



ASTM INTERNATIONAL AND CANNABIS STANDARDS

Key Information for Regulators

ASTM International has been a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards for **120+** years. More than **30,000** technical experts from across **150** countries come together to develop, write, and support standards in our **147** technical committees. ASTM members represent producers, testing labs, government regulators, trade groups, medical professionals, engineers, consumers and consumer advocates, trade groups, and academics. Balance amongst members participating in the standards development process is vital to ensure multiple viewpoints are considered.

Our **13,000+** ASTM International standards cover more than **90** different industry sectors such as petroleum, metals, paints, plastics, textiles, construction, the environment, consumer products, aviation, additive manufacturing, medical devices, and much more

What is An ASTM Standard?

A standard is a document that has been developed and established within the consensus principles of ASTM's procedures and regulations. These documents take one of six approaches: test methods, specifications, practices, guides, classifications, or terminology. Standards provide information to regulators, manufacturers, laboratories, retailers, and consumers. They enhance safety, reliability, and performance of the products, processes, and services consumers use. Voting on an ASTM standard is balanced, preventing excess influence by any interest group.

How Are Standards Used?

The benefits of standards are many: aligning best practices, maintaining uniformity, avoiding duplication of efforts, and building trust. Standards make their mark on almost every product, process, and service, including common things like housing (building codes), food (organic food, sanitary requirements, can sizes), clothing (sizing and labels), household appliances (safety, energy consumption, and reliability), public health (medical devices and equipment) and many others.

How Are Standards Used in Laws and Regulations?

When compliance with a standard is not mandated by law, market participants observe standards simply because it is in their interest to do so — standards improve the quality of products, processes, or services, reassure customers, and open up global markets.

The content of voluntary standards may also be incorporated by reference directly into government statutes and regulations and then must be followed as a matter of law.



Standards Incorporated by Reference Key Examples

Federal Regulations

The ASTM Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety standard (ASTM F963) sets guidelines and test methods to prevent injuries related to choking, sharp edges, magnet ingestion, flammability, and more. When the landmark U.S. Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act was signed into law in 2008, ASTM F963 became mandatory, stating that all toys in the United States must meet F963 safety requirements.

State Regulations

The amusement ride industry is regulated at the state level, similar to the cannabis industry. ASTM International Committee F24 develops standards for amusement ride design and manufacturing, testing, operation, maintenance, inspection, and quality assurances. F24 members include manufacturers, engineers, designers, technicians, park owners and operators, regulators, inspectors, biodynamic experts, industry association representatives, consumer advocates, and others. In lieu of federal regulations, several countries and 40 of 50 U.S. states have adopted ASTM amusement standards to establish ride safety regulations and inspection programs.

This well-respected approach saves government time and resources and encourages robust public/private collaboration to develop standards and test methods that meet stakeholder needs.

Do Regulators Participate in Standards Development?

Yes, federal government agencies are actually encouraged to participate in standards development organizations per the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA).

Furthermore, NTTAA requires federal government agencies to use standards developed by voluntary consensus standards organization such as ASTM International whenever possible. Using voluntary consensus standards means the government can avoid the costs of developing its own standards. Additionally, OMB Circular A-119 reinforces the goals of the NTTAA and clarifies that agency representatives can participate, vote, and even lead activities.

While on the state level there is no uniform policy like the NTTAA, state government employees regularly participate in ASTM committees. Currently, more than 300 state government employees from departments such as transportation, agriculture, and healthcare are members of ASTM committees.



Advancing the Cannabis Industry with Standards

Standards are critical to advancing the cannabis industry. Validated analytical testing methods and access to accredited laboratories are crucial to maintaining product safety and quality and most importantly, consumer trust. Standards also ease the burden on trade regulations – when common standards are used, governments know the products being imported meet health and safety standards.

ASTM Cannabis Standards Adopted in Regulations

State regulators have already adopted standards for Determination of Water Activity (aw) in Cannabis Flower (**ASTM D8196**) and the International Symbol for Identifying Consumer Products Containing Intoxicating Cannabinoids (**ASTM D8441**). In addition, the National Conference on Weights and Measures is considering adopting the standards for water activity (**ASTM D8196** and **ASTM D8197**) into their handbook for industry and regulators.

ASTM International Committee D37 on Cannabis

ASTM Committee D37 on Cannabis has a membership of **1,100+** industry experts. These members are actively engaged in the development of cannabis standards that directly serve the needs of all stakeholders in the cannabis industry.

Our D37 subcommittees bring together a balanced cross-section of industry experts including cultivators, processors, producers, distributors, regulators, researchers, laboratories, consumers, and business owners.

D37 members hail from over 30 countries and include representatives of key advocacy groups such as:

- the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA)
- Americans for Safe Access (ASA)
- American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp (ATACH)
- Doctors for Cannabis Regulation (DFCR)
- European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA)
- Hemp Industries Association (HIA)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- the National Research Council of Canada (NRC)
- Health Canada
- United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

Consensus is Key

Core to ASTM International is the concept that consensus is key to standards development. As a participating committee member, you have the chance to review and vote on new cannabis and hemp standards as well as important revisions to existing standards.

ASTM D37 on Cannabis Subcommittees include:



- indoor/outdoor horticulture and agriculture
- lab testing and operations
- security and transportation
- industrial hemp
- quality management
- processing and handling
- labeling
- sustainability
- personnel training/credentialing
- devices and appliances
- government liaison
- diversity, equity, and inclusion

We Welcome You to Participate



Contribute and Stay Informed

As a D37 member, you'll be the first to know about new and proposed cannabis and hemp standards. Should a standard become a means of compliance, you'll already have key knowledge of how or why a standard was developed and its benefits.

Our **Government Liaison Subcommittee (D37.92)** provides an open forum to discuss safety issues for cannabis and provide guidance on the need for new standards. As a member, you can interact with fellow state, federal, and international regulators through harmonized discussions on the important issues.



How to Get Involved

If you're not ready to join, you can still attend one of our D37 semi-annual meetings. Non-members can also contribute to one of our task groups currently working on dozens of proposed new cannabis standards.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A D37 MEMBER
astmcannabis.org/become-a-d37-member/

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