business
- Gaining unique access into the standards development process

Organisation

- Gaining an early understanding of upcoming changes to standards
- Keeping abreast of the latest technical innovation and market trends in your sector
- Influencing the use of standards as an alternative to regulation and legislation
- Developing employees by giving them the opportunity to work with leaders in the field and to witness standards development processes that maximise cooperation and consensus building.

