



BACKGROUND

Canadian Standards Strategy 2009-2012

The Canadian Standards Strategy provides direction and leadership on how to best use standards and conformity assessment to advance the social and economic well-being of Canadians in a global economy. A key priority is balancing health, safety and environmental concerns with trade, innovation and economic competitiveness.

One of the key responsibilities of the Standards Council of Canada, as coordinator of the National Standards System, is to coordinate the periodic renewal of the Canadian Standards Strategy through a meaningful consultation process with stakeholders and partners.

The National Standards System is the network of organizations and individuals involved in voluntary standards development, promotion and implementation in Canada. It has helped to ensure the safety and performance of products and services for more than 25 years. It has also helped to open the global marketplace to Canadians, and made Canada a leader in international standardization.

The original Canadian Standards Strategy was commissioned by the Minister of Industry in 2000, and developed by a stakeholders' advisory council, including representatives from industry; federal, provincial and territorial governments; non-governmental organizations; standards and conformity assessment bodies; led by the Standards Council of Canada.

Since its launch, the Canadian Standards Strategy has become the guiding framework for the work of the Standards Council of Canada and Canada's National Standards System.

The Canadian Standards Strategy reflects consensus among stakeholders on those core issues that are integral to the maintenance and quality of the National Standards System. It provides also an overarching framework for cooperation between those who develop Canada's standards and conformity assessment programs, and those who use them.

The latest update of the Canadian Standards Strategy includes contributions from 176 stakeholders of Canada's National Standards System. New and innovative solutions were identified to provide Canadians with standards, accreditation and conformity assessment systems that are effective, efficient and responsive. The Canadian Standards Strategy 2009-2012 translates this vision into specific goals that stakeholders agree will help Canada's National Standards System achieve its goals.

The four overarching goals of the Canadian Standards Strategy 2009-2012 are: to promote trade and consumer safety; to ensure that the National Standards System is continually evolving to meet changing demands; to expand understanding, recognition and use of the National Standards System; and to identify and address emerging national issues where standards and accreditation solutions can be applied.

As coordinator of Canada's National Standards System, the Standards Council of Canada, in cooperation with all levels of government, industry, consumer and non-governmental organizations, will be guided by the vision and goals of this strategy and will work together with our partners to build an enhanced standardization infrastructure in Canada.

Follow the progress of the Canadian Standards Strategy 2009-2012 at www.scc.ca.