

Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS)

2009-2012



Standards Council of Canada
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Canada

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Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2009-2012

The Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) provides direction and leadership for Canada's National Standards System (NSS) on how to best use standardization to advance the safety and economic well-being of Canadians in a global economy.

The CSS represents a collaborative effort to identify the collective needs and priorities of NSS stakeholders, and identifies the areas where the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and stakeholders intend to focus their efforts over the next three years (2009-2012).

Introduction

Voluntary consensus standards are important to all Canadians, as they represent a key component of economic and social well-being. Stakeholders of the National Standards System), and those affected by it, include:

- the Standards Council of Canada, including its advisory committee members;
- accredited bodies, including laboratories, inspection bodies, product and personnel certifiers, and management systems certification bodies;
- industry;
- importers and exporters;
- consumers and retailers;
- federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments;
- standards development organizations;
- business associations and organizations; and
- thousands of volunteers who participate in standards development and conformity assessment activities.

Through a consultative process that took place between January and September 2008, stakeholders and Standards Council of Canada staff members revised the goals and objectives of the Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS).

The CSS Vision

Stakeholders across Canada expressed a desire to continue working together in new and innovative ways towards a future where Canada prospers from having standards, accreditation, and conformity assessment systems that are effective, efficient, and responsive. These stakeholders envision working in unison within a globally integrated trading system that ensures the protection of the health and safety of Canadians.

This vision expressed by stakeholders has been translated into specific goals that stakeholders agree will help the National Standards System achieve its potential.

Key Terms	
Vision	A picture of the future with some implicit or explicit commentary on why people should strive to create that future.
Goal	An overarching statement of intent that contributes to the vision in high-level terms.
Objective	A specific measurable result or outcome that contributes to a goal.
Initiative	A potential project, action or activity that could be undertaken to accomplish an objective.

The four overarching goals of the Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2009-2012 are:

1. promote trade and consumer safety;
2. ensure that the National Standards System (NSS) is continually evolving to meet changing demands;
3. expand understanding, recognition and use of the National Standards System (NSS); and
4. identify and address emerging national issues where standards and accreditation solutions can be applied.

Role of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC)

The Standards Council of Canada is a federal Crown corporation consisting of a governing Council of up to 15 members and approximately 90 permanent employees. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1970 and has a mandate to promote efficient and effective standardization in Canada.

The SCC facilitates the development and use of national and international standards, offers accreditation services, and coordinates Canadian standardization-related input to various regional and international forums. The organization reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry and oversees Canada's National Standards System (NSS).

As coordinator of the NSS, SCC facilitated development of the first Canadian Standards Strategy in 2000 and the strategy's subsequent renewal in 2005. The SCC similarly coordinated consultations with stakeholders from across the country and has reflected their shared vision and values in this renewed Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2009 to 2012.

Implementation and Reporting

The Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2009-2012 represents a collaborative commitment to action and remains a living document, as stakeholders work together to bring about their shared vision.

It applies to the entire National Standards System (NSS); action and reporting progress against this strategy will be a responsibility of all key stakeholder groups.

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) encourages NSS members to implement selected initiatives of the strategy, to report on the outcomes of those initiatives, and to share development with other stakeholders.

For progress reports and more information on the implementation of the CSS 2009-2012 consult the SCC website (www.scc-ccn.ca).

Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives

Goal 1: Promote trade and consumer safety

Objective 1.1 – Develop solutions and establish partnerships to help reduce the entry, sale, distribution, and use of unsafe products in Canada

- Initiatives:*
- a) Develop a standards- and certification-based strategy for promoting product safety.
 - b) Examine the guidance and tools available within standardization to assist with post-market surveillance, and provide recommendations for the development of additional resources.
 - c) Work with key federal and provincial departments to develop a Canadian response strategy to combat counterfeiting.
 - d) Work with federal, provincial and territorial government departments to establish one national recall database.

Objective 1.2 – Increase the participation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the National Standards System (NSS)

- Initiatives:*
- a) Determine the current level of participation by SMEs in the NSS, and identify barriers to and solutions for further participation (including new funding mechanisms).
 - b) Identify specific categories of SMEs for communications and outreach.

