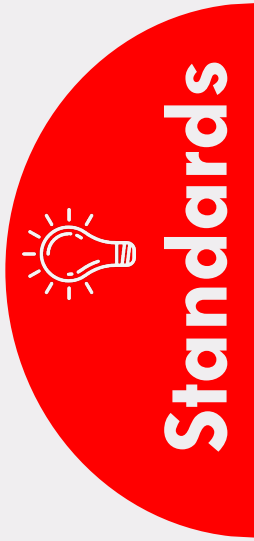
What is a standard?

document, established by **consensus** and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context

NOTE *Standards should be based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.*

[ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004, definition **3.2**, repeated in BS 0:2016]



Consensus

general agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments

NOTE Consensus need not imply unanimity.

[ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004, definition **1.7**]

Types of standards

Specification

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Document specifying performance and/or design/production/service requirements
- Requirements are drafted such that conformity can be verified objectively, that products, systems and services can be consistently designed, developed, manufactured and specified

Method

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Document specifying detailed instructions for carrying out one or more procedures for measurement, testing, sampling or evaluating products or performance
- A method only gives the procedure; it does not specify performance requirements or the outcome of the method, which are given in a specification. It may, however, give a description of pass/fail criteria

Method of specifying

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Document giving characteristics of a material, product, process or system
- Enables a customer to select the values needed before agreement with a supplier

Code of practice

BS

- Normative recommendations and informative guidance on good practice in performing tasks, e.g. conducting risk assessments
- These are distinguished from Guides by the fact that they are normative with as little ambiguity as possible so that claims of compliance can be objectively supported

Types of standards

Guide

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Similar to a BS code of practice, but generally more discursive and informative
- These do not have the normative status of a BS code practice, and do not support claims of conformity. (EN/ISO/IEC Guides have a different purpose)

Vocabulary

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Referenced/indexed document defining terms used in a sector or technology.
- Promotes understanding of terms and definitions for all standards for a sector or technology

Classification

BS, EN, ISO, IEC

- Document setting out an ordering of items or grading systems for use across a given sector, field or discipline.
- Gives grading systems that can be methods and specifications

Published Document

PD

- Document giving non-conflicting complementary information for Eurocodes.
- There are some historical PDs that have a different purpose, but the PD status is now only used for NCCI

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- IPR in any new works (i.e. a standard) that may result from the standards-making process, and the contributions to those new works, are assigned to BSI. BSI is required to hold the IPR for its standards so that any use and reuse of the content (e.g. for European/international standardization) is entirely within BSI's control.
- By being part of a committee or panel, the individual agrees to comply with BS 0. This results in the automatic assignment to BSI of the IPR in any new work or contributions to any new work.
- BSI will not own any previous work prepared by the panel or committee member, but will own the specific parts of the previous work included in the new work (the contributions).
- If a panel or committee member would like to use the contributions outside of the standards-making process, they should request a licence from BSI. This will usually be provided, be free of charge, and will be conditional on the contribution not being attributed to BSI or the relevant standard.
- Standards should not include content in which a third party holds the IPR (third-party material), other than as agreed in exceptional circumstances by the panel and committee.
- Where it is agreed that third-party material can be included in a standard, it is the responsibility of the panel, not BSI, to obtain written permission to do so.

Standards and the law

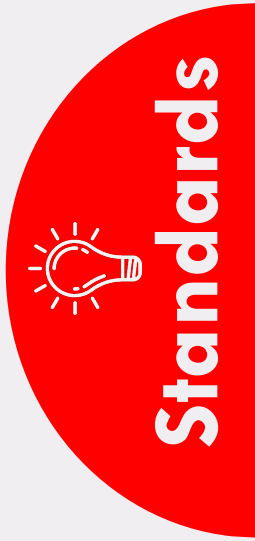
Legal obligations are strictly outside the scope of all standards, because mandatory laws always take precedence over voluntary standards

Standards cannot explain or interpret the law, or recommend or require compliance with the law

Standards are often regarded as quasi-legal as they have to be drafted carefully.
They are not of themselves contracts or law, unless:

- they are called up in statutory regulations (rare); or
- users commit themselves to compliance through contract

Standards cannot contain requirements or recommendations which are themselves legal obligations (if the law changed and the standard did not, people who comply with the standard would then be in direct violation of the law)



Standards and climate change

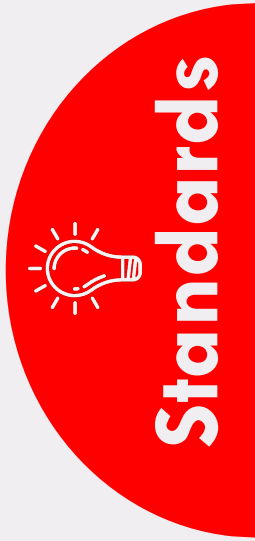
Under the London Declaration, BSI has committed to ensuring that all standards are developed in line with climate science.

Climate adaptation

Could the objective of this standard be impacted by climate change, e.g. increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events? How can this be factored into the drafting of the standard?

Climate mitigation

Does this standard relate to a significant greenhouse gas emitting sector or activity? How can these emissions be mitigated through the standard's content?



See **ISO Guide 84** for more information on incorporating climate considerations into standards development.

ISO guides

ISO Guide 51

Safety aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in standards

ISO Guide 64

Guide for addressing environmental issues in product standards – Using the environmental checklist

ISO Guide 71

Guide for addressing accessibility in standards

ISO Guide 84

Guidelines for addressing climate change in standards

Standards

- Documents developed by ISO technical committees as a resource for all those involved in drafting standards
- These are now a regular part of drafting in CEN and ISO (the environmental one is compulsory), and BSI encourages their use in national standards work
- Your Editorial Project Manager can assist in completing the associated checklists and provide a copy of the associated guidance booklet
- Weblink: https://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/Open/8389141

bsi.

Standards development process

- International standards are the preferred option if they can be completed within reasonable timescales and command the general acceptance of the international community
- International standardization is sometimes not feasible due to significant natural, economic, cultural or political factors; in these cases, standardization at a European or national level is more appropriate
- Whether a new work proposal is for international, European or UK work, the stages of development are the same:
  - A new work proposal is circulated
  - The proposal goes through a drafting stage where the text is developed and consensus is built
  - It then goes through public consultation, which allows any interested party to contribute to the project's further development
  - The comments are considered by the drafting group and incorporated into the text where appropriate
  - A final draft is circulated for approval for publication
  - Once published, the standard enters a maintenance phase where it is reviewed periodically to ensure its continued fitness for purpose, accuracy and need
  - If a revision is considered necessary, a new work proposal is created and circulated

Development cycle for UK national standards