

MPMA Technical Division

Overview for Prospective Technical Committee Members

April 2026

What is a Technical Committee?

- MPMA's 14 technical committees develop and maintain bearing and gear industry standards and information sheets.
 - AGMA: Approximately 100 documents (60% standards, 40% info sheets)
 - ABMA: Approximately 50 documents (100% standards)
- MPMA technical committees are composed of industry experts from MPMA member companies.
 - 200+ member companies have a presence on a committee
 - 650+ members contribute to standards
- Standards are developed under the AGMA and ABMA division logos to maintain the long and respected history of the brands.

What are Industry Standards?

- The documented set of generally accepted rules, guidelines, and requirements within an industry
- They are based on proven & verified practices, to assist the industry deliver state-of-the-art products and services in an even and fair manner.
- Standards also provide the common language needed for effective and efficient communication between ALL interested / involved parties, such as manufacturers, vendors, customers, certification bodies, consultants, etc.

Standards vs. Information sheets

Standards

- Normative
- Based on proven industry experience and have been verified by industry experts
- Governed by ANSI development guidelines
- Balloted and approved by all members and general public
- Approved by TDEC and Board before publication

Information Sheets

- Informative
- Based on material that is still being tested and has yet to be fully examined by the industry
- Reviewed & approved by committee only
- Approved by TDEC and Board before publication

Why are Industry Standards Important?

- They provide the rules of the game to create a level playing field regardless of who is playing and where.
- They ensure interchangeability of designs across the industry, making it easier to analyze and compare products.
- They facilitate market penetration.
- They save companies money in a variety of ways (improved quality, safety, reduction of redundancy, R&D, etc.).
- The application of standards lend credibility to new products.
- If voluntary standards aren't developed, the government will step in to create regulations.

Benefits of Technical Committee Membership to the Individual

- Professional development for career growth.
- Meet, interact, and network with experts from many different fields of gear design and manufacturing.
 - You do not need to be an expert to join a committee!
- Broaden your knowledge base of the gear industry.
- Advance the body of gear manufacturing knowledge by contributing your experiences to the discussion.
- Shape the next revision of the standards you use everyday.
- Develop new standards for cutting edge applications and processes.
- See the work you do on standards used throughout America and around the world.
- If actively participating, you and your company's name will be written on the published documents.

How to Join a Technical Committee

- Joining a technical committee is easy!
 - Step 1: Be an MPMA member
 - Step 2: Send an email expressing interest in joining a committee to: tech@motionpower.org
 - MPMA's 14 committees:
 - Accuracy & Nomenclature
 - Subtopics: Accuracy, Nomenclature, Fine Pitch
 - Aerospace Gearing
 - Bearing Technical Committee
 - Bevel Gearing
 - Cutting Tools
 - Cylindrical Gear Rating
 - Flexible Couplings
 - Gear Applications
 - Subtopics: Enclosed drives, Epicyclic, Marine, Mill Gearing, Vehicle, Electric Vehicle (EV), Gearbox Repair, Splines
 - High-Speed Units
 - Lubrication
 - Metallurgy and Materials
 - Subtopics: Plastic and Powder Metal
 - Sound & Vibration
 - Wind Turbine Gear
 - Wormgearing

Get the Latest Information

- Visit <https://motionpower.org/standards-technology/standards/active-standards-project/> for the latest MPMA ballots, meeting schedule, and open projects.

Committee Operations

- **Committee structure**
 - Chairperson and Vice Chairperson; selected by the committee members.
 - Working Group Project Leader; selected by the working group members.
 - Working Group: created under committee to work on a specific document. Formed and disbanded as project starts/ends.
- **Two types of meetings: Virtual or Face-to-Face**
 - Virtual meetings last about two hours and typically start at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Eastern time.
 - Expect between 3 and 10 virtual meetings per committee per year.
 - Face-to-face meetings are typically two-days long and are hosted by MPMA in one of the pre-approved cities, with direct flights from most locations, or at member facilities.
 - Expect between 1 and 2 face-to-face meetings per committee per year.
- **Technical Division Operation Manual: See document MPMA 999.**
Available on the website: <https://motionpower.org/standards-technology/standards/technical-committees/participate-in-technical-committees/>

