Standards Council of Canada
Conseil canadien des normes

The Value of Standardization for Government and Regulators

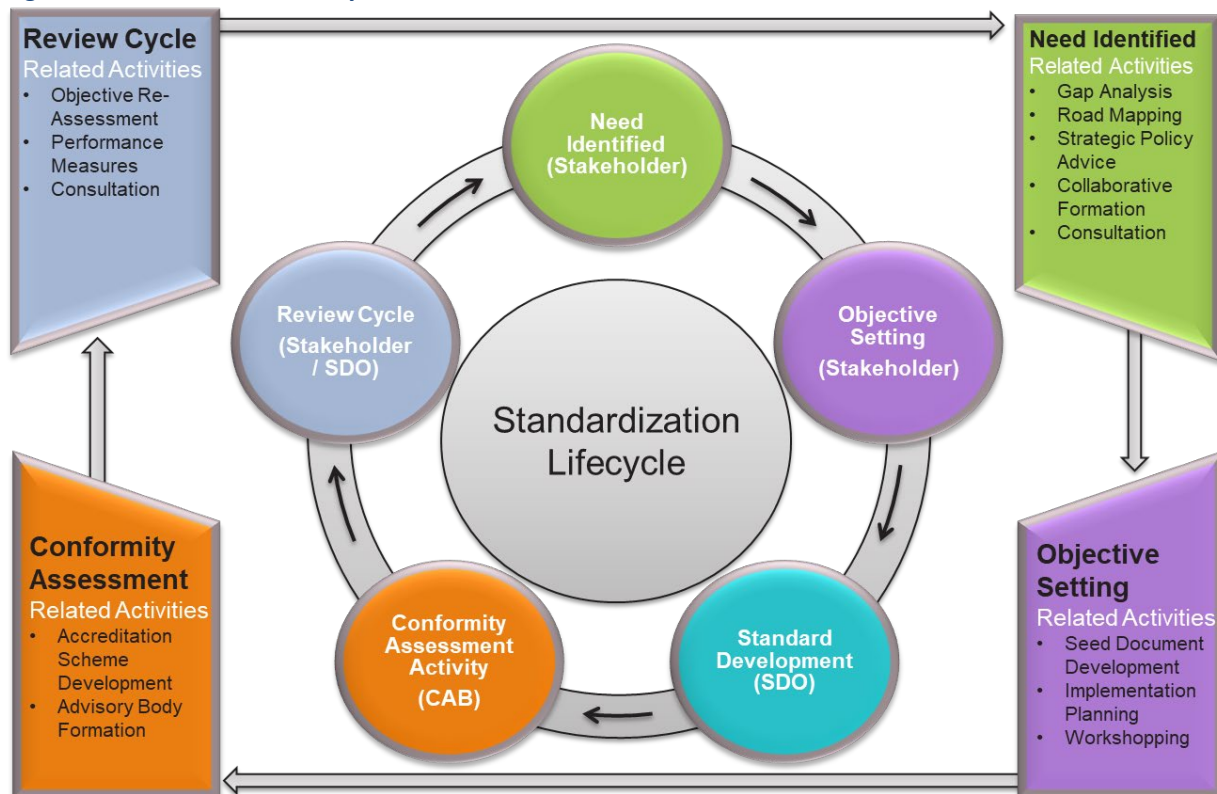Standards and Conformity Assessment as Policy Tools

The Value of Standardization for Government and Regulators
Standards and Conformity Assessment as Policy Tools

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) supports Canadian governments to leverage standardization and conformity assessment strategies to meet policy and regulatory objectives. Standardization has an established value for government, including:

- Cost-effective compliance via an established infrastructure;
    - Reliable and credible development process (balanced consensus matrix);
    - Rigorous review and regular updates to standards;
- Reducing burden on industry of regulatory compliance;
- Enhancing alignment between jurisdictions and reduces technical barriers to trade;
- Satisfying Canada's international commitments and trade requirements;
- Contributing to red tape reduction (time/costs); and
- Reflecting globalization of supply chains and logistics.

Standards development and conformity assessment activities are flexible tools that are aptly suited for many regulatory environments and objectives. Standards are developed to meet a stakeholder need or objective, such as performance requirements for a new technology or access to new markets. Standards are often developed and used to inform requirements for third party conformity assessment. These activities undergo a cyclical review to ensure that they continue to meet stakeholder needs, uphold public health and safety, and facilitate trade.

Figure 1 - Standardization Lifecycle

Review Cycle
Related Activities
- Objective Re-Assessment
- Performance Measures
- Consultation

Need Identified
Related Activities
- Gap Analysis
- Road Mapping
- Strategic Policy Advice
- Collaborative Formation
- Consultation

Conformity Assessment
Related Activities
- Accreditation Scheme Development
- Advisory Body Formation

Objective Setting
Related Activities
- Seed Document Development
- Implementation Planning
- Workshopping

Need Identified (Stakeholder)

Review Cycle (Stakeholder / SDO)

Objective Setting (Stakeholder)

Standardization Lifecycle

Conformity Assessment Activity (CAB)

Standard Development (SDO)

