

# WHY COUNTRIES ADOPT IEEE STANDARDS

Voluntary technical standards have a significant role in international exchange of products and services as they allow products and services of all kinds to be used in a wide range of contexts across countries and manufacturers. In addition to being used for safety and reliability, they support technical regulations, ensure interoperability, grow markets, and address fast-moving and converging technologies. IEEE, as a focal point for various technologies and as an organization willing to share expertise with standards developers worldwide, encourages the adoption of IEEE standards by countries from around the world.

IEEE standards enable international technical collaboration and are fundamental to the global technological infrastructure. They are developed in an open, bottom-up process and reflect the best experience of industry, researchers, consumers, regulators and more. IEEE standards are globally relevant and available for use and implementation, and adoption by countries through their National Standards Bodies (NSBs)<sup>1</sup>.

## Countries adopt IEEE standards for various reasons, including:

- Contributing to their National Standards Strategy
- Referencing in regulations
- Addressing national differences
- Filling gaps in their standards portfolio

## This helps them:

- Identify standards for national development
- Facilitate global interoperability
- Strengthen their standards portfolio, especially when there are limited resources
- Support their standards harmonization efforts

An IEEE standard can serve as a base for a country to develop its own standard, through following its standards adoption processes and taking responsibility for the resulting National Standard. Country-specific changes may be allowed, at IEEE’s discretion, and we also allow for translation of the adopted standard.

Countries and NSBs adopt IEEE’s voluntary technical standards through the IEEE Standards Adoption Program. For more information on the program, see our [Adoptions webpage](#).



<sup>1</sup> A National Standards Body (NSB) is a country’s main standards body representing a country’s national economic and social interest with the aim of improving the quality and safety of products, services and systems by enabling the creation of standards and encouraging their use.

**ABOUT THE IEEE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION**

The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) is a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE. We develop consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. IEEE has a portfolio of over 1,500 active standards and over 650 standards under development. IEEE standards are made available for implementation in products and services as needed by businesses and governmental bodies and many are foundational for entire ecosystems. IEEE standards are available to other SDOs for direct adoption at the international, regional, or national level.

**GLOBAL, CONSENSUS STANDARDS, DRIVEN BY TECHNICAL MERIT, ARE CREATED THROUGH PROCESSES THAT ENSURE DIRECT AND OPEN PARTICIPATION, WHICH IN TURN FOSTERS INNOVATION.**

**WE ENTER INTO ADOPTION AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNTRIES, INCLUDING:**

South African Bureau of Standards

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