

Non-Voting Government Observers to the IEEE-SA Standards Board (SASB)

Why did the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) create the role of government observers to the IEEE-SA Standards Board (SASB)?

With the increasing intersection of technology and policy, it is imperative for IEEE-SA to strengthen its connections with governments. The key goals for the program are:

- Increase understanding and support from governments of open and global standards, including IEEE standards
- Gain input from government experts in Standards Board discussions
- Engage with countries from around the world to receive global perspectives

What will be the role of the government observers?

- Participate in Standards Board meetings as observers to see first-hand how IEEE standards are developed and to share their views
- Provide written information reports to the Standards Board
- Provide verbal reports upon their request and upon approval from the SASB Chair

What are the anticipated benefits for the government observers?

Government observers can help shape the activities of the IEEE-SA, leading to mutual benefits for the observers and the IEEE-SA. Benefits include:

- An opportunity to obtain first hand, timely information from the IEEE-SA about its activities and plans, including through email notifications
- An opportunity to influence the direction and priorities of the IEEE-SA – a global standards developer
- The ability to interact and share views with other government observers and thought leaders
- An opportunity for direct interaction with IEEE-SA volunteer and staff leadership, both locally and globally

What level should the observers be in their ministry (or agency)?

As the Standards Board focuses on the standardization process and ongoing standardization work, an observer at the Director or Head of Unit level is expected to benefit the most from participation. Standards Board meetings are open for attendance, so the ministry may send as many attendees as it wishes. For this program, the aim is to invite one regular observer who would attend Standards Board meetings regularly and build knowledge of IEEE's standardization and technical activities.

The program aims for one government observer per country. What happens if there is interest from multiple persons or ministries?

Generally speaking, the ministry nominating the observer should be responsible for standardization or for a range of technologies that is relevant to IEEE. Should more than one ministry from a country be interested, the IEEE-SA can accommodate that to ensure relevant participation.

Do the observers have to attend all Standards Board meetings?

The IEEE-SA encourages government observers to attend all Standards Board meetings – to build knowledge of the process, share information, and engage with the other government observers. However, it is understood that some government observers will have limited funding for travel and may only be able to attend when the Standards Board is in their country, or on the same continent.

Does IEEE provide funding support to government observers?

No. The IEEE doesn't provide funding support for Standards Board members or other liaisons/observers to attend Standards Board meetings.

What meetings should observers consider attending?

The **IEEE-SA Standards Board (SASB)** is responsible for the following:

- Encouraging and coordinating the development and revision of IEEE standards
- Approving the initiation of IEEE standards projects
- Reviewing IEEE standards projects for consensus, due process, openness, and balance
- Giving final approval to IEEE standards prior to publication and
- Processing all necessary appeals.

It has established committees to do some of this work:

- **Audit Committee (AudCom):** This committee reviews policies and procedures of the technical standards working groups with the goal that all IEEE standards committees have fair and open processes and procedures, and that they comply with them.
- **New Standards Committee (NesCom):** This committee reviews Project Authorization Requests (PARs) before new standards activity can start, to ensure that the activity is within the scope and purpose of IEEE.
- **Standards Review Committee (RevCom):** This committee reviews the process documentation (votes, comment resolution, etc.) for the development of a proposed standard. A recommendation to the Standards Board to Approve/Publish a standard is based on an assessment that all procedural requirements have been satisfied.
- **Procedures Committee (ProCom):** This committee drafts new procedures or refinements to existing procedures of the IEEE-SA as necessary.

- **Patent Committee (PatCom):** This committee addresses patent issues of standards working groups and provides oversight for the use of any patents and patent information in IEEE standards.
- **Industry Connections Committee (ICCom):** This committee reviews activities under the Industry Connections Program, which helps incubate new standards and related products and services by facilitating collaboration among organizations and individuals as they refine their thinking on rapidly changing technologies. Deliverables of this program include:
 - Proposals for standards
 - White papers
 - Peer-reviewed guides and position papers
 - Conferences, workshops and other events
 - Databases and registration services
 - Software, tools and web services
 - Other jointly developed results

Government observers are encouraged to attend all meetings that are of interest to them.