

What is an ASTM Technical Committee?

Technical Committees develop and maintain ASTM International standards. They are grouped by designation according to related activities within a particular scope of work (ex: A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys). ASTM Committees are made up of volunteer stakeholders from industries and include manufacturers, regulators, testing labs, consumers, academia, and others with a general interest. Any interested stakeholder can participate on an ASTM Technical Committee through membership. Non-members can attend and contribute in drafting standards, but are not allowed to vote.

Each technical committee in ASTM has the same, basic 3-tiered structure (ex: main committee, subcommittees, and task groups) as indicated by the diagram below.

Committee Structure

Main Committee:

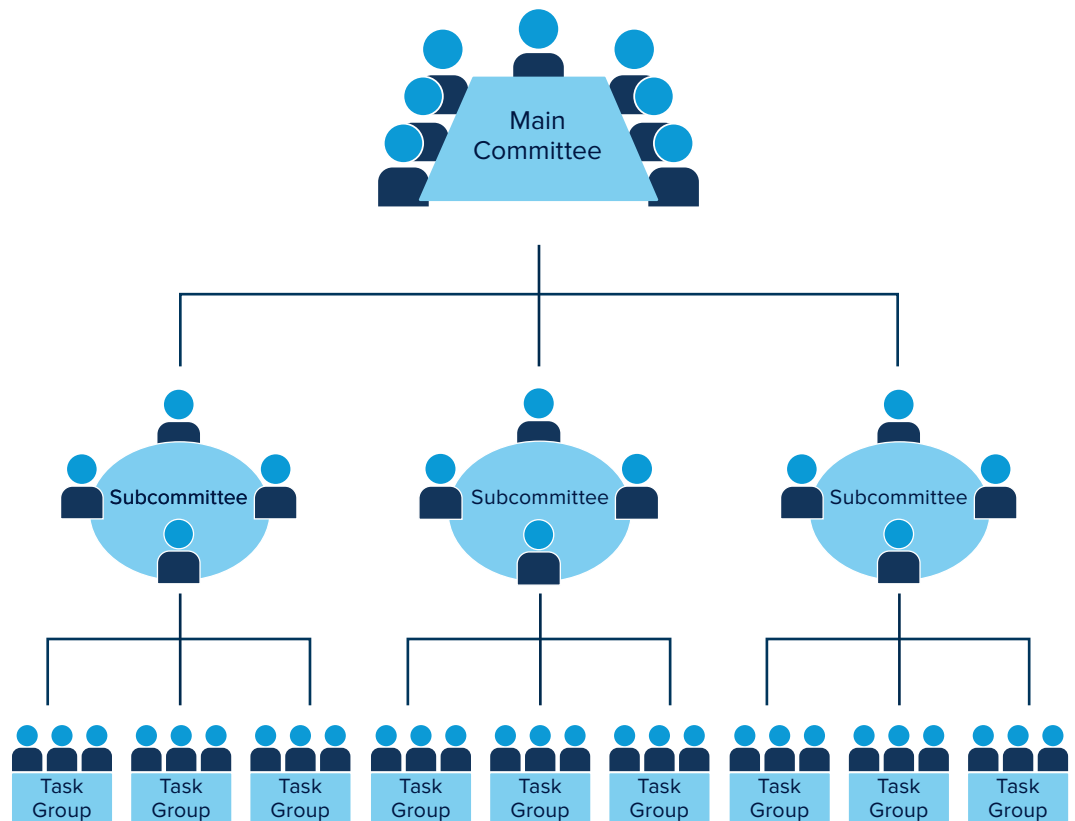
Each main committee is a semi-autonomous group approved by the ASTM Board of Directors and is responsible for developing standards in a given subject area.

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.



There are four main committee officer positions: chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and membership secretary. At the subcommittee level, a chairman (and occasionally a vice chairman or secretary), is appointed by the leadership of the main committee. For a description of the main and subcommittee officer responsibilities, refer to the ASTM Officer Handbook.