# Blue header graphic containing the signature for Accessibility Standards Canada and the Government of Canada wordmark.

# Accessibility Standards Canada’s Standards Development Process

Accessibility Standards Canada develops and revises accessibility standards. We are an accredited standards development organization. This means our standards are recognized as National Standards of Canada.

The standards we create apply to [federally regulated organizations](https://accessible.canada.ca/about-us#fedRule). This includes federal government departments and agencies, banks, federal courts, and others. Our standards set out how these organizations can identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility. Our standards are voluntary unless the Minister chooses to adopt them into regulation. In that case, they become mandatory.

Our Board of Directors decides the priority areas for the standards. The Board also approves the selection criteria and terms of reference for the technical committees that we create to develop accessibility standards.

[Here you will find an illustration of the standard development process.](https://accessible.canada.ca/creating-accessibility-standards/standards-12-steps)

Each technical committee has a specific area of focus. Each committee:

* identifies where people with disabilities may face barriers related to their area of focus
* develops a national standard, or suite of standards, aimed at eliminating these barriers.

Technical committees make decisions using a consensus-based approach. The members include experts, persons with disabilities, and industry representatives. They are Canadian citizens or employees of an organization with Canadian interests.

Having balanced representation on committees is key. It ensures committees represent diverse views. The Standards Council of Canada defines balanced representation as “a representation of interest groups in a technical committee such that no single category of interest can dominate the voting procedures.”

To further balance our committees, we require that people with disabilities make up at least 30% of the members. This ensures they can add their expertise and knowledge.

Each committee has 12 to 18 members. They may represent any of the following:

* people with disabilities
* industry and commerce
* federal, provincial, and territorial governments and authorities
* consumers and the public interest
* labour and unions
* academic and research bodies
* non-governmental organizations
* standards development organizations
* federally regulated public sector organizations
* federally regulated industries and workplaces
* private sector firms and
* municipalities.