

EUROPEAN STANDARDS EXPLAINED

Referenced with the “EN” code before their number

Standards are all around us and have an impact on workers, citizen welfare and the environment

European standards provide **definitions, rules and guidelines** for the design and performance of products, the delivery of services or the management of systems. They are developed by **interested stakeholders** under the umbrella of the **European standardisation organisations**. They provide a level playing-field on the European market, and contribute to consumer and environmental protection. They sometimes act in support of **legislation**.

Representing national positions on a specific standard

CENELEC* for electronic & electrotechnical matters, ETSI* for ICT & telecommunications and CEN* for all the rest!

Standards are increasingly used to support the implementation of European laws and policies in areas of public interest such as the environment



WHY SHOULD ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ENGAGE IN STANDARDISATION?

European standards are everywhere and impact both society and the environment. They can also serve as a tool to deliver better environmental performance of products, processes and services, and sometimes act in support of legislation.

European standards define the criteria and conditions for product biodegradability. The more ambitious such standards are, the less harmful the overall environmental impact of these products.

The energy efficiency of home appliances is measured according to the methodologies provided in European standards. These must reflect real-life conditions and help meet EU energy efficiency targets.

Environmental NGOs can make standards environmentally ambitious and better for society, while ensuring their alignment with political goals.

HOW TO DO IT?

ECOS, the European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation, will be happy to provide you with the information and tools necessary to get involved.

ECOS is an international network of environmental organisations, working to influence the development of ambitious standardisation, legislation and political strategies to promote a low-carbon transition to circular economy, energy and resource efficiency respecting planetary boundaries, as well as to combat climate change. ECOS has been promoting NGO engagement in standardisation for nearly 20 years.

For more information visit www.ecostandard.org and follow our free online course on standardisation: www.standards4all.eu

