

## Numbering ASCE Standards – New Policy

**Effective July 1, 2025**

As ASCE standards activities increase with the help of Standards Office resources, it has become necessary to adjust the existing system of numbering standards while they are early in development. Having so many new standards in progress numbered XX–XX creates difficulties in data management, email communications, committee meeting agendas, and other processes.

### **Old Policy**

In the past, a new, first-iteration standard was numbered using the placeholder characters XX–XX. The new standard was not given an actual number in the first characters until later in the process when it was approved by the Codes and Standards Committee (CSC) for public comment. Further, when revision of an existing standard began, the standard was numbered with the existing first characters and the placeholder XX.

### **New Policy**

We are adjusting two aspects of the numbering policy, but retaining two others.

#### **1) Earlier assignment of the first characters.**

New, first-iteration standards will have a number assigned to the first characters after the official proposal for the new standard reaches the final level of approval, which is approval by CSC. Standards Office staff will assign the next consecutive number available in ASCE's catalog of standards numbers. This will change some aspects of tracking and long-term data:

- a) The highest assigned number for standards in our lists of activities will no longer represent the actual number of standards approved/published.
- b) It is possible that a standard numbered after proposal approval will never reach publication. That assigned number will not be reused by subsequent standards activities. Thus, in the future, complete lists of published standards might appear to have numerical gaps.

Not only will this earlier numbering practice make data management more efficient, market recognition of the first characters in the number will build from the beginning of development and will remain consistent regardless of whether the title changes during the process.

#### **2) New place-holder letters in the last two characters.**

During standards creation or revision, the last two placeholder characters in the standard number will hereafter appear as YY. As always, these characters will be changed late in the

development process to reflect the year in which CSC approved the standard for publication. Using YY as the placeholder is more logical than the current use of XX and will reduce confusion.

**3) Unchanged policy on use of existing standards numbers during revision.**

When revision of a published standard begins, the standard will continue to be numbered with the existing document number. The only exception will be when staff and volunteer experts agree that a new number should be used. Further information about those scenarios will be noted elsewhere.

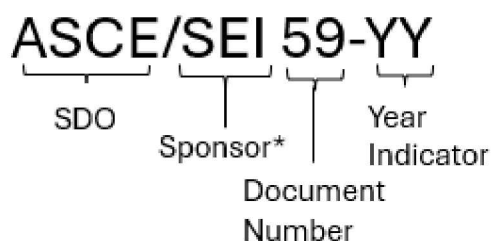
**4) Unchanged policy on assignment of a year in standards numbers.**

The policy remains in effect that the last two placeholder characters will not be changed to an actual year until after a standard reaches the final stage of CSC approval for publication. Standards Office staff will assign the year at that time.

Premature assignment of standards years early in the development process has caused significant confusion in the market and in related publications, standards, and codes. Staff and committees must not use a year assignment in a standard's number before CSC approval for publication regardless of how optimistic the committee is about reaching a certain publication date. Standard numbers that use a year assignment too early in the process will be corrected by Standard's Office staff.

(The only exceptions to this policy are ASCE 7 and ASCE 41.)

**Example of ASCE Standards Numbering**



*\*Institute, CTA Division/Committee*

**Updating Numbers for In-progress Standards**

Standards currently numbered using XX in the first characters, the last characters, or both will be updated by Standards Office staff shortly. You will be notified of official changes in each standard's numbering.

***Many thanks to all who are working hard to ensure the success of ASCE standards!***