

Leadership in standardisation – China

From standards taker to standards shaper

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China after 2000 - From standards taker to standards shaper

Adoption

International standards support industrial development and trade

Participation

Experts, proposals and leadership positions build technical influence

Shaping

Domestic ecosystems and new cooperation institutions help set future agendas

From Infrastructure to Rule-Making

China connects industrial upgrading, domestic governance and international standardisation

China's strategic approach to standardisation

Standards as strategic infrastructure

Industrial upgrading, product quality and indigenous innovation capability.
Common interfaces and test methods support resilient supply chains.

Standards as governance mechanisms

Technical rules support safety, environmental protection and public services.
Testing, certification and supervision connect standards with implementation.

Standards as instruments of international influence

International participation and overseas projects expand technical reach.
Cooperation supports trade, competitiveness and the shaping of global rules.

A cross-sector strategy linking industry, governance and global influence

China's standardisation strategy: what has changed?

Milestone	Strategic change
2017 law Effective January 2018	Government leadership alongside legally recognised association and enterprise standards
“China Standards 2035” research 2021 National Outline	A broader agenda connecting innovation, governance and international standardisation
2026–2030 15th Five-Year Plan	Standards embedded in industrial upgrading, green transition, the unified market and public services

Government direction + greater market participation

2025 New Round China Standardization Reform: under internal approval

Standards across industries and disciplines

Field	Standardisation priorities	European stake
Manufacturing and transport	Product safety and quality Equipment, vehicles and industrial interfaces	Comparable testing and market access
Energy and green transition	Hydrogen, power systems and RoHS Carbon footprint and circularity	Credible measurement and project requirements
Trade and product information	DPP for batteries, textiles and steel Traceability and conformity evidence	Interoperable data and trade compliance
Public services and digital tools	Service quality in care and education AI, data and digitalisation across sectors	Service methods and trusted implementation



Emerging technologies: standards shape the ecosystem

Domain	Where China is building capability	European stake
AI	Evaluation, safety and software–hardware compatibility	Comparable testing and governance
Data	Data circulation, trusted data spaces and cross-domain interoperability	Usable interfaces and cross-border data
Digital infrastructure	6G research and standardisation AI chips, chiplets and RISC-V	Technology choices and market scale
Green transition	DPP, carbon footprint accounting and hydrogen standards	Credible sustainability and product evidence

China's expanding international standardisation capacity

214

**International standards
China led in ISO / IEC**

288

**New international
standard proposals**

14

**New chair / secretariat
responsibilities**

January–August 2026. reported by SAMR / SAC

ISO

**99% technical-work participation. 104 secretariats. 14,000+ experts
8.9% of secretariat positions, ranked 6th in 2021**

Broad institutional participation across technical sectors

IEC

5.7% of secretariats and 5.0% of chair positions

Electrotechnical leadership alongside industrial capability

ITU

29% of ITU-T WG rapporteur posts

86 ITU members from China, second after the US (October 2021)

3GPP

19.2% of members and 20 chair / vice-chair posts

26,372 contributions, 6,246 approved (October 2021)*

Industrial expertise increasingly feeds international agendas

More flexible routes to international influence

WDO

World Data Organization

Beijing, March 2026. Data cooperation and standard recommendations.

WAICO

World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization

Shanghai, agreement July 2026. Intergovernmental AI cooperation and governance.

GEIDCO

Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization

Beijing, 2016. Links overseas energy projects with technical rules and standards.

ODCCN

Organization for Trade Development and Standards Cooperation

Geneva, 2025. Standards cooperation, trade and SME capacity, with CCPIT support.

CASIC

China Automobile Standards Internationalization Center

Geneva and Bangkok, (Brussels). Automotive standards and regulatory cooperation.

Comentropy

Shenzhen Comentropy Industry and Standards Innovation Service Center

Shenzhen / Hetao. Supports 6 international industry alliances and standards processes.

Alliances and sector platforms expand China's routes to international standards and governance

What does this mean for Europe?

European priority	Practical response
Competitiveness	Resource technical experts before architectures and test methods become established
Cooperation	Seek interoperable evidence or opportunities in prioritized areas like DPP, carbon accounting and other fields with shared implementation needs
Market access and governance	Track the route from standards to certification, regulatory references and pilot procurement

Cooperation can connect industrial and sustainability evidence

Comparable tests, carbon methods and DPP data can reduce friction across sectors

Compete, cooperate, engage early

Compete

Strong expertise and credible technical evidence shape outcomes

Cooperate

Shared methods and interoperable data keep markets connected

Engage early

Research, pilots and draft standards are opportunities to influence future rules

Europe's influence depends on sustained participation



Thank you!

Dr. Betty XU

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