ASHRAE Technical Committees

The technical expertise of ASHRAE is concentrated in its **Technical Committees (TCs), Task Groups (TGs), Technical Resource Groups (TRGs) and Multidisciplinary Task Groups (MTGs)**. These groups are responsible for many activities within the Society including:

> *preparing the content of chapters in ASHRAE's Handbook series*
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> *originating, coordinating, and supervising Society-sponsored research projects*
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> *presenting technical programs at ASHRAE conferences*
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> *peer reviewing technical papers*
>
> *evaluating and recommending the need for ASHRAE standards*
>
> *and advising the Society on all aspects of the technology it embraces*

TCs consist of volunteers who have a passion for a specific field of interest. Each TC typically includes several subcommittees such as Research, Handbook, Programs, and Standards. All new TC members are appointed as Provisional Corresponding Members (PCMs) upon joining a TC. PCMs are immediately added to the roster so they may receive committee communications and participate in the TCs activities and subcommittees. PCMs, while fully part of the committee, roll off after two years if they do not advance to Corresponding Member status. Corresponding Members (CMs) comprise most of members of each technical committee. Each year, in late January, TC Chairs submit roster updates. At this time the TC Chair may recommend PCMs to become CMs. TC Chairs consider the PCMs activity and involvement in the committee. CM status becomes effective July 1st, with the new society year.

TCs also have Voting Members. To be eligible to be a Voting Member, committee members must have served at least one year as a CM, be active in the committee, be recommended by the current Voting Members, and be the only employee of their company that would be a Voting Member for the term. Voting Members typically serve a two-year term and then roll back to CM status before becoming eligible for Voting Member status again. Voting Members exercise the right to vote on all business of the technical committee. Voting Members should be present at committee meetings, as a lack of Voting Member quorum prevents the committee from acting on formal business.

TGs are similar to TCs and are formed when a subject of current interest is not covered in the scope of an existing TC, or when the subject encompasses the scope of more than one TC. TRGs are similar to TCs except that their responsibilities are limited to preparing, reviewing, or revising technical material. They meet over a finite period and are disbanded once they've accomplished their purpose. They do not have responsibility for programs, research, or standards. MTGs are different from TCs, TGs, and TRGs. MTGs are organized when a topic has broad interest for many TCs. The objective of the MTG is to first better coordinate and focus the activities of the affiliated TC and non-TC groups (which may also include Standard Committees and other society committees) that make-up the MTG on the task for which the MTG was created. MTGs do not duplicate the functions of a TC or TG, and work to complete tasks as efficiently as possible. An MTG may exist several years and is disbanded when the objective is fulfilled.

All members of ASHRAE, including members within Regions and Chapters, are welcome and encouraged to join ASHRAE Technical Committees on topics that interest you. While most TCs meet in-person at the

Society's Annual and Winter conferences, most of a committee's work is done through conference calls, email correspondence, and personal volunteer effort. Remote participants can join in the effort and contribute. TCs are looking for ASHRAE members who want to use their experience, knowledge, and expertise to review, revise, recommend, and participate in the activities of the TC. Much of this work can be done on your own time and shared with the committee members.

If you have further questions about Technical Committee membership or operations, or would like to join a TC, please see [Applying for Membership on a Technical Committee](). There is no better way to learn about the work of a TC then to join and follow along in the activities.