Canada

SCC, as Canada's National Standards and Accreditation Body, adapts international guidelines for standard development and conformity assessment to the Canadian context; such as incorporating language and geographic considerations. SCC-accredited standards development organizations (SDOs) use a transparent and accessible consensus-based process designed to balance the interests of diverse stakeholders. Once published, standards are cyclically monitored and maintained in order to ensure that they remain relevant and reflect the latest scientific trends in innovation and technology.
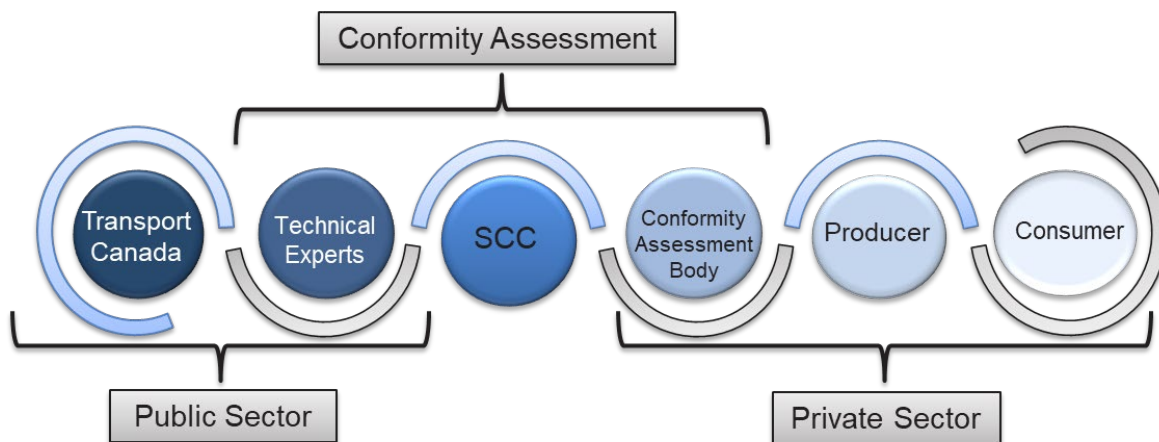
SCC accredits conformity assessment bodies (CABs), such as testing laboratories and product certification bodies, who determine whether a product, service or system meets specific requirements. SCC's accreditation assures stakeholders that SDOs and CABs are competent to perform the work for which they are accredited and are compliant with the requirements of their accreditation.

Regulators can utilize standardization in several ways, such as incorporating standards by reference in regulations, recognizing SCC accreditation, and participating in standard development activities – all of which support a strong regulatory system that fosters innovation and trade while ensuring the highest levels for health and safety. Governments can leverage standards to meet regulatory objectives in an accessible, transparent, and industry-led fashion by:

- Participating in Domestic and International standards development
- Incorporating standards by reference in regulations
- Recognizing SCC's accreditation

SCC facilitates the use of standardization and conformity assessment solutions to bridge gaps in the value chain – which can reduce liability and increase trust and transparency, as illustrated by the model for conformity assessment below.

Figure 2 - Model Value Chain for Conformity Assessment

Working with the public sector to set policy and/or regulatory requirements, SCC supports the public and private sectors in setting and meeting these requirements through conformity assessment activities, such as inspection or certification. The following page provides a number of SCC tools and services available to Canadian governments and regulators.

Customized Strategic Standardization Support
Tools and Services for Governments

The Standards Council of Canada provides strategic and operational support to Canadian governments to ensure the effective implementation of standardization strategies. SCC offers a suite of services and tools, in addition to its [Accreditation Services](#), aimed at supporting policy and regulatory decision; these tools and services include, but are not limited to:

- ***Strategic Advisory Services***
  - Supporting government and regulators with standardization strategies and advice on how to leverage standards, conformity assessment, and accreditation;
  - Providing guidance on incorporating standards by reference in regulations to support public policy objectives;
  - Performing standards research and analysis, including general or sector specific environmental, market, industry, and standards landscape;
  - Developing guidelines, program requirements, and program management material (i.e., roadmaps, gap analysis, etc.);
  - Providing advice on strategic standards-related areas, including trade, regulatory cooperation, health and safety, and environmental protections.

- ***Coordination and Facilitation Services***
  - Forming and managing multi-stakeholder collaboratives and/or advisory bodies to inform objective setting and standardization activities;
  - Administering and monitoring program or project delivery for standardization strategies;
  - Facilitating development and training for accreditation program requirements;
  - Facilitating bidding opportunities for the development of National Standards of Canada;
  - Coordinating domestic and international standardization opportunities, including standards development participation.

- ***Available Tools for Regulators***
  - Preparing reports and inventories of standards referenced in federal, provincial and territorial regulations;
  - Databases of standards, other recognized documents, and accredited bodies;
  - Notification of standards development activities in specific sectors or areas.

Please contact Alejandro Trujillo, Manager, Regulatory Affairs for more information.

About the Standards Council of Canada (SCC)

The Standards Council of Canada is a federal Crown corporation and part of the Innovation, Science and Economic Development portfolio. We oversee Canada's national standardization network and facilitate the development and use of national and international standards and accreditation services in order to enhance Canada's competitiveness and well-being. Standards help to ensure better, safer and more efficient methods and products, and are an essential element of technology, innovation and trade.

Alejandro Trujillo, **Manager, Regulatory Affairs**
(613) 238-3222 ext. 460 | atrujillo@scc.ca | https://www.scc.ca/en/information-for/regulators