



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

ASHRAE STANDARDS

STRATEGIC PLAN

Approved by StdC July 2, 2014

Table of Contents

Vision	3
Mission	3
Strategic Plan	4
Direction 1 Anticipate Industry Needs	3
Actions	3
Direction 2 Maintain Leadership in Standards.....	3
Actions	3
Direction 3 Collaborate With Others	4
Actions	4
Direction 4 Promote Adoption of ASHRAE Standards	4
Actions	4
Direction 5 Promote International Use of ASHRAE Standards	4
Actions	5
Review and Revision	5

ASHRAE Standards Strategic Plan 2014-15

VISION:

To support ASHRAE's preeminence as the global technical resource in the heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigerating (HVAC&R) industry and the public at large by developing standards and guidelines that meet the needs of users and are recognized as the leading documents on the topics they address.

MISSION:

To provide support, oversight and guidance that enables the timely and efficient development of relevant documents within the Standards Committee's purview by leveraging ASHRAE's unparalleled core technical expertise in HVAC&R systems with its broad expertise associated with the built environment.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This strategic plan has been formulated to provide consistent and forward looking guidance to the Standards Committee to ensure that the efforts of the Society have the largest possible impact on our built environment while considering the in time and effort associated with their development and maintenance.

Direction 1 – Anticipate HVAC&R Community Needs: Proactively identify needs that can be met or issues that can be addressed by developing new or revising existing standards. ASHRAE will view the market for its standards and guidelines as dynamic and continuously changing. As such, ASHRAE's standards and guidelines must not only anticipate these changes but respond and adapt to ensure their relevance in the marketplace. ASHRAE is committed to regularly evaluating its current portfolio of standards and guidelines and assessing whether or not they are serving the needs of the users of these documents and the public at large. (This direction supports the ASHRAE Society's Strategic Plan Strategies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.3, and 3.9.)

Actions:

1. Solicit input inside and outside of ASHRAE to identify both current gaps and emerging needs for future standards. Internally, this effort will involve engaging Technical Committees (TCs) and other ASHRAE Committees, such as the Chapter Technology Transfer Committee (CTTC) and Research Promotion, to identify HVAC&R community needs and to foster a more strategic view and consideration of ASHRAE standards. Externally, this effort will involve interaction with key national organizations and other SDOs.
2. Standards Committee will conduct a formal evaluation of ASHRAE's existing standards portfolio in order to assess whether they are effectively serving the needs of the industry. Standards that are not meeting industry needs (or are marginally meeting needs) will trigger either Title, Purpose, and Scope (TPS) revisions with corresponding changes to the standard or the standard will be withdrawn.

Direction 2 – Maintain Leadership in Standards: Leveraging our HVAC&R expertise, develop and maintain ASHRAE standards in a leadership position. For existing ASHRAE standards, we will drive their continuous improvement while ensuring they are relevant, effective, cohesive, adoptable and usable. (This direction supports ASHRAE Society’s Strategic Plan Strategies: 1.6 and 3.3.)

Actions:

Near Term:

1. Improve coordination between standards project committees to avoid duplication of effort and ensure the purpose and scopes of ASHRAE’s standards are properly aligned. Explore the use of tools, such as a “standards taxonomy,” to more effectively categorize ASHRAE’s standards so that potential overlaps and gaps can be identified.
2. Refine procedures and processes to (a) improve the quality of standards, (b) improve the simplicity and utility of standards, (c) use volunteers’ time more efficiently,(d) improve succession planning and mentoring within Project Committees (PCs), and (e) reduce the time required to complete new and revised standards and addenda while maintaining the consensus process.
3. Encourage project committees to include usability as a criterion when drafting revisions or developing new Standards Committee Documents (SCDs), and to include tools to increase understanding such as informative annexes with examples and templates in all standards (and potentially including compact discs containing templates or spreadsheets), and user’s manuals for large standards.

Intermediate Term:

4. Improve the utilization and encourage the use of electronic communications and collaboration tools in order to expedite the development of standards documents.
5. Reach out to YEA members and students to educate them on the role and importance of standards and guidelines in our industry. Encourage them to get involved in the standards development process.
6. Encourage performance-based paths to enable innovative approaches to solving HVAC&R design challenges.

Direction 3 – Collaborate with Others: Improve and expand collaboration with other industry, trade and professional organizations and other agencies. (This direction supports ASHRAE Society’s Strategic Plan Strategies: 3.3, 3.7, and 4.2.)

Actions:

1. Identify and document organizations and agencies that use or refer to specific ASHRAE standards in their own standards, codes and/or regulations.
2. Identify organizations and agencies relevant to ASHRAE’s standards and encourage their representatives to actively be involved in the development of ASHRAE standards as either organizational members or individual voting members so that their needs can be considered when a standard is initially developed or revised.

3. Participate in the processes of relevant organizations and agencies to ensure that ASHRAE standards are used directly and, if not directly, ensure the criterion published is consistent with ASHRAE standards.
4. Regularly review work being done by other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) that impact ASHRAE interests and provide appropriate input to their standards development.

Direction 4 – Promote Adoption of and Compliance With ASHRAE Standards: Increase adoption and use of ASHRAE standards in model codes and regulations. Provide tools and resources that enable users of ASHRAE standards evaluate compliance. (This direction supports ASHRAE Society’s Strategic Plan Strategies 2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1 and 3.3.)

Actions:

1. Identify standards suitable for adoption in model codes and regulations.
2. Assist PCs to develop standards that can be adopted by reference in model codes.
3. Establish relationships with model code developers so they automatically rely on and adopt ASHRAE standards by reference.
4. Assess what tools and resources are needed to enable users and others to evaluate and ensure compliance with ASHRAE standards.
5. Conduct an assessment to determine whether there is a market for a credentialing program that would certify individuals to verify compliance with ASHRAE standards.

Direction 5 – Promote International Use of ASHRAE Standards: Strengthen ASHRAE’s ties to international standards development organizations and implement strategies that will increase adaptation and adoption of ASHRAE standards around the world. (This direction supports ASHRAE Society’s Strategic Plan Strategy 4.9.)

Actions:

Near Term:

1. Promote ASHRAE standards globally where ASHRAE standards are relevant.
2. Create a mechanism for reviewing international interest in ASHRAE standards and supporting translation or other modifications to ASHRAE standards that make them more suitable for adaptation or adoption for use in different countries.
3. Provide training and support to ASHRAE members working to promote adaptation or adoption of ASHRAE standards internationally.

Intermediate Term:

4. Consider the needs of international users when developing the requirements of ASHRAE standards.

5. Consider possible international adoption and use of an ASHRAE standard an integral part of the process for considering the development of a new standard or revision of an existing standard.

REVIEWS AND REVISION:

One of the duties of the Standards Committee Vice-Chair will be to form a small ad hoc committee to review the strategic plan each year and recommend revisions. It is the duty of the Standards Committee Chair and ExCom to formulate MBO's that will cause the elements of the strategic plan to be implemented.

Standards Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee:

Rick Hall, Vice Chair
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