

CSA Standards Products and Solutions

CSA has a refined and proven methodology for exploring and defining issues and developing solutions. While the foundation of CSA's business is consensus-based Standards, non-consensus products such as guidelines, handbooks, specifications, toolkits, and education and training materials are also produced. The purpose of this paper is to explain the different types of standards solutions that CSA can provide to meet the varied needs of the marketplace.

Non-consensus Products

Sometimes a non-consensus product is a more appropriate solution and may be preferred for a variety of reasons, including:

- The technical issues are very specialized or still under development
- There is a relatively urgent need for a solution
- The products covered by the non-consensus product are used internally or in limited distribution
- The non-consensus product is the first step toward what will eventually be a consensus standard
- The information cannot be easily presented in the format of a standard

Although the development process of a non-consensus product is different from the development process of a consensus Standard, the content will often be similar in that these products may specify technical requirements — "what to do" — as well as supplemental or explanatory — "how to do" — information.

Advisory Services

In providing Advisory Services to clients, CSA builds on its expertise in research, project management, and multi-stakeholder consensus processes to assist organizations, by providing a wide range services, including:

- Independent research and analysis expertise
- Facilitation of stakeholders in order to achieve a balance of interests for negotiated solutions
- Alternatives to unilateral Standards development by consultants or government agencies
- Expertise in the design and execution of implementation programs and strategies
- Networks of experts in national, regional and international standards development

CSA's Accredited Standards Development Process

CSA is Canada's largest standards development organization (SDO), accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), and a member of the National Standards System (NSS), a network of organizations and individuals involved in voluntary standards development, promotion and implementation in Canada. CSA's Standards Development Process results in dynamic and flexible standards that reflect changing technologies, processes, materials and needs in Canada's workplaces, institutions and communities.

Standards developed within Canada's National Standards System:

- Are developed by balanced committees of all relevant interests, employing the principles of consensus.
- Have gone through a public review as well as an internal review by CSA prior to publication.
- Are maintained and reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure they remain current and accurate.
- Reflect the needs of affected stakeholders helping to ensure market acceptance.
- Address the national public interest by considering how the Standards advance the national economy, support sustainable development, benefit the health, safety and welfare of workers and the public, assist and protect consumers and facilitate trade.

CSA Standards

All consensus Standards prepared by CSA, whether or not these are submitted for approval as National Standards of Canada (NSCs), are developed following CSA's accredited procedures.

- CSA Standards may provide the flexibility needed to meet unique stakeholder needs, for example, the inclusion of conformity assessment or regulatory language which may be required in standards and codes covering worker and public safety.
- CSA Standards may be published in both official languages, to encourage their use across Canada.
- CSA Standards may be referenced by regulatory authorities in legislative instruments.

National Standards of Canada

In Canada, only SCC accredited SDOs may submit Standards for approval as National Standards of Canada (NSCs). A Standard is submitted to SCC in accordance with the SCC directive, CAN-P-2, *Criteria and Procedures for the Preparation and Approval of National Standards of Canada* for an additional independent review by the SCC.

- NSCs cannot contain administrative requirements such as conformity assessment or regulatory language.
- NSCs are published in both official languages.
- NSCs may be referenced by regulatory authorities in legislative instruments.

When should National Standards of Canada status be considered?

- When the committee adopts an ISO or IEC Standard
- When the designation of a Standard as an NSC would improve the perception of its credibility among other organizations (e.g. the World Trade Organization)
- When the designation of a Standard as an NSC would enhance the ability of producers to that Standard to trade beyond a national market
- When the designation of a Standard as an NSC may be useful for greater international recognition (e.g. the intent is to submit the CSA Standard as a seed document to ISO or IEC)
- When copyright arrangements or restrictions require a Standard to be published as an NSC
- When there are contractual agreements requiring the Standard be an NSC (e.g. binational or trinational Standards)

For more information about the types of standards solutions CSA can provide, or to find out how CSA can help your organization, please visit: www.csa.ca or call 1 – 800-463-6727.