
ADA STANDARDS PROGRAM FAQs

WHAT IS THE ADA STANDARDS PROGRAM?

The ADA, an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Developer, sets standards for nearly every product and technology used in dentistry, ensuring their safety, predictability, reliability and efficacy. In addition, standards make products and systems work effectively together (interoperability) for the dental profession and the public. The ADA Standards Program is the driving force behind establishing a dental profession that works in sync with the dental industry. Participation in this program puts you on the leading edge of:

- Establishing how dental products and technologies are defined;
- Setting expectations on how certain products and technologies should perform; and
- Understanding the big picture of how these products and technologies work together.

Over 400 volunteers from the profession, academia, government and industry participate by providing their expertise in 12 subject matter specific Consensus Bodies (CB) and their affiliated Working Groups (WG). There are over 190 national product and informatics standards either published or in development. CBs also cast the U.S. vote on all international dental standards under ISO Technical Committee (TC) 106 on Dentistry.

WHAT ARE THE CONSENSUS BODIES?

- CB 1: Restorative and Orthodontic Materials*
- CB 2: Prosthodontic Materials*
- CB 3: Terminology & SNODENT*
- CB 4: Dental Instruments*
- CB 5: Infection Prevention and Control*
- CB 6: Dental Equipment*
- CB 7: Oral Hygiene Products*
- CB 8: Dental Implants*
- CB 9: CAD/CAM in Dentistry*
- CB 10: Forensic Odontology*
- CB 11: Dental Data Structure and Exchange
- CB 12: Artificial Intelligence & Knowledge Management*

* Denotes CBs that will review and develop the US position and vote on ISO/TC 106 standards.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A CONSENSUS BODY MEMBER?

CBs have the ultimate authority in approving national standards documents developed by their respective subject matter WG for publication and possible submission to ANSI to become American National Standards (ANSI/ADA). They can recommend new work items for development to the ADA Standards Program Oversight Committee and also act as the US Technical Advisory Group providing the US position on all ISO/TC 106 standards.

CBs hold virtual meetings at least once annually where their WGs report on the status of their work and the work of their related WGs in ISO/TC 106.

How Do I Join?

You may join a CB as a voting or observer member. Voting membership is subject to approval in order to maintain a balance of interest categories. Members of a CB shall consist of U.S. national interested parties (companies, organizations, government agencies, or individuals domiciled in the US) having a direct and material interest in one or more of the activities of the CB. CB members serve two-year terms that may be renewed. Voting members may join as official representatives of a company / organization / government agency, etc. (letter of support required) or as individual representatives. Voting membership for official representatives is limited to one voting member and two alternates. Voting membership for individual representatives do not include alternates.

What Are Voting Member Responsibilities?

Voting members must attend at least one out of every two consecutive CB meetings. Proxies may be appointed for all meetings and count towards the attendance requirement. Those who miss 2 consecutive CB meetings will automatically be assigned to observer status. Voting members must vote on at least 2/3 of all ballots, including approval of national dental standards and the U.S. position on international dental standards. Abstentions count as active participation. An audit of participation will be conducted on an annual basis. Failure to meet this minimum requirement will result in being assigned to observer status. All participants may reapply for voting membership.

WHAT IS A WORKING GROUP?

There are almost 70 WGs organized under the CBs. WGs are granular in the subject matter they cover in the standards deliverables they develop. You may join a WG as a

voting or observer member. Voting membership is subject to approval in order to maintain a balance of interest categories. WG members are all individual representatives, and no supporting documentation is needed to join. Voting membership is limited to one voting member with no limit to the number of observers per company / organization / government agency. WGs collaborate on developing drafts of standards and voting members approve the draft to go to the next steps.

WHAT ARE THE MEMBERSHIP INTEREST CATEGORIES?

All applicants must self-declare their interest category as part of the application process. The options are:

- **Consumer:** A member who purchases or utilizes materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of the document(s) developed or a member who represents a consumer group shall be classified as a consumer. Individuals in this interest category include dental professionals, clinical consultants, patients, etc.
 - **Producer:** A member who is employed by or represents a company/organization that produces, sells or distributes materials, products, systems, or services covered in the scope of the document(s) developed shall be classified as a producer. Individuals in this interest category include manufacturers, those involved in supply chains, industry consultants, dental benefit providers, etc.
 - **General Interest:** A member who does not fit into any of the preceding categories, for example: university faculty, noncommercial academicians, government agency, dental laboratory representatives, employees of test labs, or research experts.
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ARE THERE ANY FEES TO PARTICIPATE?

