



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

Public Consultation in ASTM International's Standards Development Process

US-SADC Exchange on Good Regulatory Practices with SADCSTAN and SADCTRLC
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www.astm.org

Presentation Areas



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What is ASTM International?

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Engaging Stakeholder Participation in
ASTM standards development

3

Public and consumer consultation
examples - Consumer Safety

Helping Our World Work Better



12,000+ ASTM standards operate globally

Applied to just about everything from steel to sustainability

They improve the lives of millions every day

Important. Every Day.



The Role of ASTM Standards

- Ensures safety, quality and reliability
- Constantly responding to new challenges, new technology and new markets
- Built on principle of voluntary consensus: giving everyone an opportunity to participate
- Effective and relevant across diverse markets
- Helping everyone: consumers, businesses, manufacturers, innovators and governments
- Incorporated into contracts, regulations, codes, and laws around the world; they support established and emerging economies and free and fair global trade.



6,525

ASTM standards have been adopted, used as a reference, or used as the basis of national standards outside the USA

Over a Century of Openness



How We Work

- Worldwide acceptance and trust comes from the principle of openness
- Experts, individuals, organizations, academia, governments, trade associations, consultants and consumers come together
- Over 30,000 members from 148 countries
- Exchanging expertise and knowledge
- Participating in a transparent process – open to anyone, anywhere
- Timely and relevant. Fully representative of sectors. An aid to innovation, not a hurdle to overcome



Universal Equality of Opportunity



Operating Globally

- ASTM is one of the world's largest Standards Developing Organizations, with global reach and influence
- Embracing all the principles of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- Working across political, cultural and geographic borders
- Recognizing expertise, not country of origin
- Trusted for market relevance and technical quality
- The choice for many global industries
 - 50% outside USA
- Our global outreach activities increase understanding
- Our Memorandum of Understanding Program provides tangible encouragement to developing economies



92

memorandums
of understanding

Helping to Make the Difference



Membership

- Membership is open to anyone who wants to use their expertise to influence standards
- Three types:
 - Participating, Organizational, Student
- Participating Members develop new and revise existing standards – they can also network with peers and gain professional development opportunities
- Organizational Members help shape standards and get privileged access to information. Membership supports growth, trade and employee development
- Student Membership is free and open to all students – it provides a full understanding of the standardization process



30,000+
global ASTM members
in over 148 countries
participating in ASTM

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's)



Equal Voice

- Members from small companies play a critical role in today's global economic infrastructure
- ASTM committee structure ensures balanced participation from stakeholders
- SME technical input and vote is equal to that of large multinational companies
- ASTM uses technology to lower barriers to participation and speed the process
- Electronic balloting of standards from inception to publication
- Web conferencing to engage additional experts and accelerating the development process
- Helps SME's to maintain their technical presence in global markets and makes it possible to sell products more successfully around the world





WTO – Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement G/TBT/1/REV 9 Section IX:

- Prohibits use of regulations, standards, and conformity assessment (technical measures) as barriers to trade
- Encourages the use of international standards for facilitating trade and as the basis of technical regulations
- Recognizes international standards based upon the criteria or principles of their development

ASTM complies with WTO principles for international standards development



WTO / TBT Principles

Transparency
Openness
Impartiality and consensus
Effectiveness and relevance
Coherence
Consideration of developing nations

ASTM Principles

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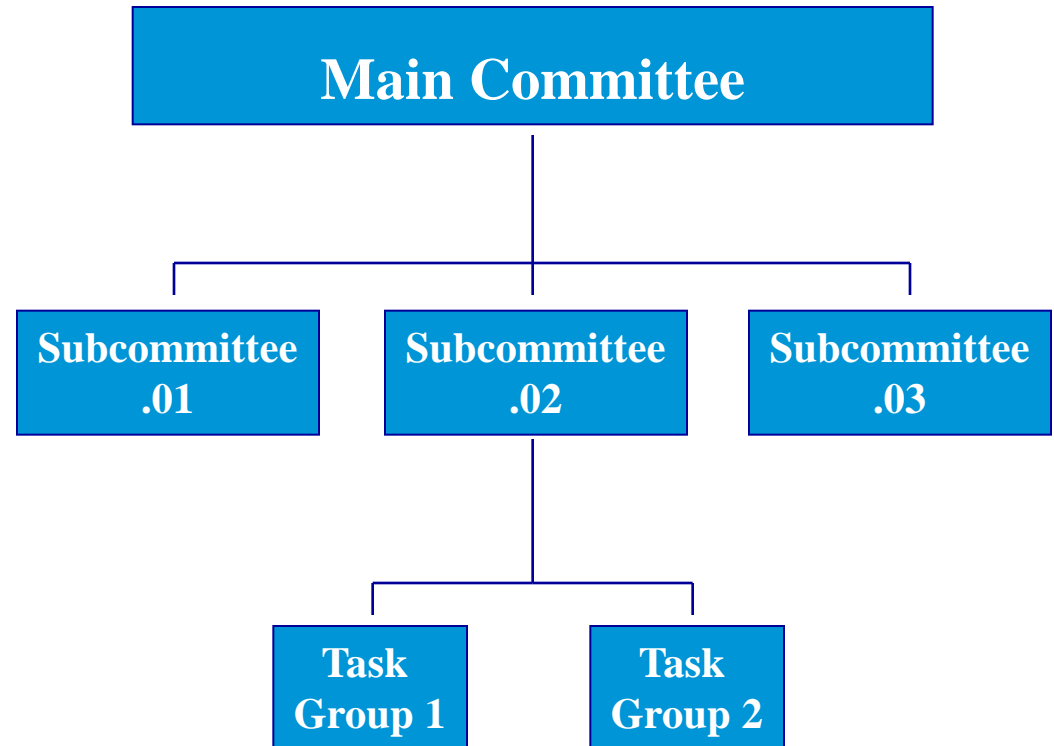
Technical Committee Organization



