

Standardization and Accessibility for All

A new ISO/IEC Guide has been published this month with the aim of ensuring that standards developers take full account of the accessibility needs of users from all walks of life.

ISO/IEC Guide 71:2014 (*Guide for addressing accessibility in standards*) provides practical advice to standards developers so that from the start, they can address accessibility in standards that focus, either directly or indirectly, on any type of system that people use. It covers mainly the accessibility needs of children, older persons and persons with special needs.

Standardization can impact the design of products, services and environments and can therefore play an important role in advancing the cause of accessibility for all. Children, older persons and persons with special needs are important users and consumer groups. Their needs should be systematically addressed when standards are developed or revised. Standards that take into account the needs of such users will have broader impact and greater market relevance, helping to make products, services and environments more accessible and usable for everybody

Guide 71 has three main aims:

- Help designers, manufacturers and educators gain a better understanding of the accessibility requirements of an increasing part of the population;
- Increase the number of standards containing accessibility considerations, with perhaps a greater number focusing specifically on accessibility;
- Integrate accessibility features into standards – and product or service design – from the outset.

ISO/IEC Guide 71:2014 is [freely available to download](#).