Text consolidated by Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre) with amending laws of:

20 June 2001 [shall come into force on 20 July 2001];

18 March 2004 [shall come into force on 14 April 2004];

10 November 2005 [shall come into force on 14 December 2005];

19 June 2008 [shall come into force on 23 July 2008].

12 June 2009 [shall come into force on 1 July 2009];

18 February 2010 [shall come into force on 16 March 2010].

3 December 2020 [shall come into force on 31 December 2020].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*1 has adopted and

the President has proclaimed the following law:

**Standardisation Law**

**Chapter I**

**General Provisions**

**Section 1.**This Law regulates the standardisation principles, tasks, organisational system, and the procedures for the financing of standardisation as well as the classification of standards.

**Section 2.**Standardisation is an aggregate of activities the purpose of which is to determine general and frequently applicable principles for solving existing or prospective tasks and thus to create conditions for optimal order in a specific field.

**Chapter II**

**Principles and Tasks of Standardisation**

**Section 3.**The principles of standardisation shall be as follows:

1) openness, the involvement of all stakeholders in standardisation and the taking of decisions on the basis of a collective agreement;

2) voluntary participation in standardisation and voluntary application of standards;

3) orientation towards technical achievements;

4) orientation towards the interests of society as a whole;

5) compliance with the international and European standardisation requirements.

[*3 December 2020*]

**Section 4.**The standardisation tasks shall be as follows:

1) to ensure the protection of human life, health, and the environment;

2) to promote the free movement of goods and services;

3) to promote the co-operation of countries;

4) to ensure the compatibility of products and systems;

5) to utilise resources rationally;

6) to ensure the protection of consumer interests.

[*20 June 2001*]

**Chapter III**

**Organisational System of Standardisation**

**Section 5.**The State policy in the field of standardisation shall be implemented by the Ministry of Economics.

**Section 6.**(1) The process of standardisation shall be co-ordinated by the National Standardisation Council.

(2) The National Standardisation Council is a consultative body the by-law of which is approved by the Cabinet and the activities of which are managed by the Ministry of Economics.

(3) The staff of the National Standardisation Council shall be approved by the Minister for Economics.

(4) The main tasks of the National Standardisation Council shall be as follows:

1) to participate in the development of the State policy in the field of standardisation;

2) to examine the standardisation requests of the sectoral ministries for inclusion in the standards translation and formulation plan;

3) [3 December 2020];

4) [3 December 2020];

5) to participate in the formulation of laws and other legal acts related to standardisation;

6) to promote co-operation with international standardisation bodies.

[*3 December 2020*]

**Section 7.**(1) In Latvia, standardisation shall be performed by the national standardisation body.

(2) The body which shall carry out the functions of the national standardisation body shall be determined by the Cabinet.

[*3 December 2020*]

**Section 8.**(1) Pursuant to international standardisation principles, the national standardisation body shall:

1) determine the standardisation procedures;

2) establish technical standardisation committees and working groups.

(2) Within the meaning of this Law, the standardisation procedure shall be the sequence of activities necessary for the performance of standardisation.

(3) [3 December 2020]

[*3 December 2020*]

**Section 9.**The main functions of the national standardisation body shall be as follows:

1) to organise the formulation, revision, and revocation of Latvian national standards in the technical standardisation committees or working groups;

2) to register as Latvian national standards the standards published by the European standardisation organisations and the international standards requested by stakeholders;

3) to issue and publish Latvian national standards and other documents related thereto;

4) to ensure the establishment of funds of standards and other documents related thereto and the distribution of information in the field of standardisation;

5) to ensure the maintenance, storage, and supplementation of the funds of Latvian national standards and other documents related thereto;

6) to participate in the operations of international and European standardisation organisations;

7) to ensure regular co-operation with the European Union bodies for the fulfilment of international obligations in accordance with Section 9.1 of this Law;

8) to ensure the compilation and free accessibility of the terms used in the standards referred to in Section 12, Paragraph two of this Law.

[*18 March 2004; 3 December 2020*]

**Section 9.1**In co-operation with the European Union bodies, the national standardisation body shall:

1) notify the European Commission and European standardisation bodies (the European Committee for Standardisation, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, and the national standardisation bodies of the European Union Member States) of the objects included in the standardisation plan in relation to which it is intended to prepare or amend the national standards, except for the cases when the national standards take over identical or equivalent European or international standards;

2) upon request of the European Commission, inform the European Commission and European standardisation bodies of the standardisation plan (the operational programme of the standardisation body in which the objects in relation to which standardisation is performed are mentioned) or a separate part thereof;

3) submit to the European Commission and European standardisation bodies upon request thereof all the draft standards (the document which contains the technical parameters of a specified object and which is intended to be approved in accordance with standardisation procedures) which are distributed for public consultation and commentary.

