



Understanding Why Gender Matters in Standardization

Michelle Parkouda, Ph.D., Manager, Research
2022-03-31

Standards
Council
of Canada

Open a world of possibilities.

Canada



What are Standards?

A standard is anything that tells you how to do, test or identify something. E.g.:

- ISO/TR 12349-1:2015 Road vehicles — Dummies for restraint system testing — Part 1: Adult dummies
- ISO/TR 12349-2:2015 Road vehicles — Dummies for restraint system testing — Part 2: Child dummies



UNECE WP.6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies



The Declaration, “acknowledge[s] that representation of women in standards development is almost always below parity and that the outcomes for men and women are not explicitly addressed during the standards development process.”

“Safety issues do not distinguish between men and women, hence when writing our requirements we do not need to distinguish whether a man or a woman shall be protected.”

“We are working on technical products/issues. Our products are neither male nor female nor diverse.”





Women are Not Small Men

The failure to consider women in research and policy-making, among other areas, has had dire consequences for women – and men. E.g.:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Medical research
- Voice recognition



When One Size Does Not Protect All: Understanding Why Gender Matters for Standardization





What's Being Done to Improve Gender Responsiveness in Standards?



- Gender action plans (see for example [SCC's plan](#))
- [UNECE guidelines](#) on how to develop gender responsive standards
- ISO/IEC initiative on gender-responsive standards development

For more information please contact:

michelle.parkouda@scc.ca