

ASTM International

Key features

Type of organisation: Private standard-setting organisation, non for profit

Charter/Constitution:

ASTM Charter, www.astm.org/COMMIT/BODCharter.pdf

Membership

- Nature: Individuals representing producers, users, consumers, governments, universities and other stakeholders
- Number: 32,483 members (2017)

Year of establishment: 1898

Headquarters: Philadelphia (United States)

Country offices: Brussels (Belgium), Ottawa (Canada), Beijing (China), Lima (Peru), Washington DC (United States)

Secretariat staff: 200 (2017)

Total budget: EUR 60 million (2017)

Type of activity: Data collection and analysis, information exchange, development of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, processes and services

Sectors of activity: Metals, paints, plastics, textiles, petroleum, construction, energy, environment, consumer products, medical services, devices and electronics, advanced materials, aerospace, etc.

Website: www.astm.org

Members

ASTM International is driven by the expertise and commitment of over 32 400 members from 150 countries. Individuals representing businesses, governments and other stakeholders collaborate in the ASTM International's technical committees.

Relationship with non-Members

ASTM International offers a wide range of tools designed to assist Members as well as non-Members on standards. These tools include resources for professors and students, trainings for engineers, proficiency testing programmes for laboratories etc.

ASTM International MoU Programme is designed to encourage the participation of technical experts from around the world in the ASTM standards development process and broaden the global acceptance and use of ASTM International standards (www.astm.org/GLOBAL/index.html).

Observers

Anyone, Member or non-Member can attend ASTM International meetings free of charge. Only "Participating members", though have the right to provide input on standards development. "Informational members" have an interest in ASTM International standards and related technical information, but choose not to participate on technical committees.

Mandate

Committed to serving global societal needs, ASTM International positively impacts public health and safety, consumer confidence and overall quality of life. ASTM International integrates consensus standards, developed with its international membership of volunteer technical experts, and innovative services to improve lives. The ASTM International's process embraces all the six principles for international standards development as defined by the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

IRC processes taking place within ASTM International



Categories of legal and policy instruments

| | Is it taking place within the IO? | Approximate number |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one) | | |
| Legally binding decisions | | |
| Recommendations | | |
| Political declarations | | |
| Model treaties or law | | |
| Production of technical standards | √ | > 12 000 |
| Non-binding guidance/best practices document | √ | 1 500 |

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

| Mechanisms of interaction | | Approximate number of IOs involved | Examples |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Develop joint instruments | √ | 2 (ISO, IEC) | |
| MoU or other agreements | √ | 2 (ISO, IEC) | |
| Participate in co-ordinating institution | √ | 10 | United Nations, OECD, ISO, IEC, EASC (Euro |
| Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination | √ | 10-20 | Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and |
| Observe relevant actions of other bodies | √ | 10-20 | Certification), SAE International, ASME |
| Exchange information | √ | 10-20 | (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) |

ASTM International history

On 16 June 1898, seventy IATM members met in Philadelphia to form the American Section of the International Association for Testing Materials. The American Section's first technical committee on steel initiated a series of discussions of testing and material standards for the railroad industry. ASTM International formed several new committees that expanded the organisation's scope beyond the steel industry and responded to the growing need for standards in many areas. In 2001, ASTM changed its name to ASTM International. ASTM International' scope currently covers over hundreds of different industrial sectors from steel and other materials, to consumer products, aviation, nanotechnologies, pharmaceutical processes and many others. www.astm.org/ABOUT/milestones.html.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>