Specification, Codes, Standards

What is the difference between Specification, Codes, Standards

Standard

A Standard can be defined as a set of technical definitions and guidelines that function as instructions for designers, manufacturers, operators, or users of equipment. Ex ASME31.3 is a standard for process piping.

Code

A standard becomes a Code when it has been adopted by one or more governmental bodies and is enforceable by law, or when it has been incorporated into a business contract.

Specification

Specifications clearly and accurately describe the technical requirements of any given product or process and are used heavily by purchasing departments for controlling the quality of incoming materials. EX: ASTM C150, "Specification for Portland Cement"

Below some of some of the Specifications, Codes and Standards with their abbreviations

IQS	Iraqi Standard
ACI	American Concrete Institute
ASTM	American Society For Testing and Materials
BS	British Standard

BS EN	British-Adopted European Standard
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ISO	International Organization for Standardization