



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

STANDARDS
NEW ZEALAND
PAEREWĀ AOTEAROA



Why?

commission

The benefits of funding standards



Standards and commissioners

Wherever we go and whatever we do, standards – and standardisation – touch our lives. They are an intrinsic part of the global economy: increasing productivity, boosting economic growth, minimising duplication and inconsistencies, encouraging best practice, and keeping us safe.

The development of standards is initiated and funded by commissioners from a wide range of private and public organisations. In many cases they are industry bodies or government departments.

Standards are achieved through a transparent and consensus-based approach that is independent and draws on international intellectual property. Commissioners are central to the development process, providing funding that enables widely accepted, workable, and practical solutions. Commissioning a standard or standardisation activity enables organisations to achieve goals and take innovation to market quickly and cost effectively.

Standards provide agreed specifications for products, processes, services, or performance. They're commissioned by public and private sector organisations to achieve goals, improve productivity, improve safety, and promote trade opportunities.

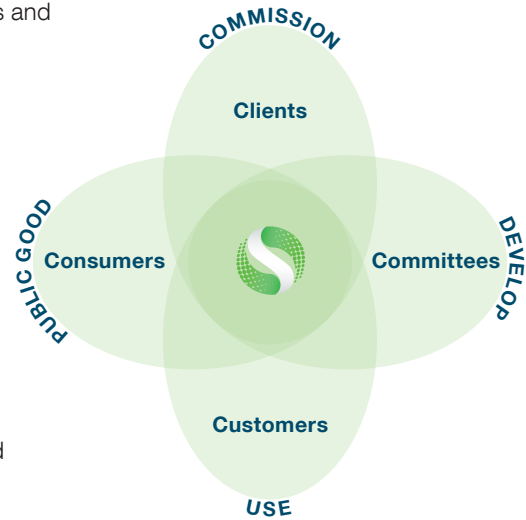


Standards New Zealand: Who are we?

We are New Zealand's leading developer of standards and standards-based solutions. Under the Standards and Accreditation Act 2015, on 1 March 2016 we became a business unit within the Consumer Protection and Standards branch of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Standards provide potential solutions to issues, resolve problems, provide a means of compliance with legislation, and create commercial benefits such as trading opportunities. We use a robust and internationally aligned process that relies on expert committee consensus and widespread consultation with affected parties, including public input.

Standards New Zealand is a self-funded, independent body that is cost neutral. We support our work by securing industry funding for the development and maintenance of standards, and through the sales of developed standards.



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What are the benefits of being a commissioner?

Achieve industry goals

Commissioning a standard enables organisations to achieve goals and take advantage of opportunities within their industry.

Reduce compliance costs

Involvement from organisations means industry partners are more likely to accept new standards, which reduces compliance costs for everyone.

Respond quickly to change

Standards can be developed and published more quickly than the time needed for legislation to be changed. In a world where rapid development of new technology means products and services are constantly changing, standards offer a responsive and flexible solution.

Standards are:

- independent, balanced, and consensus driven
- represented by a cross section of industries, across a range of sectors
- widely accepted, workable, and practical solutions
- often based on international standards, which provides a common language to trade more effectively
- internationally recognised, efficient, and effective.





‘ AJ Hackett commissioned the Code of practice for bungee jumping (AS/NZS 5848:2000), which encapsulated a body-of-expert knowledge and provided a safety code for the industry. Other private sector commissioners include Fisher & Paykel for electrical appliance safety standards, and Gallagher Group Ltd, for the standard on electric fences. ’

Why be a commissioner?

Often commissioners need solutions to address particular issues, resolve problems, provide a means of compliance with legislation, or support trading opportunities.

Standards New Zealand works closely with commissioners to identify a set of goals that are in the best interests of their industry and their customers. We work in partnership with our commissioners to support growth, competitiveness, and innovation.

In addition, commissioners have the opportunity to contribute to New Zealand's participation and hence influence the development of international standards by ISO¹ and IEC².

Solutions development options

As well as New Zealand standards, we can also offer commissioners a variety of standardisation services and other products such as handbooks, publicly available specifications, technical reports, or technical specifications. The best solution for a commissioner's particular needs is arrived at by mutual agreement.

