

ASEAN Harmonised Standards

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
1. How do I know that a standard is harmonised in ASEAN?	Standards that ASEAN Member States have harmonised are listed on a database accessible at http://atr.asean.org/
2. Why does ASEAN harmonise standards?	ASEAN harmonises standards as a means of facilitating intra-ASEAN trade and supporting the mutual recognition arrangements for testing and certification and the harmonisation of regulatory regimes. Harmonisation of Standards part of ASEAN's efforts in supporting the ASEAN Economic Community's plan for an integrated market.
3. What are ASEAN Harmonised Standards?	<p>ASEAN Harmonised Standards are standards on the same subject, agreed for adoption by all ASEAN Member States, that are identical in technical content and structure. (Corresponding to IDT standards as defined in <i>ISO/IEC Guide 21-1 Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables — Part 1: Adoption of International Standards</i>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note: Technical deviations are not permitted. Editorial changes that do not alter the technical content may however be present.</p> <p>International Standards that incorporate clearly identified technical deviations that are clearly identified (classified as MOD adoption in <i>ISO/IEC Guide 21-1</i>) will be considered as ASEAN Harmonised standards provided there is an agreement by all ASEAN Member States to adopt the standard with the same technical modifications.</p>
4. Are all ASEAN Member States obliged to adopt ASEAN harmonised standards as national standards?	<p>Adoption as a national standard means that an ASEAN Member state has published the standard as a national standard or, alternatively a Member State uses the reference international standard directly. In both cases all competing national standards on the same subject are withdrawn by the Member State.</p> <p>The nature of obligations depends on the particular standard. Adoption as a national standards is obligatory if the standard is referenced in an ASEAN mutual recognition arrangement or an ASEAN agreement on harmonised regulatory regime and harmonisation is an obligation in the particular agreement. It should be noted that some ASEAN MRAs do not oblige Member States to harmonise standards.</p> <p>However if the particular standards is not referenced in a such agreements, while adoption is encouraged, but not an obligation. Member States may plan for a</p>

	transition period for the adoption. Member states may, as an alternative, choose to directly use such harmonised standards without direct adoption as national standards.
5. How do I know if an ASEAN Member State has adopted an ASEAN harmonised standard ?	The information is available on the database accessible at http://atr.asean.org/ .
6. Are ASEAN Harmonised Standards published by ASEAN?	ASEAN does not usually publish harmonised standards. In some cases, where there are no copyright restrictions, ASEAN Harmonised Standards are available in electronic copy at a link stated in the harmonised standards database.
7. How do I obtain copies of ASEAN harmonised standards?	The ASEAN Harmonised Standards database provides a link to the publisher/distributor for the particular standard where these may be purchased from. Alternatively, these may be purchased through each ASEAN Member States national standards bodies.
8. Are ASEAN Harmonised standards available free of charge?	Normally no. Most ASEAN Harmonised Standards are copyright documents, these have to be purchased from the publisher or from the national standards body of a Member State. Standards that have no copyright claims are usually available for downloading at links provided to the ASEAN harmonised standards database.
9. How does ASEAN decide to harmonise standards?	The decision to harmonise standards in ASEAN is made by sector specific working groups under the direction of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Conformance (ACCSQ). The decisions are made by consensus to support programmes for trade facilitation, removal of technical trade barriers and harmonisation of regulatory regimes.
10. Are all ASEAN Harmonised Standards based on international standards?	Most ASEAN Harmonised standards are based on international standards. However in the event that such standards are deemed to be unsuitable or are unavailable alternative national and regional standards may be selected as the basis for harmonisation. International standards, in this context, are standards that comply with the principles for international standards as elaborated in Section 3 of G/TBT/1/Rev.12 (https://www.wto.org/)
11. When is an ASEAN Harmonised Standard listed in the harmonised standards database?	Harmonised standards are listed on the ASEAN Harmonised Standards database when a decision is made to harmonise to a particular standard. There will be a transition time before all ASEAN Member States can harmonise their national standards. Details of which Member states have harmonised their national standards is available on the database (http://atr.asean.org/)

12. Who manages the listing of ASEAN Harmonised Standards?	The listing of harmonised standards is managed by the ASEAN Secretariat.
13. Where do I get more information on ASEAN Harmonised Standards?	The ASEAN Guidelines on Harmonisation of Standards is provides more information and this is available for viewing and downloading on the ASEAN Harmonised Standards database.
14. What is the official language of ASEAN Harmonised Standards?	The official language is English.
15. Are ASEAN Harmonised Standards available in the official languages of ASEAN Member States?	ASEAN Member states may translate the ASEAN Harmonised standards to their official national languages. Users are advised to contact the respective national standards bodies for this purpose. The contact details are provided on the ASEAN Harmonised Standards database.
16. How do find out information on ASEAN Member States' national standards bodies.	The links to ASEAN Member States' national standards bodies are provided on the ASEAN harmonised standards database.