

## Types of participation

There are varying levels of participation. For each ISO committee, Standards New Zealand will notify ISO whether we wish to be a participating member (**P**), observer member (**O**), or **non-member**.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

**Participating membership** carries the obligation of voting on all documents, and attending international meetings whenever possible.

**Observer membership** means that the New Zealand member can access limited international documentation, but is not entitled to vote on issues of interest.

**Non-member** means ISO will not notify Standards New Zealand of any standards development work related to the committee(s) in question.

P membership allows direct involvement and the ability to influence and shape content of the standard under development. This cannot be achieved with either O membership or non-member status.

In areas where there is significant interest from New Zealand stakeholders in a particular NWIP, and the commitment is there to become participating (P) members, Standards New Zealand will establish an International Review Group (IRG). An IRG can be made up of a mixture of individuals, organisations and associations. The IRG is consulted on documents circulated by the ISO technical committee to establish a New Zealand position. Standards New Zealand will also assist in the selection of a delegate, or delegates from the IRG to represent New Zealand interests at meetings.

Establishing P membership of a committee not only requires a commitment to actively participate in the technical work, there are financial obligations as well. Funding is required to cover:

- (a) travel and accommodation costs to send a delegate (or delegates) to international meetings
- (b) an annual administration fee paid to Standards New Zealand to cover costs of our coordination services and to arrange for members to receive information from a technical committee.

A funding commitment is necessary for Standards New Zealand to establish a participating (P) membership of an ISO technical committee.

For further information please contact:

**Steve Lowes**

Senior Advisor International Relationships  
Standards New Zealand  
T: +64 4 896 5137  
E: [steve.lowes@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:steve.lowes@mbie.govt.nz)



0800 782 632 | [enquiries@standards.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@standards.govt.nz) | [www.standards.govt.nz](http://www.standards.govt.nz)



Standards New Zealand  
and

ISO  
new work item proposals



# Standards New Zealand

Standards New Zealand is New Zealand's national standards body. Operating under the Standards and Accreditation Act 2015 – and as a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) – we manage the development of New Zealand standards using a balanced, transparent, consensus-led process, aligned with international practice. We also facilitate New Zealand representation on ISO committees.



## International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

ISO is a network of the national standards bodies of 162 countries, organised on the basis of one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. ISO standards are drafted by technical committees, subcommittees, and working groups, comprised of experts appointed by the national standards body members of ISO.

*... a transparent, consensus-led process, aligned with international practice*

It is important that New Zealand is aware of and participates in the work of committees where there is significant benefit for New Zealanders to participate or where there is significant risk to New Zealand industry if there is no participation.

## New Zealand participation within ISO

For the New Zealand voice to be heard at the international level, it is vital that Standards New Zealand ensures there is participation in the activities of those committees where there is potential for the greatest net benefits to New Zealand, bearing in mind that ours is a small economy and resources must be directed to priority areas. It is also important to ensure that where there is New Zealand participation, the New Zealand position on issues is thoroughly canvassed with affected stakeholders and that these views are well represented at the appropriate international standards development meetings.

## New work item proposals (NWIP)

ISO notifies the national standards bodies of potential new standards development work by way of a new work item proposal (NWIP). Standards New Zealand disseminates the NWIP information to potentially interested parties and stakeholders within the country to gauge the level of interest in participating in the standards development work.



The NWIP will identify a date by which time Standards New Zealand must vote to approve, disapprove, or abstain from the proposal. If Standards New Zealand approves the NWIP, we must also notify ISO of the type of participation we will commit to. If we disapprove the NWIP, we must provide ISO with a clear justification statement as to why we voted “no”. If Standards New Zealand receives no feedback from the potential interested parties and stakeholders, or if the positive/negative feedback is balanced, a vote to abstain will be entered.

*Standards New Zealand ensures there is participation in the activities of those committees where there is potential for the greatest net benefits to New Zealand*