

## Speed, purpose and competitiveness

# Standards Australia's speed to market pathways

Like many organisations around the world, standards bodies face continued pressure to deliver solutions quicker to the market and keep up with new technologies and products.

To deal with the increasing demand for speed to market, Standards Australia provides alternative solutions to Australian Standards for use where a technical document is required, and traditional consensus standardisation may not deliver the optimal solution, at the right speed.

The two main speed to market paths available are through the development of a Technical Specification and Interim Standard.

## Technical Specification

### Key benefits

- 1** Faster to develop, can be published within months
- 2** Lower consensus requirement
- 3** Early guidance on good practice standards for a product, service or process
- 4** Opportunity to shape and build credibility in the market
- 5** Provides a sound foundation for an Australian Standard

The Technical Specification pathway is a fast-track reduced consensus standardisation option to progress technical guidance to market quickly, without compromising quality.

The Technical Specification option may be suitable in a subject field where the subject matter or the regulatory environment is undergoing rapid change and where the speed of delivery, rather than full consensus, is of importance.

Publishing a Technical Specification can help Australia take advantage of technological advancements, as well as provide expert guidance to increase confidence around a new product or process.

### Developing a Technical Specification: Step-by-step

#### 1. Project proposal

The proposal should identify the need for the work and experts to be involved in the drafting work.

See [Submitting a Proposal](#)

#### 2. Project approval

Standards Australia will consider the key criteria including net benefit to the Australian community, level of support and resourcing required.

#### 3. Delivery

A steering group of experts and stakeholders, selected from industry and led by Standards Australia, develop the Technical Specification.

The Technical Specification is subject to limited peer review with the option of going to public comment.

# Interim Standard (Hybrid process)

## Key benefits

- 1 Can halve the development time that would be involved with a 'full' Australian Standard
- 2 Allows the market to adapt and provide feedback
- 3 Equips the market while still progressing through the consensus standards development process
- 4 A mechanism to collect public feedback on a subject field

The Interim Standard pathway allows for the publication of technical guidance while the usual process for developing an Australian Standard would continue in parallel.

After finalising the drafting, the Interim Standard is available for market use and at the same time, it is submitted for a nine weeks consultation period. Once the consensus Australian Standard is published, the Interim Standard is superseded by the new publication.

The Interim Standard option may be suitable in a subject field where not all requirements are readily available or where reduced consensus is appropriate.

Publishing an Interim Standard provides both a guide to the direction that future standardisation in the specified area may take and a mechanism to collect public feedback on the subject.

## Developing an Interim Standard: Step-by-step

### 1. Project proposal

The proposal should identify the need for the work and experts to be involved in the drafting work. See [Submitting a Proposal](#)

### 2. Project approval

Standards Australia will consider the key criteria, including net benefit to the Australian community, level of support, and resourcing required.

### 3. Delivery

The Interim Standard is developed by a technical committee that consists of individuals who are nominated by organisations that represent the views and notions of large groups of stakeholders with a common area of interest.

The Interim Standard follows the same process to develop a 'full' Standard except in our hybrid path, at the time of publishing the Interim Standard, it is also released for Public Comment, progressing through the consensus process.

## Who can drive the development of a Technical Specification and Interim Standard

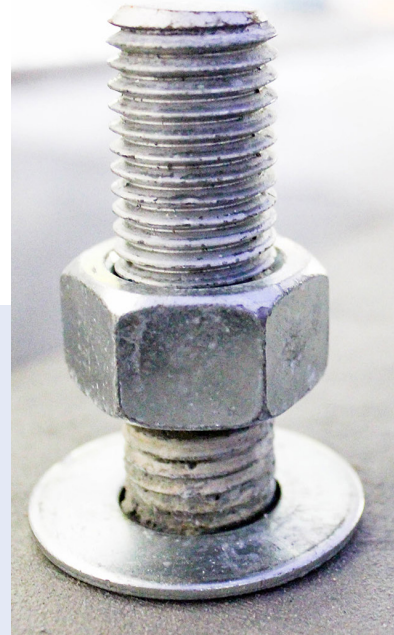
- An industry association or representative body
- A government department, agency, or statutory body
- A business or individual

Standards Australia [accepts proposals](#) at any time throughout the year.

## What we do

Standards Australia is the nation's peak standards development body, developing Australian Standards® to support and create value for Australian businesses. Standards Australia has been helping to make Australian communities safer, growing our economy and connecting our nation to the world for nearly 100 years.

Standards Australia brings together experts across a range of fields, who provide their insights and capabilities to create Australian Standards which help industries work safely, sustainably and more effectively. We work with industries all across the country, connecting the right people with technology and the solutions to innovate and improve their work ultimately delivering a positive outcome for Australia as a whole.



### CASE STUDY

## Concrete fastenings

A select group of stakeholders, including the Australian Engineered Fasteners and Anchors Council, worked with Standards Australia to address a critical safety area relating to anchorage into the concrete.

There was a need to get guidance out to the market as soon as possible, and the technical specification SA TS 101:2015, *Design of Post-installed and cast-in fastenings for use in concrete*, was created.

The National Construction Code then referenced the technical specification as a deemed-to-satisfy solution.

The next iteration of SA TS101:2015 went on to become a full Australian Standard.

### CASE STUDY

## Aluminium composite panels

Fires in Australian high-rise buildings highlighted the fire safety risks posed by aluminium composite panels with a 100% polyethylene core. Governments sought a fast solution to the permanent labelling of aluminium composite panels.

The kick-off to publication was a short three months, and the published document was then immediately posed for referencing in Australia's National Construction Code.

## Assistance and support

For further information or if you have any queries, contact a [Stakeholder Engagement Manager](#).