

# What you should know about **STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT**

A standard is a voluntary, consensus-based document that establishes uniform criteria, methods, processes and practices for products and systems.

NSF International's standards development group led the development of 100 voluntary American National Standards under the scope of public health, safety, environment and sustainability assessment.

Standards development organizations (SDOs) are accredited by a standards body (SB) to ensure the SDO meets the essential requirements for openness, balance, consensus and due process.

To maintain accreditation, SDOs must consistently adhere to a set of requirements or procedures that govern the consensus development process. This includes rigorous audits and oversight to prevent conflicts of interest.

The process of developing content can take months or, in some cases, years.

NSF's dual roles are approved by the national accreditation bodies entrusted to maintain appropriate checks and balances, including ANSI and SCC.



**A risk or threat to public health is identified.**

Contaminants, such as lead and arsenic, found in public and private water supply systems.



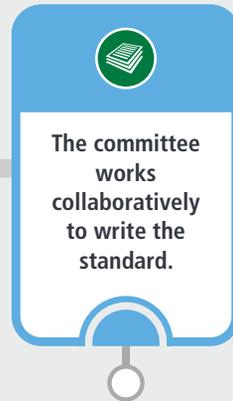
**Stakeholders approach an SDO to develop a standard.**

NSF International began developing water filtration device standards in the 1970s, covering material safety, structural integrity and contaminant reduction testing for products used in residential and commercial buildings.



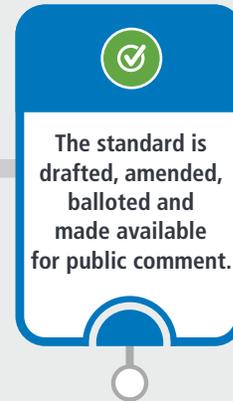
**The SDO assembles a committee.**

The committee is comprised of users, regulatory and industry.



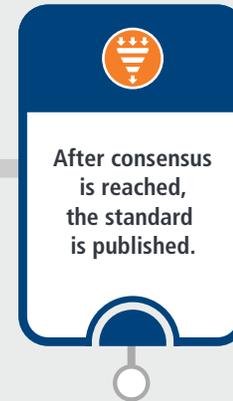
**The committee works collaboratively to write the standard.**

The SDO's role is to convene the committee and supervise the process to ensure the development of a fair and balanced standard.



**The standard is drafted, amended, balloted and made available for public comment.**

Before NSF's SDO will finalize a standard, NSF's Council of Public Health Consultants (CPHC) serves as the independent, public health ratification step at the end of the process and provides final review and acceptance.



**After consensus is reached, the standard is published.**

A standard developed by an SDO is open and public. Any advisory or certification body (CB) will be able to use it and any advisory firm will be able to provide guidance based upon it.



**A standard can guide an organization to implement changes to processes or product design, or guide public health officials in reviews.**

Any accredited 2nd or 3rd-party organization can provide voluntary audits, testing or certification to verify compliance.

It's common for organizations with an accredited SDO to also provide independent, professional services that operate entirely separate from the SDO. NSF is one of many SDOs that develops standards and provides professional services in support of those standards to protect public health.

**For nearly 75 years, NSF International's mission has been to protect and improve human health.**

We do that in many ways. We facilitate the development of voluntary consensus-based standards, and we also test and certify products in the food, water, health sciences and consumer goods industries to minimize adverse health effects and protect the environment.

Separately, we also provide professional advisory services.

**Our goal is protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the health care products we use, the air we breathe and the environment we live in.**

We are also committed to transparency in standards development. If you have any questions about our standards or the standards development process, email [info@nsf.org](mailto:info@nsf.org) or visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

