Standardization
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1 What is Standardization?

Standardization contributes to addressing the challenges that organisations face regarding aspects such as exports to new markets; the growing relevance of innovation and the digital world; training and education, and finally the development of corporate social responsibility to actively and voluntarily contribute to the social, economic and environmental improvement of society as a whole.

The aim of standardization is to prepare a series of technical specifications, standards, which are used by organisations in a voluntary way as a guarantee proving the quality and safety of its activities and products.

Standardization contributes to improving productivity, competitiveness and economic growth.

2 What is a standard?

As set forth in article 8 of Spanish Act 21/1992, a standard is a document of voluntary application containing technical specifications based on the results of experience and technological development. It is rooted in the consensus reached by all stakeholders involved in the activity the standard addresses, and shall be approved by a recognised standardization body.
3 The Spanish Association for Standardization, UNE

The Spanish Association for Standardization, UNE, is the only Standardization Body in Spain, and it was appointed as such by the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness before the European Commission.

The aim of UNE is to contribute to a better and more comprehensive implementation of the standardization activity and to its development, guiding at the same time the efforts of all stakeholders in their activities.

UNE is an excellent example of successful collaboration between the private sector and Public Administrations and Institutions.

In developing their activities, the members of UNE, representing almost all of the Spanish industrial sectors, are the actual engine and support of the system.

Being a member of UNE means belonging to the largest influence and knowledge-generating network in the standardization field, and favouring:

- The defence of national sectors’ interests at European and international level.
- An increased credibility and professionalism of each sector, developing recognised standards based on technological improvement and innovation.
- Technological and industrial progress, especially within the European Union framework.
- The creation of jobs and wealth in Spain.
- The visibility of its commitment to Social Responsibility.
In addition, being a member enables you to:

- **Lead** the development of European standards which facilitate access to the European single market.

- Belong to a **multisectoral contact network** at national, European and international level, favouring collaboration that can be mutually enriching for the parties involved.

- Benefit from **collaboration agreements** established between UNE and public and private entities, as well as with standardization bodies from other countries.

**Standards contribute to the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation.**
4 UNE and European and international standardization

UNE is the Spanish standardization body at the European Committee for Standardization, CEN, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, CENELEC, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, ETSI, the Pan American Standards Commission, COPANT, as well as at the International Organization for Standardization, ISO, and the International Electrotechnical Commission, IEC.

This way, participation in the UNE Standardization Technical Committees opens the door to participate in the development of European and international standards and offers the possibility to lead international standardization projects.

European standards

- Favour trade and service provision in the European market.
- Are recognised by the European Commission and by the national administrations as a means to prove compliance with legal obligations.

International standards

- Enable access to the global market.
- Are recognised by the World Trade Organization as mechanisms to prevent the emergence of technical barriers to trade.

Standardization: access to new and major markets
5 How are standards prepared?

The development of standardization projects is the result of internationally recognised processes and requires the consideration of the necessary resources for their setting in motion and implementation.

The adequate management of standardization projects ensures the transparency and openness of the process, as well as the fact that the final document is based on consensus.

The standards are prepared in Standardization Technical Committees (CTN) managed by UNE technical services and the secretariat of CTNs is generally held by a business federation or association. In addition, CTNs are made up of a series of members that provide a balanced representation of the whole value chain of the product or service to be standardized.

If you are interested in participating in UNE activities, please contact us: normalizacion@une.org

PROPOSALS

You can make suggestions or send proposals regarding standardization activities to be developed.

START

After its final approval, the standard is published and made available to the general public.

FINAL APPROVAL

The draft is subject to formal approval by the technical body in charge of its preparation and subsequently ratified by the UNE Governing Bodies.
EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS
Each proposal is evaluated by the UNE technical services and stakeholders are consulted.

PREPARING THE DRAFT STANDARD
The group of experts prepares a draft standard taking into account the interests of all represented stakeholders.

PUBLIC ENQUIRY
Once the document has been drafted, it is subject to public enquiry with a notice on the Spanish Official Journal (BOE) enabling its consultation and the possibility to issue comments.

REVIEW OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AND PREPARATION OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT
All comments received are taken into consideration by the technical body in charge and the final document is prepared.
6 Why participate?

Benefits of Standardization

Participating in standardization activities enables you to:

- Acquire detailed knowledge about standards and, thus, anticipate needs and trends.
- Influence the content of standards and ensure your specific needs are taken into account.
- Establish contact with other stakeholders, experts and regulators, both at national and international level.
- Contribute to the preparation of standards that ensure further safety, improved features, efficiency and interoperability of products or services.

Standards provide:

- Safety and trust: Complying with standards helps ensure safety and contributes an element of fundamental trust.
- Support for public policies and legislation: Regulators often refer to standards to protect the interests of users and markets, and to support public policies. Standards play a core role in the European Union policy for the Single Market.
- Interoperability: In the digitalization process, the ability of devices to work together is based on the fact that products and services comply with standards.

Companies in particular are provided with a solid base upon which they can develop new technologies and improve existing practices. More precisely, standards:

- Increase market acceptance of products or services by referring to standardized methods.
- Provide scale economies, helping to optimize business management and service provision, thus reducing costs.
- As a tool for technology transfer and surveillance, they enable access to information related to innovation results.
- Increase knowledge about technical developments and initiatives.
- Help to take into consideration environmental and social aspects, such as accessibility.

Risks of not taking part in Standardization activities

Over 90% of the standards prepared are international in scope. In this framework, the risk of not taking part is that the development of standards will not take into account the following aspects:

- National regulatory developments that already exist or that owe to particular national conditions.
- Technology developed by national companies.
- The needs of Spanish SMEs and consumers, who find it more difficult to directly participate in private fora or consortia.
What is Standardization?

If you are interested in knowing the UNE standards affecting your activity area, please contact us at:

915 294 900
info@une.org
www.une.org

LIBRARY

You can also visit our Library that provides access to the complete computerised catalogue of UNE standards at our headquarters (C/ Génova 6 Madrid). Moreover, all of AENOR delegations have a standards consultation service.

The online tool created by AENOR enables you to have the necessary standards at all times.

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