Technical Committees form to address specific industry subjects.

Subcommittees are established to address subsets of specialized subject matter.

Subcommittees organize their expertise into Task Groups to write standards.



Classification of Members



New Members are Classified by volunteer Officers of the Committee using the Membership Applications

New Members are Classified based on what “voting interest” (organization) they represent

- **Producer** – produces or sells a material, product, system or service covered in the committee or subcommittee scope
- **User** – purchases or uses a material, product, system or service (other than household use) covered in the committee or subcommittee scope
- **Consumer** – primarily purchases or represents those who purchase products and services for household use within the committee or subcommittee scope
- **General Interest** – if not otherwise classified

Official Votes and Balance

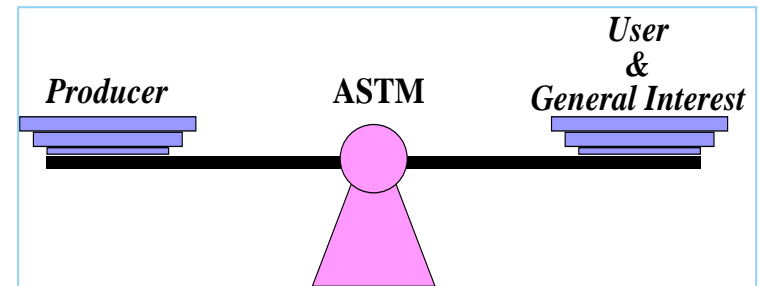


Only one official vote is assigned per voting interest (organization)

– One voting interest may have multiple members

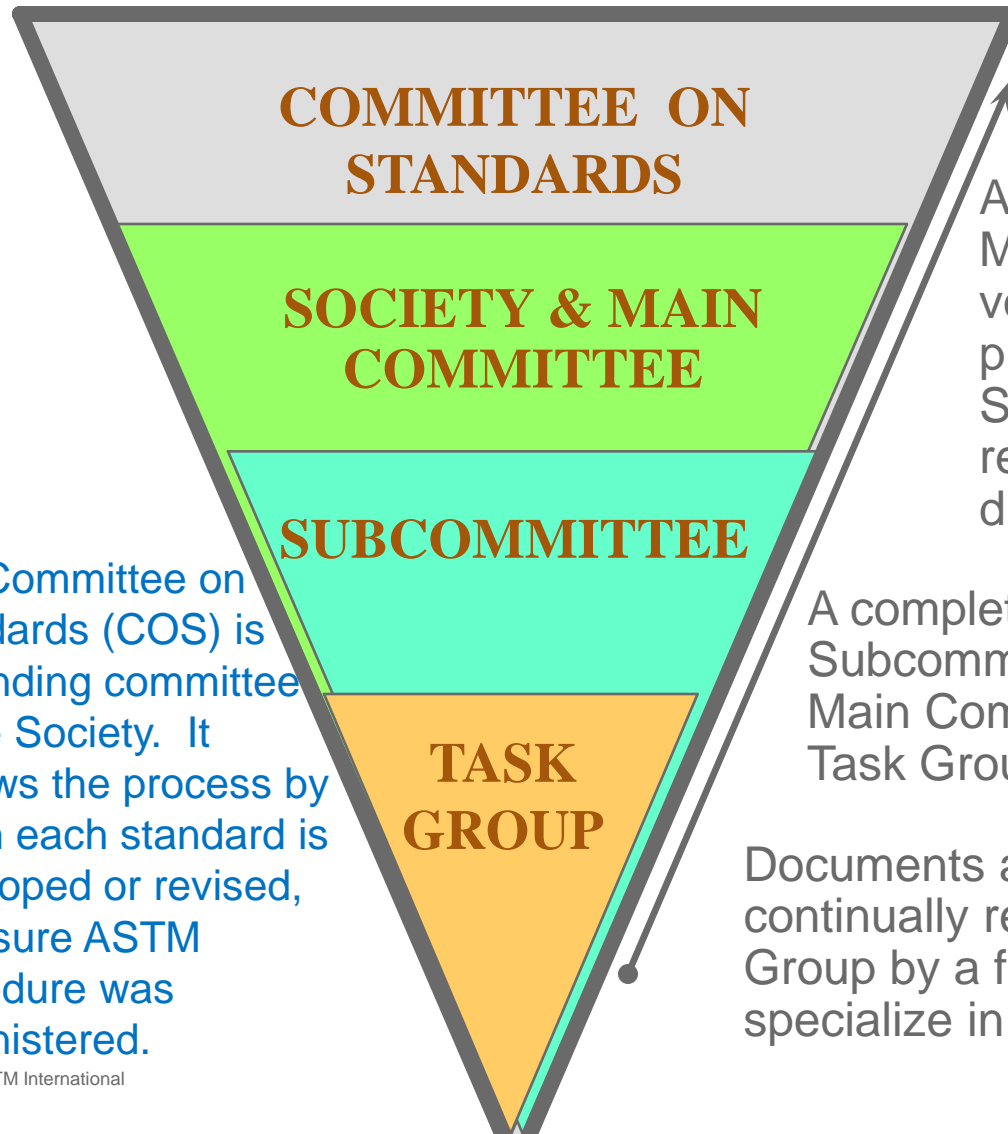
“Balance” means that the number of Producer official voters cannot exceed the sum of the User & General Interest official voters.

