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## *Becoming a Working Group Expert*

# Becoming a working group expert

## Introduction

The BSIA has a long history of supporting standards development in the UK, Europe and internationally. This has been achieved through a combination of resource from the technical team at the BSIA and the desire of its members to contribute to the many standards that impact on their businesses.

Developing standards that are fit for purpose and relevant to the security industry requires dedication and commitment from those that take part. Being part of the development process and seeing it published and adopted for use in the industry can be a satisfying and proud moment for those that participate. Many standards have a longevity that shapes the industry sector for years to come.

This brief guide is aimed at those members of the BSIA who have an interest in becoming a working group expert, and seek to add value to the sector they work in. Those who see the true value in being *The voice of the professional security industry*.

## What is an expert?

When we talk about “experts” in the context of industry standards, we are referring to a person that has an in-depth technical understanding of a subject, whether it be a product or a service standard.

Experts are a vital part of the standards development process as they bring a practical element to the table. Their expertise in the subject matter enables other participants to understand how the standard will impact on the industry / sector concerned.

It also provides linkage to other areas of expertise that may be needed to see the “big picture” and create a harmonised standard, something we often see in the European and international standards development areas.

Most experts are recruited from the BSIA technical committees, which provide an excellent opportunity to discuss standards with like-minded industry experts.

## What's in it for my company?

Feedback from companies that have provided experts to sit on the working groups, have outlined the advantage of knowing how standards will impact on their business, especially at the early stages of development. It has proved to be a useful marketing tool in having such knowledge, using this to instil confidence in both their clients and potential new business prospects. The company can also benefit by stimulating the employee's need to advance and excel in new areas and opportunities that standards development brings.

## Why should I do it?

People become experts for various reasons. It can be a way of raising your profile within the industry sector, and will be of benefit to your company. Many people see it as a way of networking with their peers and discussing current and future technologies and service techniques.

As a UK expert, BSI offer free training to develop members' knowledge and understanding of standards, committee work, legal aspects, influencing people etc. The list goes on. Most of the training offers a CPD certificate.

## What will it cost?

Becoming an expert will require a commitment to attend various working group meetings. Which standards body is developing a standard determines where meetings are likely to take place, e.g. British Standards would normally take place at BSI, Chiswick, near London. CEN/CENELEC European working group meetings would take place within Europe, whereas IEC/ISO standards working groups are world-wide, resulting in the need to travel anywhere across the globe. However, the use of technology in conducting meetings, combined with the consideration of cost to companies, and the environment, has led to a sea change in the expanded use of online meetings. Most standards development meetings now take place

online, with occasional in person meetings needed for coordination / administrative purposes.

For the UK experts enlisted onto European and / or international working groups, there is always a nominated Principal expert, who is normally able to claim funding to assist with travel and accommodation arrangements for overseas meetings. Other experts would not have the ability to claim this.

The UK “experts” are also expected to attend the appointed National Committee meetings responsible for the standards under development. In our case the UK standards body is BSI, based in Chiswick, London. Again, many of these are conducted as hybrid or online meetings.

It is difficult to determine exactly how much it would cost to participate on a specific standard as this would depend on the above factors. It would also depend on how the working group wishes to meet, i.e. in person or online offering limited expenditure. A lot of the development work can be done in between meetings, saving meeting time.

### **How do I enquire about becoming an expert?**

As a member of the BSIA, you have the advantage of knowing that we, as a recognised trade association, are at the forefront of knowing where and when development is underway and planned to start. We always offer opportunities to our members to participate in the working groups and have a significant success rate in appointing members on the various working groups. We do this through the UK standards body, BSI.

We do ask that as part of your commitment to being a UK expert, you attend our technical committee meetings, where we decide on our direction and ensure development of standards is beneficial to our member companies and the UK at large.

If you wish to be considered as a UK expert, but there has not been a calling notice in your area of expertise, you can drop us a line and we will keep your name in readiness for such an opportunity. You can, of course, join one of our BSIA technical committees, which are key to ensuring the technical needs of our industry are being addressed.

### **Member testimonials**

#### **Pauline Norstrom – CEO – Anekanta Ltd**

*I have worked voluntarily with the BSIA for over 20 years and have chaired many technology specialised groups leading to being elected the overall Chair of the Association in the mid 2010s. During this time, I was developing my corporate career achieving positions of Chief Operating Officer, Co-MD, VP of high-risk international tech businesses and more recently founder and CEO of a Responsible AI Business which specialises in risk and impact management for biometrics and high-risk AI in accordance with the EU AI Act and all pending UK and international standards and regulations.*

*I cannot emphasise enough, the benefits of getting involved in writing guidance and standards at any point in your career journey, not only does the standards community open doors to opportunity, but it is also a personal development training ground to learn corporate governance and provides experience of a collective intelligence way of working towards a common goal. My expert work with the BSIA includes developing de facto ways of ensuring acceptance of digital evidence in court, the safe use of very early AI technologies in security, working with the Home Office in the 2000s developing privacy enhancing technique guidance and, in the recent few years, working with the special interest groups to develop the BSIA's ethical and legal guidance for facial recognition software, which developed into a British Standard - BS 9347.*

*If you have never engaged with an expert group, or would like to re-engage, I would recommend that you take the first steps and join now and become part of a vibrant community developing groundbreaking guidance at the leading edge of the most controversial technologies. Your name will become known, and you will promote your company and in doing so develop a halo of differentiation rooted in furthering good practice in a way which develops your company and the entire market ecosystem.*

### **David Stones – Director – Secure One Ltd**

*I have been involved with BSIA technical committees for over 20 years and within the last 5 years I took over the role of Chairman of the VSS Technical Committee. This work has enabled me to gather an understanding of how committees work, the process of developing Codes of Practice and standards and at the same time develop my skills in working with others to achieve a common goal.*

*Over the past 10 years I have worked with the BSI WG committees as an expert developing VSS British standards and IEC/ISO world standards, which has been very satisfying and gave a great sense of achievement when they were finally complete and available for general use. Working alongside other experts from within the security industry has given me and my company a higher profile and contributed to my own professional development. Knowing what standards are being developed and updated at an early stage has helped me to steer my company in the right direction and ensure that we are always leading and not lagging in the standards arena.'*

*I would strongly recommend becoming an industry expert both for your personal and professional development.*

### **Need more information?**

If you want to know more contact us on

Email: [technical@bsia.co.uk](mailto:technical@bsia.co.uk)

01905 342020

### **Useful links**

**British Standards Institute (BSI):** [How to get involved with standards.](#)

**CEN/CENELEC standards:** [Get involved.](#)

**IEC standards:** [Standards development.](#)



## About the BSIA

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) is the trade association representing over 70% of the UK's private security industry. Its membership includes companies specialising in all sectors of security. For security buyers, BSIA membership is an assurance of quality, with all member companies required to adhere to strict quality standards.