1 International Organization for Standardization

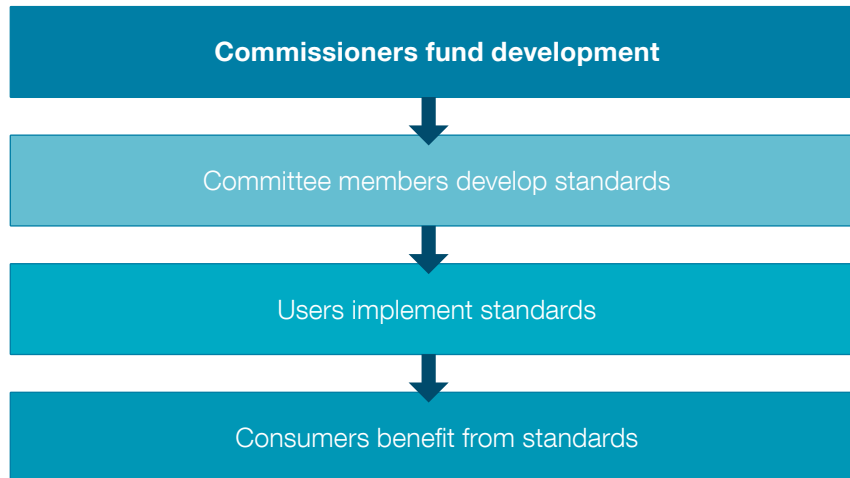
2 International Electrotechnical Commission



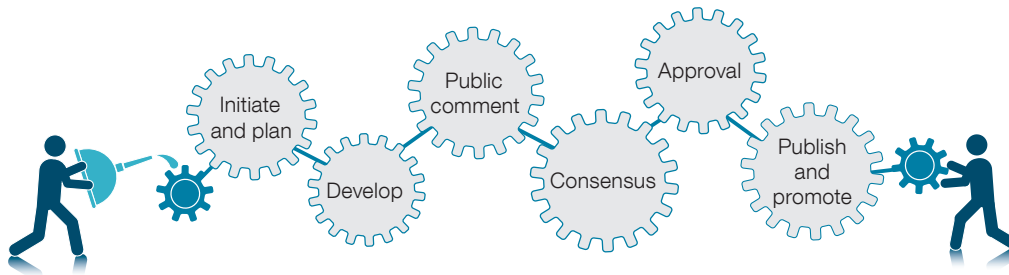
What is the role of a commissioner?

Commissioners are central to the development of new standards and to the maintenance of existing ones. Their funding helps us identify problems and opportunities within a wide range of industries and to initiate plans to develop standards solutions.

Once funding is secured we work alongside our commissioners with committees of sector experts. This process is consensus-based and involves wide consultation to ensure the content achieves the commissioner's objective and is practical and acceptable to all parties. The aim is to develop standards solutions that are robust and workable.



The commissioning process



Initiate and plan

Standards New Zealand works with commissioners to identify a problem or opportunity within a specific industry. We then develop a detailed plan and agree to a contract with the commissioner to develop the standard or standards solution. For example, Affinity Services approached us wanting to develop a standard that would complement an accreditation programme it had developed on gender and sexual diversity in employment. Commissioner Michael Stevens saw a New Zealand standard as the very best possible way to signify the importance of this work.

The rigour of the standards process gives a framework to workplaces assessing their inclusiveness and approach to the rainbow community. The standard reaches a wide range of workplaces who may not wish to take part in the accreditation programme. This standard is a world first in its area and Standards New Zealand supported Affinity Services to develop the initial content and structure of the standard.

Develop

We then approach relevant organisations from the sector to nominate committee members. Voluntary committee members develop standards by discussing and agreeing on content. Our experienced team of solutions managers is skilled and approachable, and able to draw on a wide range of experience to deliver results in world-leading time frames.

Public comment

Once the committee has agreed on the draft standard, the public is invited to submit comments. The public comment period for the review of NZS 3910 *Conditions of contract for building and civil engineering construction* resulted in over 600 comments, from minor edits to significant recommended changes. The committee carefully considers all comments, and agreed changes are made.

Consensus

The credibility and effectiveness of a standard is the result of the content being agreed to by all key parties affected by it. The committee, in consultation with the Standards New Zealand project manager, and the commissioner, makes every attempt to achieve full consensus. In rare circumstances a standard may be published without 100% positive votes, provided at least 80% are positive and a sufficient percentage of the committee has voted.

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**Michael Stevens, Project lead for
the Rainbow Tick programme**



Standards Approval Board

All documents require final approval from the Standards Approval Board, which is responsible for ensuring that the standards development process has been independent, balanced, and consensus based.

Publication and access

The standard is edited and laid out so that it is clear, unambiguous, and easy to use by the expected users.

All New Zealand standards are made available in electronic format. In addition, we also discuss with the committee and the commissioner other formats that can ensure the benefits of the new standard are widely used. This has included A4 or A5 hard copy editions with various types of binding options, compact discs for offline use, licensing for open access to the standard, and viewing or self-print options through our online library subscription service.

Standards New Zealand provides the public with a central place to purchase a standard, and any other referenced or related standards including those from overseas. Standards can be purchased online, by email or phone, or through our online subscription service. New standards are promoted throughout the sector and to our subscribers to ensure the benefits are widely recognised.





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