Objective 1.3 – Promote the adoption of international standards, conformity assessment and accreditation procedures by international partners, and influence partners at international levels

- Initiatives:*
- a) Increase national support for Canadian participation internationally and regionally in organizations such as APLAC, IAAC, IEC, ISO, COPANT, PASC, IAF, ILAC and PAC.
 - b) Identify Canadian experts and encourage their participation in international standards-development committees.
 - c) Assume a lead role in completing the revision of ISO Guide 65 to assure Canadian needs and interests are reflected in the final outcomes, including those of Standards Council of Canada accredited certification bodies (CBs). Implement the new document when it becomes available.

Objective 1.4 – Promote the use of standardization for regulatory cooperation and the reduction of trade barriers

- Initiatives:*
- a) Identify opportunities to help implement the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) Regulatory Cooperation Framework (RCF) between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.
 - b) Develop plans to leverage the SPP and the Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation (CDSR).
 - c) Identify areas where standards and accreditation solutions can be applied to overcome interprovincial and international trade barriers.

Objective 1.5 – Enhance developing countries’ participation in international standardization activities as part of our national trade and development priorities

- Initiatives:*
- a) Assist the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) with specific technical assistance requests to increase the capacity of standardization bodies and/or systems in countries with whom Canada has, or is negotiating, free trade agreements.

Goal 2: Ensure that the National Standards System (NSS) is continually evolving to meet changing demands

Objective 2.1 – Strengthen the volunteer base of the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Establish a multi-stakeholder task force to develop and implement a national recruitment strategy.

Objective 2.2 – Enhance sustainable funding mechanisms/sources to support the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Define key funding requirements and potential sources of funding.

Objective 2.3 – Improve the responsiveness of the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Conduct a stakeholder survey on the responsiveness of the NSS.
 - b) Develop and implement recommendations for improvements to the system.

Goal 3: Expand understanding, recognition, and use of the National Standards System (NSS)

Objective 3.1 – Increase the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments' understanding of, participation in, and funding for the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Develop a marketing strategy.
 - b) Develop and promote courses and seminars for government departments on the importance and value of standards and accreditation programs referenced in regulations.
 - c) Discuss with governments how the NSS can be used to support their departmental priorities.
 - d) Encourage the federal government to develop a policy statement to communicate the benefits of standardization.
 - e) Request increased government support for and leadership in communicating the benefits of standards and accreditation, and the vision of the NSS.

Objective 3.2 – Increase the inclusiveness of the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Identify and work to include in the NSS non-accredited/parallel standardization systems.

Objective 3.3 – Increase industry's understanding of, and participation in, the NSS

- Initiatives:*
- a) Develop sector-based marketing strategies with key stakeholders to encourage the use of standards and accreditation.
 - b) Work with partners and stakeholders to develop and distribute standardization success stories.

Objective 3.4 – Increase understanding of, and participation in, the NSS by academia