Every member receives ballot notifications and can review ballots and vote online



Official vote is used to measure balance, calculate voting statistics, and resolve negative votes

ASTM Balloting Process



After Subcommittee approval, the Main Committee & entire Society vote on the draft. If approved, it is presented to the Committee on Standards for final review. If not, it returns to the Task Group for re-drafting, & balloting is repeated.

A completed draft is voted on by the Subcommittee. If approved, it moves to a Main Committee vote. If not, it returns to the Task Group for re-drafting.

Documents are drafted, and continually revised, in the Task Group by a few members who specialize in the subject matter.

The Committee on Standards (COS) is a standing committee of the Society. It reviews the process by which each standard is developed or revised, to ensure ASTM procedure was administered.

ASTM Committees with Safety Standards



D01 Paint

D10 Packaging

D11 Rubber

D12 Soaps

D13 Textiles

F08 Sports Equipment

F09 Tires

F04 Medical Devices

F11 Vacuum Cleaners

F14 Fences

F15 Consumer Products

F24 on Amusement Rides and
Devices

F27 Snow Skiing

C11 Gypsum

Committee F15 on Consumer Products



Established

- Formed in 1973, F15 has a current membership of over 1000 and has jurisdiction of 100 standards

Subcommittees

- The nearly 60 technical subcommittees of F15 each serve a different product area (for example juvenile products, toys, playground equipment, candles, pool safety), and meet independently on different schedules depending upon level of activity and need.

Liaison

- Committee F15 brings together manufacturers, end users, industry associations, regulatory authorities, health professionals and consumer advocacy groups in a common effort to improve consumer safety.



Committee F15 on Consumer Products



Key Documents

- F404 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for High Chairs
- F833 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Carriages and Strollers
- F963 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety
- F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use
- F2666 Standard Specification for Aboveground Portable Pools for Residential Use

Key Stakeholders

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Disney / Walmart / Toys R Us
- Fisher Price / Mattel
- Graco
- Health Canada
- Kids in Danger



Product Safety through Regulation



Statutes

- Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA)
- Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA)
- Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act [PL 110-140]
- H.R. 2715
- Canadian Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA)

Regulations and Mandatory Standards

- 15 CFR 1150 Marking of Toys, Look-Alike and Imitation Firearms
- 16 CFR 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead Containing Paint
- 16 CFR 1500 Hazardous Substances Act Regulations
- CPSC-CH-E1002-08.1 Standard Operating Procedure for Determining Total Lead (Pb) in Non-Metal Children's Products



Using Standards as Mandatory Requirements



Many ways to incorporate, even in the same act!

Section 104 - in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate consumer product safety standards that—(i) are substantially the same as such voluntary standards; or (ii) are more stringent than such voluntary standards, if the Commission determines that more stringent standards would further reduce the risk of injury associated with such products.

Section 106 - ..., the provisions of ASTM International Standard F963–07 Consumer Safety Specifications for Toy Safety (ASTM F963), as it exists on the date of enactment of this Act...

