

European equivalent, CEN, and its electrotechnical sister organization CENELEC.

In 2001 BSI celebrated its Centenary and a year later signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Her Majesty's Government.

Today, more than 100 years on, BSI has over 5,500 employees worldwide and operates in over 100 countries. There are over 20,000 current British standards and 2,000 new or revised British, European or international standards are produced by BSI each year.

Our role as an NSB

As well as developing British Standards in response to demand from businesses, government or consumer groups for standardization in the UK, a significant part of BSI's role as the UK's National Standards Body is to represent UK interests in European and

international fora. Some British Standards (BSs) go on to become European or international standards (ENs or ISOs). The world's most famous series of standards ISO 9000, for example, began life as a British Standard.

An important aspect of the work of British Standards is the creation of European Standards (ENs). The EU relies heavily on the standardization to reduce technical barriers to trade for products and services whilst assuring appropriate levels of safety and performance. BSI provides a means to participate in European standards activities through the two European Standards Organizations: the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). All European Standards are adopted as British Standards.

BSI is also a leading member

of the worldwide federations of national standards bodies: the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). ISO and IEC represent 148 countries worldwide. They promote the development of standardization to aid international exchange of goods and services and the UK decides whether to adopt these international standards.

Standardization in the UK

As the National Standards Body, British Standards would facilitate the development of standards through the consensus of expert representatives from businesses, industry, government, academia, consumers and other societal groups.

What is a standard?

A standard is a published document that contains a technical specification or other precise criteria designed to be used consistently as a rule, guideline, or definition.