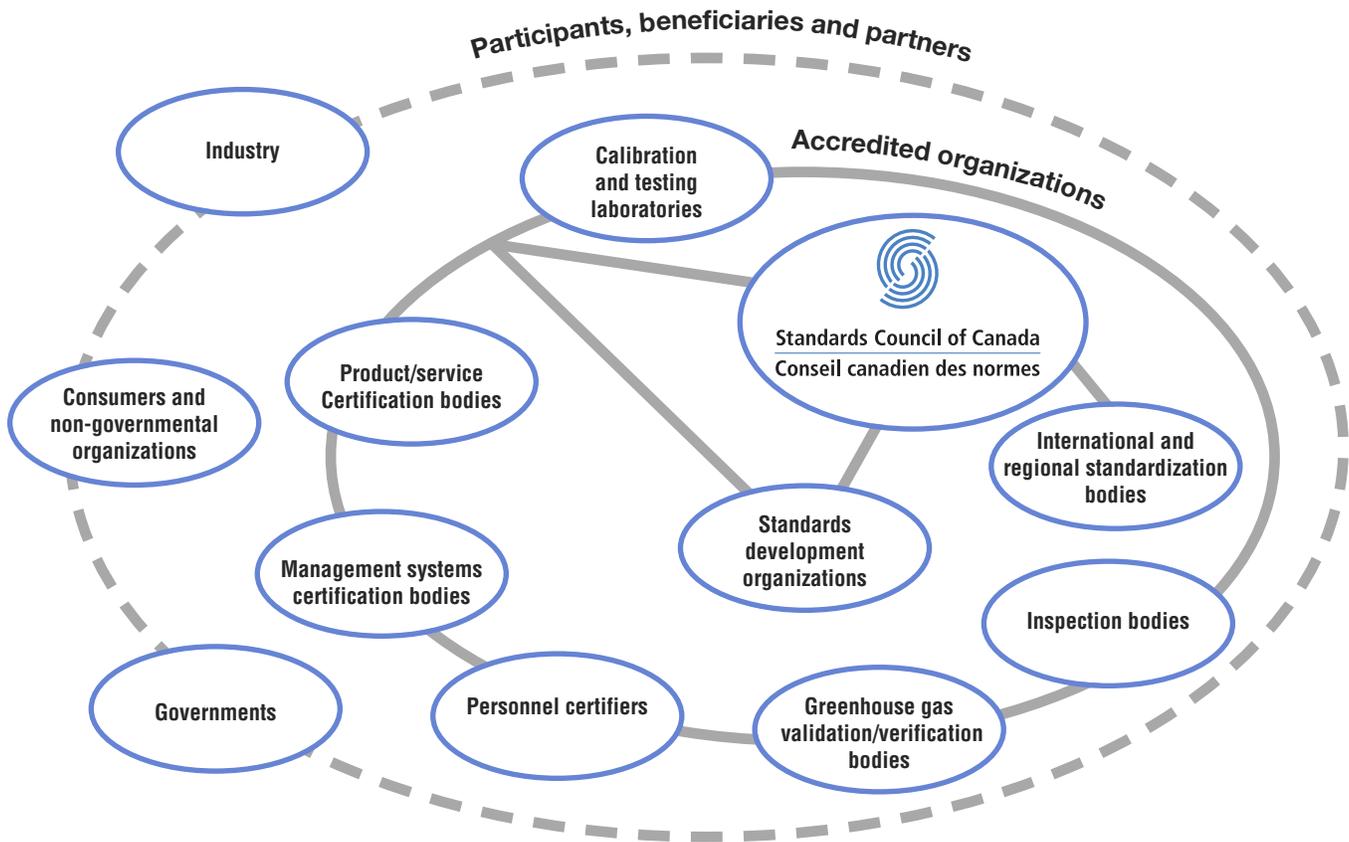
- Initiatives:*
- a) Discuss with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), government departments, and academia, the potential for establishing a Chair for Standardization in Canada.
 - b) Increase references to standards, conformity assessment and accreditation that are incorporated into the curricula of Canadian colleges, universities and technical institutes.
 - c) Promote the benefits of standardization at relevant academic conferences.
 - d) Undertake and promote studies and reports, such as the *Economic Value of Standardization*, and identify strategies to follow up on resulting ideas.

Goal 4: Identify and address emerging national issues in which standards and accreditation solutions can be applied

Objective 4.1 – Identify opportunities for the application of standards and accreditation solutions in areas that support government priorities

- Initiatives:*
- a) Review, on an annual or as-needed basis, current or planned initiatives that are aimed at supporting emerging federal government priorities (e.g., health care, the environment, the reduction of trade barriers).
 - b) Review, on an annual or as-needed basis, current or planned initiatives that are aimed at supporting emerging provincial/territorial/municipal government priorities (e.g., health care, the environment, the reduction of trade barriers).
 - c) Develop a mechanism for addressing emerging standardization issues.

national standards system



The National Standards System (NSS) is Canada's network of people and organizations involved in the development, promotion and implementation of standards. Through the collaborative effort of the System's members, Canada's standards help advance the social and economic well-being of the country and safeguard the health and safety of Canadians. Overseen by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the NSS consists of over 350 organizations and 15,000 members.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

APLAC	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
CBs	Certification bodies
CDSR	Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation
COPANT	Pan American Standards Commission
CSS	Canadian Standards Strategy
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
IAAC	InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NSERC	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
NSS	National Standards System
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
PASC	Pacific Area Standards Congress
RCF	Regulatory Cooperation Framework
SCC	Standards Council of Canada
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SPP	Security and Prosperity Partnership
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Contributors

In the development of the 2009-2012 Canadian Standards Strategy, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is grateful for the many individual submissions that were received from technical experts from across the country, and formally acknowledges the contributions of the members of the National Standards System, including the following organizations and the advisory committees of the SCC:

Able Translations Ltd.
Accutest Laboratories Ltd.
Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (ACCA)
Advisory Committee on Standards (ACS)
Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Integrated Traceability
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Food Value Chain Bureau
Applied Quality Inc.
APREL Laboratories
Atomic Energy Canada Limited
BC College of Teachers
BC Hydro
Behlen Industries LP
Bell Canada
BRI International Inc.
Building Professionals Consortium
BW Technologies by Honeywell
Canada Health Infoway
Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO)
Canadian Advisory Committee on Consumer Policy (CAC/COPOLCO)
Canadian Advisory Committee to the Committee on Conformity Assessment (CAC/CASCO)
Canadian Dental Association
Canadian Food Inspection Agency - International Affairs Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Program Policy Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Quality Management Program
Canadian General Standards Board
Canadian National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (CNC/IEC)
Canadian National Committee on the International Organization for Standardization (CNC/ISO)
Canadian Produce Marketing Association
Canadian Standards Association
Canadian Standards Association International - Electromedical Product Group
Canadian Toy Association
Canadian Water & Wastewater Association
Canadian Wood Council
Capital Health - Regional Infection Prevention & Control Program
Carrier UTC
Cascade Corporation
CGI
Clinicare
Cognos Corporation
Consumer and Public Interest Committee (CPIC)
Dalhousie University
E2 Management Corporation
Eidap Inc.
Electrical Safety Authority of Ontario
Environment Canada
GE Canada - Environment Health & Safety
E-One Moli Energy (Canada) Ltd.
Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada - Small Craft Harbours
FPIInnovations - Forintek Division
Frontline Security
G K C Associates
Gay Lea Foods
General Electric
General Dynamics Canada
Globis Data
Government of Alberta - Employment, Immigration & Industry
Government of Alberta - Municipal Affairs & Housing
Government of Alberta - Public Safety Division of Alberta
Municipal Affairs & Housing
Government of Alberta - Service Alberta
Government of Alberta - Advanced Education & Technology
Government of Alberta - Alberta Research Council
Government of Alberta - Sustainable Resource Development
Government of British Columbia - Office of Housing & Construction Standards
Government of Manitoba
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
Government of Ontario
Government of Quebec
Government of the Northwest Territories
Health Canada - Health Environments & Consumer Safety Branch
Honeywell Security & Custom Electronics
Howell-Mahew Engineering Inc.
Hubbell Canada LP
Hydro One
Hyrogenics
IAPMO R&T
IBM Canada
Idea Technosoft Inc.
Indexable Cutting Tools

Industry Canada
 Industry Canada - Assistive Devices Industry Office
 Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité
 du travail
 Institut national de santé publique du Québec
 Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
 Inter-Provincial Gas Advisory Council
 IRISNDT Corporation
 Jannaway & Associates
 Kidde - UTC Fire & Security
 Kinectrics Inc.
 K-Line Group of Companies
 Leger Research Foundation
 Lyngsoe Systems Ltd.
 Magna Powertrain
 Manitoba Hydro
 Matrix Consultants Ltd.
 MazSky Canadian International Group Inc.
 McInnis Import-Export Inc.
 Measurement Canada - Program Development Directorate
 Microsoft Canada
 Monachus Consulting
 National Research Council - Institute for National
 Measurement Standards
 Natural Resources Canada - Centre for Topographic
 Information
 Near North Laboratories
 Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
 NOVA Chemicals
 Novachem
 Nuclear Waste Management Division Ontario Power
 Generation Inc.
 Olympus NDT Canada
 Ontario Electrical Safety
 PEI Analytical Laboratories
 Pollution Probe
 Power Line Systems Inc.
 Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)
 Public Safety Canada - Emergency Management & National
 Security Branch
 Public Works & Government Services Canada - Geomatics
 Services Directorate
 Public Works & Government Services Canada -
 Real Property Branch
 Rendrag Solutions Inc.
 Robinson Ergonomics Inc.
 Rockwell
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Biometric Services
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Technical Security Branch
 Sask Power
 Shell Canada Limited
 Slegers Engineered Products Inc.
 Spectral Design Ltd.
 Standards Development Organizations Advisory Committee
 (SDOAC)
 Swiftsure Spatial Systems Inc.
 Syngenta
 Tarkett Inc.
 Technical Standards & Safety Authority
 Teknion Furniture Systems Ltd.
 The Industrial Accident Prevention Association
 Transport Canada - Road Safety and Motor Vehicle
 Regulation Directorate
 Underwriters Laboratories of Canada
 Université du Québec - École de technologie supérieure
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 Velan Inc.
 Vista Medical
 Westland Fastners
 Westland Steel Products Ltd.
 Work Safe BC