

The Four “W”s of ASTM

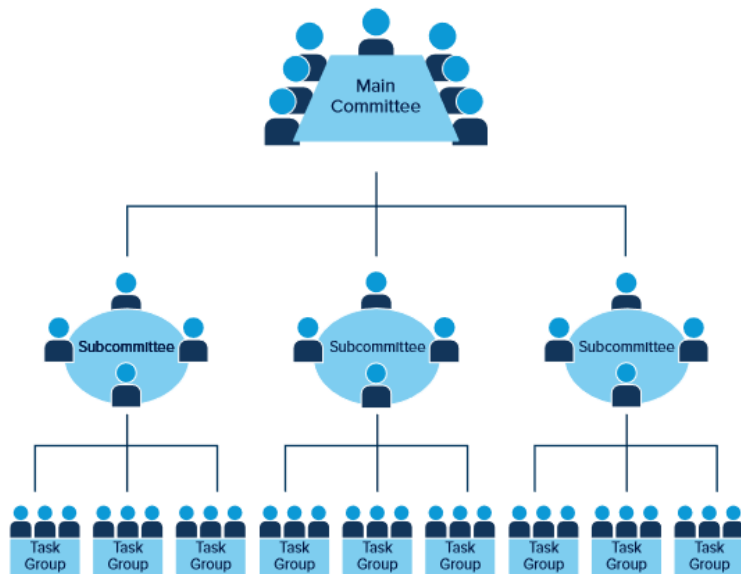
Who: ASTM is the American Society of Test Methods. It is an international standards organization that began as a consensus of professions who came together to standardize the quality of steel for railroads in the late 1890’s. ASTM members come from all areas of industry, science, technology and business. Committee membership is equitably distributed to reflect a balance of opinions from various industry positions. There are several classifications of member interest including: Producer, User, Consumer, General Interest. There are three divisions of committees in ASTM: Main, Sub & Task Group. The committees include groups such as Cement, Plastic, Steel, Declarable substances, Consumer safety and many more.

Committee Structure

Main Committee:
 Each main committee is a semi-autonomous group approved by the ASTM Board of Directors and is responsible for developing standards in a given subject area.

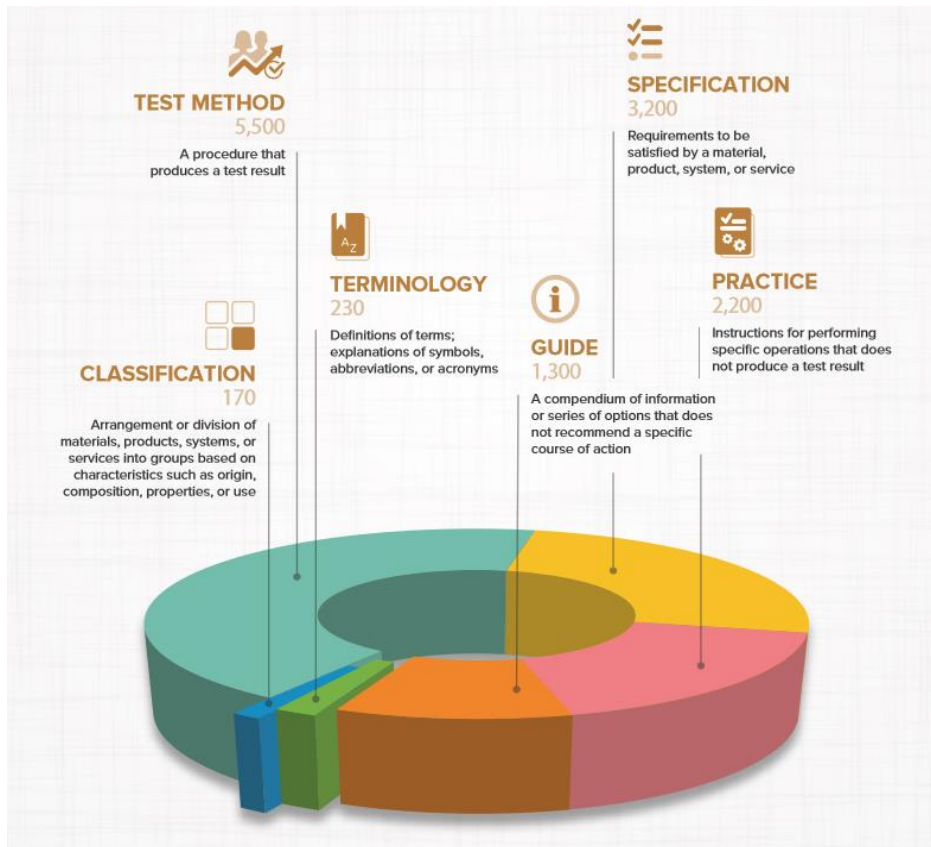
Subcommittees:
 Are formed as needed to address specific subjects or areas within the scope of the main committee. These areas include technical as well as administrative and strategic planning functions.