[*18 March 2004*]

**Section 10.**[3 December 2020]

**Section 11.**[3 December 2020]

**Chapter IV**

**Standards, the Types and Application Thereof**

**Section 12.**(1) A standard is a document approved by the relevant standardisation body which is formulated on the basis of a collective agreement, includes general and repeatedly applicable provisions, instructions or a description of various types of activities or the results thereof and the purpose of which is to bring optimal order to a specific field.

(2) The standards shall be divided as follows:

1) Latvian national standards which are formulated and approved by technical standardisation committees or working groups;

2) standards of international and European standardisation organisations registered in the status of a Latvian national standard;

3) [3 December 2020].

(3) A standard formulated and approved by the European Committee for Standardisation, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, or the European Telecommunications Standards Institute upon request of the European Commission which is registered in the status of a Latvian national standard shall be the applicable standard.

[*10 November 2005; 19 June 2008; 3 December 2020*]

**Section 13.**(1) The application of standards shall be voluntary.

(2) The Cabinet may determine the Latvian national standards the application of which is mandatory. The Cabinet shall determine the principles, tasks, and organisational system of standardisation in the military field.

(3) In laws and regulations, indirect references may be made to the standards which are not provided for as standards the application of which is mandatory in the laws and regulations but which may be applied in order to fulfil the mandatory requirements laid down in the legal act.

(4) In co-operation with a technical standardisation committee, the ministry of the relevant sector shall submit to the national standardisation body for publication on the website thereof the lists of applicable standards for the fulfilment of the requirements of the laws and regulations.

[*18 March 2004; 3 December 2020*]

**Section 14.**(1) The standards of international and European standardisation organisations which are registered in the status of a Latvian national standard may also be drawn up in the official language of the relevant standardisation organisation.

(2) The Latvian national standards the application of which is mandatory must be translated into the official language.

(3) The costs related to the translation of the standards referred to in Paragraph two of this Section into the official language shall be covered from the budgetary funds of the relevant sectoral ministry.

[*10 November 2005; 18 February 2010; 3 December 2020*]

**Section 15.**(1) In order to implement and improve the sectoral policy, the ministry of the relevant sector shall prepare a standardisation request:

1) for the formulation of Latvian national standards on the basis of the needs of the relevant sector if no equivalent European or international standards exist;

2) for the translation of the applicable standards referred to in Section 12, Paragraph three of this Law into the official language.

(2) The standardisation request which includes the task to be performed, the term of execution thereof, and the amount of financing shall be submitted by the sectoral ministry to the national standardisation body for inclusion in the standards translation and formulation plan.

(3) The translation of the applicable standards referred to in Section 12, Paragraph three of this Law into the official language shall be ensured on the basis of the standardisation requests submitted by ministries and in conformity with the funds allocated for this purpose in the State budget.

(4) When preparing a standardisation request for the translation of the applicable standards into the official language, the sectoral ministry shall comply with one of the following criteria:

1) the standard is to be used in regulatory frameworks of several sectors;

2) the requirements of the standard are applicable to a wide range of public (in particular to consumers);

3) the extent of the user group of the standard (determined according to the request to the national standardisation body of the relevant standard or the previous versions thereof);

4) the demand of stakeholders and the specific sector for the standards which would promote the development and growth of the national economy.

[*3 December 2020*]

**Chapter V**

**Financing of Standardisation**

**Section 16.**Standardisation shall be financed from the State budget, contributions of legal persons and natural persons, and from the income obtained from paid services provided in the field of standardisation.

**Section 17.**(1) The following shall be financed from the funds allocated for this purpose to the Ministry of Economics in the State budget:

1) the maintenance costs of the national standardisation body;

2) the updating and supplementation of the information base of standards;

3) the formulation of Latvian national standards in the regulated sphere;

4) the registration of the European and international standards in the status of Latvian national standards;

5) the fee for participation in international and European standardisation organisations;

6) [12 June 2009].

(2) The formulation of Latvian national standards in the non-regulated sphere shall be financed by legal persons and natural persons who are interested in using these standards.

[*19 June 2008; 12 June 2009; 3 December 2020*]

**Transitional Provisions**

1. With the coming into force of this Law, Cabinet Regulation No. 281, Regulations Regarding Standardisation, issued pursuant to Article 81 of the Constitution (*Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1998, No. 18) is repealed.

2. [3 December 2020]

3. Section 14, Paragraph three of this Law shall come into force on 1 January 2007.

[*10 November 2005*]

4. The Cabinet shall, by 31 May 2021, issue the regulations referred to in Section 7, Paragraph two of this Law. Until the day of coming into force of this regulation, the functions of the national standardisation body shall be carried out by *sabiedrība ar ierobežotu atbildību “Latvijas standarts”* [limited liability company Latvian Standard].

[*3 December 2020*]

**Informative Reference to European Union Directives**

[*19 June 2008*]

This Law contains legal norms arising from:

1) Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations;

2) Directive 98/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 July 1998 amending Directive 98/34/EC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations;

3) Directive 2004/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on measuring instruments.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 14 October 1998.

President G. Ulmanis

Rīga, 28 October 1998