ACA Blueprint 5

Where We Are with Accessible Standards Canada

Accessibility Standards Canada

Accessibility standards are voluntary and represent best practice recommendations in each priority area under the Accessible Canada Act. Standards guide activities of organizations in a way that is consistent across sectors. It means people can expect the same level of service or quality of products.

Board of Directors

Accessibility Standards Canada's Board of Directors:
- sets its strategic direction
- oversees its activities; and
- provides advice to its Chief Executive Officer, a Governor in Council appointee

Technical Committees

Technical Committees are responsible for developing accessibility standards and include experts, persons with disabilities, and industry representatives. Technical Committees will identify barriers to accessibility in their respective topic areas and develop a national standard or standards that will try to remove or prevent these barriers.

Standard

A standard guides activities of organizations in a way that is consistent across sectors. It means people can expect the same level of service or quality of products.

Regulations

Regulations are rules used to carry out the intent of statutes (Acts) enacted by the Parliament of Canada. Accessibility standards will be published and submitted to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. The Minister will consider making them mandatory by adopting them into regulations. Standards can be legally enforced only if they become regulations.

Timeline

August 26th, 2019
Accessible Standards Canada is appointed.

July 8th, 2020
Call for applications to the Technical Committees for Plain Language and Outdoor Spaces.

August 4th, 2020
Deadline for applications to the Technical Committees for Plain Language and Outdoor Spaces.

November 27th, 2020
Technical Committee for Plain Language appointed.

December 2nd, 2020
Call for applications to the Technical Committees for Employment and Emergency Egress.

December 11th, 2020
Technical Committee for Outdoor Spaces appointed.

December 21st, 2020
Deadline for applications to the Technical Committees for Employment and Emergency Egress.

March 29th, 2021
Technical Committees for Employment and Emergency Egress appointed.

March 31st, 2021
Call for applications to the Technical Committee for a Model Standard for the Built Environment.

April 23th, 2021
Deadline for applications to the Technical Committee a Model Standard for the Built Environment.

May, 2021
The first annual public meeting of Accessibility Standards Canada titled "Nothing without us" was held to invite Canadians to share thoughts and ask questions about accessibility areas related to Accessibility Standards Canada's mandate.

November 25th, 2021
Call for applications to the Technical Committees for Wayfinding and Signage, and Emergency Measures.

November 30th, 2021
Accessible Standards Canada announces that they will collaborate with the Canadian Standards Association to create 3 standards:
- Accessible design for automated banking machines and self-service interactive devices;
- Accessible design for the built environment; and,
- Accessible homes

January 14th, 2022
Deadline for applications to the Technical Committees for Wayfinding and Signage, and Emergency Measures.

January 20th, 2022
Accessible Standards Canada shares their Board's vision for a Canada without barriers, with their Roadmap to 2040 – A plan to guide the work of Accessibility Standards Canada.

Interested in learning more?

Check out CCRW's other ACA blueprints: [Link to be added](#)

Questions? Please contact:

Meghan Kelly | National Manager, Business Solutions

✉ mkelly@ccrw.org