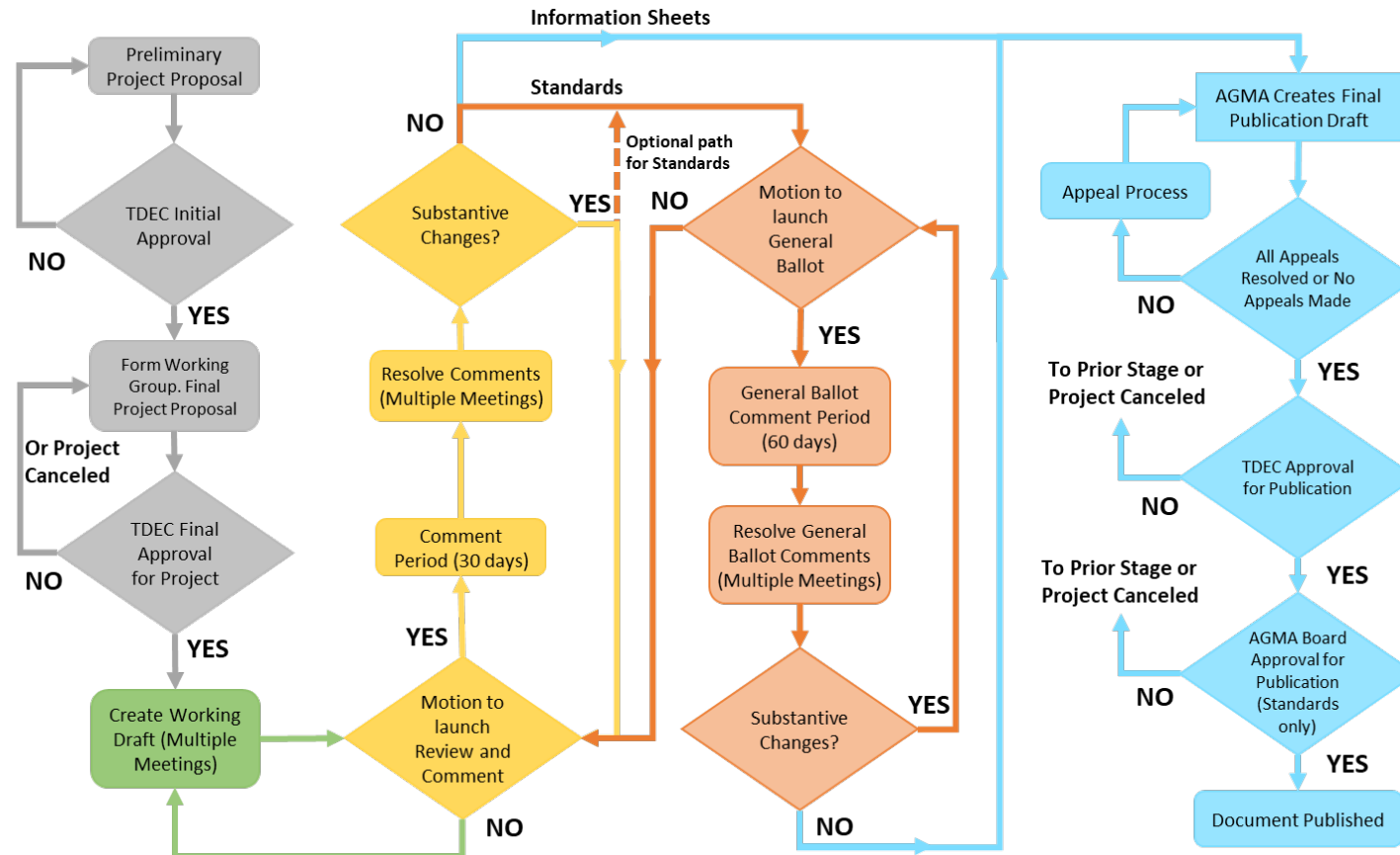
Active Member

- An active Working Group member has the following obligations:
 - Participates actively in the work of the committee through attendance at, and contributions to, meetings:
 - Attends 75% of scheduled meetings per calendar year;
 - Active members who miss 50% of scheduled meetings in a calendar year will be dropped from the working group;
 - Responds to all Committee Comment and General Ballots. An active member who fails to respond to a General Ballot conducted by the respective working group will be dropped from the WG;
 - Votes on all formally submitted questions;
 - Volunteers to be meeting secretary.

Document Development Process

- New projects begin with discussion and approval of a project proposal within a Technical Committee.
- Reaffirmation projects happen every 5 years from when the document was first published.
- Document Stages:
 - **Working Draft:** Many document edits at and between meetings
 - **Review and Comment:** Working Group members formally submit edits to the latest draft, and decide whether to accept them
 - **General Ballot:** All MPMA members and the general public are able to submit edits, and the committee formally decides whether to accept them
- Final approval for publication is by the MPMA Technical Division Executive Committee (TDEC) and the MPMA Board of Directors.

Document Development Process Map



Key to Chart Colors				
Preliminary Stage (Approx. 6 months)	Working Draft Stage (Approx. 24 months)	Review and Comment Stage (Approx. 6 months)	General Ballot Stage (Approx. 6 months)	Publication Stage (Approx. 6 months)

Govenda

- All committees and working groups have an online portal (Govenda) that provides committees a convenient, central location for the storage of all of their documents.
- Ballots are managed there.
- Meeting agendas, supporting documents, and minutes are stored with the meeting and are available.
- Committee/WG rosters are available.

ABMA, AGMA, and ISO

- Many of the Technical Division committees have the responsibility to serve as the United States Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) to programs within ISO TC 4 (Bearings) and ISO TC 60 (Gearing). Serving here gives way to opportunity to stay abreast of developments on an international level that can impact your company.
- ANSI is the U.S. member of ISO. ANSI has delegated the representation on these ISO committees to MPMA.
- MPMA is the Secretary (Chair) of ISO TC 60 (Gearing) and procedurally oversees all the standards programs which are undertaken.
- MPMA is delegated by ANSI to be the U.S. representative on ISO TC 4 and its sub-committees (Bearings).
- Many ISO standards get their roots from ABMA or AGMA standards, and ISO standards can be adopted as MPMA standards.

MPMA Technical Division: Staff



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