



Developing Gender-Responsive Standards and Processes



The ULSE Gender Action Plan

At UL Standards & Engagement, we are committed to developing gender-responsive standards and achieving greater gender balance, representation, and inclusion in our standards development process.

In August 2022, we signed the [Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development](#) from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. As the next step in our commitment, we developed a gender action plan to support the achievement of gender equality through standardization.



Increase gender diversity in ULSE's standards development process

We will strive to increase gender diversity among participants in our standards development process in terms of number, active involvement, and retention because we recognize that diverse perspectives can yield more effective safety standards. In addition to representation, we are committed to cultivating an inclusive environment that encourages meaningful participation from all involved, regardless of gender.



Improve understanding and technical applicability of standards requirements across genders

In order for a standard to be considered gender responsive, its requirements must target an equal and effective level of safety for every person it impacts, with thoughtful consideration for the physical and societal differences that exist between people of different genders. We are working to revise technical requirements in existing standards accordingly, wherever there is a need.

Additionally, we are creating a comprehensive roadmap for integrating gender responsiveness into our standards development process, which will help ensure inclusivity for new and revised standards in the future.



Educate standards development professionals and stakeholders on the importance and impact of developing gender-responsive standards

Our standards development professionals and stakeholders will serve a very important role in establishing ULSE as a global leader in the development of gender-responsive standards.

We are creating training resources for these audiences which reinforce the need for gender-responsive standards, highlight their impact on our mission, and illuminate how ULSE is taking action to support gender inclusivity.



Create guidance for standards authors on the development of gender-responsive standards

The purpose of this initiative is to increase safety outcomes and broaden the impact and relevance of UL standards by ensuring applicability across all genders.

We are assembling a toolkit to provide technical committees with consistent and widely understood guidance on the development of gender-responsive standards.