Task Groups:
 Task groups are small working groups responsible for a specific assignment (development of a draft standard or implementation of an interlaboratory study) within a given time period. Task group members need not be members of ASTM.



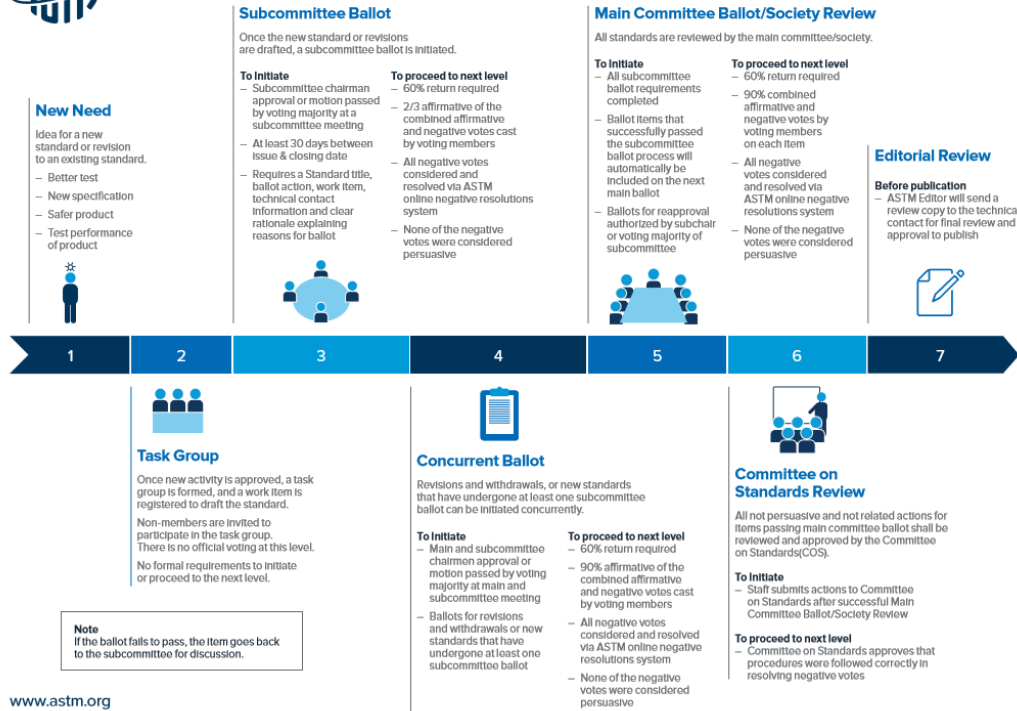
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What: ASTM provides consensus standards to the manufacturing and testing world for all types of products. Standards and other technical documents are created by working groups and sections by consensus and are balloted for discussion and voting. There are six types of documents produced by ASTM through their committees.



from ASTM

When: ASTM committees, subgroups and task groups meet twice a year to discuss new standards, or review current standards. ASTM documents are reviewed every five years at which time they are updated, decommissioned or replaced. When new standard needs arise a task group is created to work out the methods and submit them through a balloting process.



Where: The central location of ASTM is in Conshohocken, PA but meetings for committees occur all around the world with the most frequent meetings occurring in the United States. Most of the work of ASTM comes online and through conference calls and webinars where task groups meet to discuss points of contention or discussion within standards. The standard receives a designation which details the information as to what it is about and which committee created it.