“Section 104 includes includes—full-size cribs and nonfull-size cribs; toddler beds; high chairs, booster chairs, and hook-on chairs; bath seats; gates and other enclosures for confining a child; play yards; stationary activity centers; infant carriers; strollers; walkers; swings; and bassinets and cradles.

One Hundred Tenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,
the third day of January, two thousand and eight*

An Act

To establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children’s products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Moving ahead.



How We Work

- The US does standards differently than the rest of the world
- Standards are generally market driven
- Multiple paths towards standardization
- Worldwide acceptance and trust comes from the principle of openness
- Experts, individuals, organizations, academia, governments, trade associations, consultants and consumers come together
- Exchanging expertise and knowledge
- Participating in a transparent process – open to anyone, anywhere
- Timely and relevant. Fully representative of sectors. An aid to innovation, not a hurdle to overcome



- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality and consensus
- Effectiveness and relevance
- Coherence
- Consideration of developing nations

Approaches towards incorporation



Mixed bag

- Incorporate technical requirements in regulation
 - Led limits in CPSIA
- General Requirements or directives
 - Followed by rulemakings
- Static Reference
 - Include Year Date (most references)
- Ambulatory Reference
 - CPSIA Toy Reference; dated but with ability to keep pace with change



Organizations Active in ASTM F15



National Safety Council
National Safe Kids
National Sanitation Foundation
National Child Care
National Rifle Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
National Association of State Fire Marshalls
NIST
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
NFPA
Health Canada/Product Safety
Kids in Danger
National Playground Institute
Sleep Products Safety Council

Consumer Product Safety Commission
Underwriters Laboratories
Toy Industry Association
Good Housekeeping Institute
Wal-Mart
Kmart
Sears
Penny's
Fisher-Price
Walt Disney Parks and Resorts
Department of Justice, California
NY City Parks Department
Army-Air force Exchange
Canadian Standards Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Consumers Union

How ASTM Committee F15 Works



- Participants include consumer advocates, government agency representatives, consultants, manufacturers, lawyers, educators and testing laboratories.
 - If not for the standard-setting process, these diverse interest groups rarely meet outside of a courtroom or legal proceeding.
- Standards meetings are informative and candid. Attendees share their experiences and knowledge to create better standards and, ultimately, better products.
- CPSC incident data – including the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) data – helps to drive the process.
 - Data provided to each of the relevant ASTM subcommittees on patterns of injuries involving specific products.
 - These patterns of injuries assist the subcommittees in determining what direction to take in the development of a new standard, or a revision to a current standard.



- Since 1972, CPSC staff have contributed technical expertise and data resources to the ASTM standards development process.
- CPSC cites ASTM standards in regulation (most recently for Bath Seats, Infant Walkers, Bassinettes, and Toddler Beds) and relies upon numerous other standards for enforcement
- Over 30 CPSC representatives participate in Committee F15 on Consumer Products, others participate in F08, F24 and C11
- Many standards issues are taken up as a result of a direct CPSC request
- CPSC input and participation is essential to a successful standardization effort

CPSC Participation in ASTM



- Staff members are added to ASTM committees as affiliate members free of charge
- Staff members have full voting rights but are assigned as non-official voters by request
- Staff members typically abstain on formal actions but frequently submit technical comments on ballots and actively participate in committee discussions
- Agency comments are impactful

Advantages of CPSC Engagement



- Consumer product safety standards are the most effective method to improve product safety and reduce injuries.
- Improved safety standards affect all products in a given category, not just those made by one manufacturer.
- Standards have a greater impact than recalls since even the most effective recalls generally result in the repair or replacement of only a small percentage of products in use by consumers.
- Eliminating the unsafe product before it is produced is most effective in improving product safety.

Role of Consumers and General Interest



- They are valuable stakeholders
- Provide input to consumer behavior and preferences
- Add diversity and credibility to the consensus process
- Accordingly, ASTM supports consumers by:
 - Monitoring/tracking engagement by each subcommittee
 - Providing guidelines for “Effective Consumer Participation” and training in how to be more effective
 - No charge to consumers for their membership in ASTM
 - Travel funding/assistance is available from ASTM

ASTM Assists in Transparency in Rulemaking



ASTM standards are provided in “read only” format to the general public during the comment period of CPSC rulemaking process



CPSC Letter or Request



A CPSC letter or request initiates action:

- Response sent acknowledging request and detailing immediate steps that will be taken by the ASTM Committees
- Determination is made whether the hazard requires a change to an existing standard or the development of a new activity
- IDI's are requested to determine hazard pattern
- Subcommittee tasked to work with CPSC and relevant stakeholders to develop language to address hazard
- Task groups meet virtually or in person to develop ballot items
- Revisions are balloted to update the standard

New Areas of Activity



- Liquid Laundry Packets
- Adult Bed Rails
- Torch Fuels
- Canadian Toy Alignment





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Thank you

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