



HSbooster.eu
Horizon Standardisation Booster

Standards and Market

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Importance of Types of Standards

- Standards support industry **competitiveness** by assisting with the codification and dissemination of **new knowledge and innovations**, helping to improve products and services, ensuring **interoperability** and **enabling trade**.
- They also help businesses to demonstrate to regulators and customers (**the Market**) that their products and services meet defined (**requirements**) safety, quality, environmental and lately security standards.
- Standards are therefore an **essential business tool**, and failure to make full use of standards and participate in standards development can **inhibit industry competitiveness** at individual firm, sectoral and regional levels.

Types of Standards

- **Product standards** cover various **features** of products and often refer to **characteristics** related to **quality** and **safety**, or to aspects that ensure their **interoperability** with other related products or security features.
- **Process standards** refer to the **conditions** under which products and services **are to be produced, packaged or refined**
- **Management system standards** assist **organisations to manage their operations**. They are often used to help create a framework that then allows the organisation to consistently achieve the requirements that are set out in product and process standards.
- Increasingly, **service standards** are also emerging as a discrete type of standard. They are typically developed to ensure a consistent 'minimum' standard of quality in the provision of a service, and to clarify the rights and responsibilities of both the provider and the user of the service.

Standards can also be broadly divided into '**formal standards**' or '**informal standards**', depending on the structure within which the process of developing the standard takes place:

- **Formal standards** are developed at the International, European or national level by one of the recognised **official standardisation bodies** which include for instance the **International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)**, the **European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)** and **National Standards Bodies (NSBs)**. International Standards have become **critical to the trading process**, ensuring a level playing field for exports, and ensuring imports meet internationally recognised levels of performance and safety.
- **Informal standards** developed by industry associations, groups, for a and individual businesses.
- The vast majority of standards are **voluntary** in the sense that they are offered for adoption by people or industry but without any legal requirement that they are used. Some standards become mandatory when regulators specify that compliance with a standard is a legal requirement.

The benefits of Standards

Standards and standardisation support innovation, growth and competitiveness across Europe.

- Standards can support **innovation** and promote the **adoption of new** technologies.
- Standards play a particularly useful role in disseminating **knowledge** in industries where products and processes supplied by various providers must interact with one another. Here, standards facilitate the introduction of innovative products by providing **interoperability** between the new and the existing products, services and processes.
- Standards have an important role to play in supporting the **competitiveness** of European businesses in **the global market**, by helping to **improve the products and services** they provide, and by **enabling access to foreign markets** and businesses.

Thank you

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