There are no fees to participate for Consumer or General Interest members.

Producer members pay the following annually to participate in any group that reviews international standards (no fees for CBs 3, or 5):

CB Membership

- Voting: \$660
 - Includes 1 primary voting and 2 alternate members on CB; 1 primary voting and unlimited observers in all WGs under that CB
- Observer: \$330 (no alternates)
- Premium Voting (All CBs): \$4950
 - Includes 1 primary voting and 2 alternate members on all CBs; 1 primary voting and unlimited observers in all WGs

Individual WGs Only (if not on affiliated CB)

- Voting: \$165 (no alternates)
- Observer: \$85

I WORK FOR A COMPANY / ORGANIZATION / GOVERNMENT AGENCY, ETC. SHOULD I JOIN A CONSENSUS BODY AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVE?

We encourage you to speak with your company / organization / government agency, etc. to be represented on a CB and for their support to appoint you as their representative. A letter of support will be required in order to list you as their representative. If this is not possible, you may join as an individual representative.

I FALL INTO THE PRODUCER INTEREST CATEGORY. CAN I JOIN A GROUP AS AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVE?

If you are a producer member, you can only have one voting representative per company even if joining as an individual representative. If you are joining as an official representative of your company, you will need to have a letter of support from your company naming you as their representative on a CB (2 alternates allowed for voting members). At the WG level, everyone is considered an individual representative, however the one voting member rule still applies. Other individuals from the same company can join as observers. Voting memberships are subject to approval in order to maintain a balance of interest categories.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH GROUP(S) TO JOIN¹?

WGs are organized under CBs. If you want to participate in the writing and developing of a standard on a particular topic, you will want to join the specific WG(s) in your area(s) of interest and expertise. If you want to have the opportunity to cast an official vote on whether that standard gets approved for publication, you will want to join a CB.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VOTING AND OBSERVER MEMBER?

The only difference in terms of participation is that a voting member casts a vote on any ballots as well as may represent the US at an ISO meeting as a US delegate. At the CB level, this means you are able to cast a vote on the US position on international dental

standards and on whether national standards documents developed in their WGs are approved for publication and possible submission to ANSI to become American National Standards (ANSI/ADA). At the WG level, you get to cast a vote on whether a draft is ready for the next step, i.e., All Interested Parties (AIP) Review. Both voting and observer members are able to comment. There is also a difference in fees for producer members between voting and observer memberships.

DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF A CONSENSUS BODY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE ON A WORKING GROUP?

You do not need to be a member of the CB to join a WG.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

This depends on the number of groups you join and how active those groups are. CB voting members are expected to review and vote on all proposed standards deliverables and ballots. If you are a member of a CB, your participation in at least one meeting every two years is required although you may appoint a proxy to fulfill this requirement. WG voting membership may be dependent on how active you are and is at the discretion of the WG chair.

HOW OFTEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

While encouraged, no travel is required as the ability to designate a proxy is available at in-person meetings. Meetings will also be supplemented with the opportunity to participate in standards development online through the ADA Standards Program document sharing platform, ADA Connect.

I DO NOT LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. CAN I STILL PARTICIPATE?

International persons are not eligible for memberships on CBs that develop the US position on international standards (all CBs except CB 11) unless from a U.S. branch office of a foreign company registered or authorized to do business in one or more U.S. states or territories. International members may participate as observers on individual Working Groups.

HOW DO I PAY MY FEE TO PARTICIPATE?

Once your application is received, an invoice will be sent for electronic payment.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE ADA STANDARDS PROGRAM PROCEDURES AND CONSENSUS BODY MEMBERSHIPS?

These are available to interested parties upon request by emailing standards@ada.org.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Review the **ADA Standards Program Structure** and choose which CB(s) and/or WG(s) you would like to join. If you are joining a CB as an official representative of a company / organization / government agency, etc., obtain a letter of support for your appointment as their named representative.

Review the **Read Before Starting Application** before filling out the application so you have everything you need to fill the application out at once. When ready, fill out the application and copyright assignment [at this link](#).

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

We're here to help! Send any questions to standards@ada.org.