International items of interest for April 2015 are as follows:

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IEC items of interest for April 2015 are as follows:

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2. SPARC (International Lighting Event) 2015 will be held in Sydney, Australia from 27 to 29 May More>>
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1. Tender process launched to draft the next generation of Structural Eurocodes

CEN-CENELEC has launched a six-year program of work, supported by the European Commission, to develop the next generation of European standards for structural and geotechnical design. The set of new Standards is expected to be published in 2020 and will embrace new technologies and market needs, extending the scope of the existing Structural Eurocodes suite (EN 1990 – EN 1999).

The Eurocodes (EN 1990 – EN 1999) enable the design of building and civil engineering works, and comprise ten European Standards in 58 parts. When they were published, the first generation of EN Eurocodes were a comprehensive and technically advanced suite of standards for structural and geotechnical design. Their development was a tremendous achievement and represented the culmination of over 30 years of collaborative effort. Their impact has been considerable. It has been estimated that they are affecting the work of around 500,000 professional engineers across Europe.

Working under the direction of the CEN Technical Committee (TC) responsible for these Standards, called CEN/TC 250 ‘Structural Eurocodes’, 25 funded Project Teams will undertake the core drafting work. In order to form these teams, a public call has been launched enabling leading experts to submit proposals to participate in each of the 25 Project Teams included in the first phase of work. The tender process is being coordinated by NEN, the Netherlands Standardization Institute, working in conjunction with CEN, the European Committee for Standardization and BSI, the British Standards Institution, which holds the secretariat for CEN/TC 250.

2. WTO and FAO announce enhanced cooperation on trade and food security

Director-General of the WTO, Roberto Azevêdo, met with the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), José Graziano da Silva, in Geneva on 17 April to step up collaborative efforts on the issue of trade and food security, as well as other issues.

As part of this work, the WTO will be taking part in the preparatory work on the FAO's flagship publication, the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets, which this year will focus on trade and food security. The FAO and WTO chiefs discussed how the report could provide evidence and greater clarity on a range of issues related to trade and food security. The FAO will also hold a symposium on food security at the WTO on 5 June.

Considering the important role of open and strengthened food markets in supporting food security objectives, the two directors-general discussed how trade and the multilateral trading system could help in creating a more favourable global environment for food security and sustainable agriculture.

"I am deeply engaged in continuing to develop our joint work with WTO as food security and trade can play together a very important role to help fulfil FAO’s mandate", said Graziano da Silva. They also discussed the current state of play in the Doha Round agriculture negotiations and the renewed efforts that the governments are making towards a successful outcome.
3. Seychelles has become the 161st WTO member

On 24 March, the National Assembly of the Republic of Seychelles ratified, unanimously, the WTO Protocol of Accession of the Republic of Seychelles. On 25 March, President James Michel signed the Instrument of Acceptance of the Accession Protocol, confirming its membership terms, at a plenary meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers in Mahé, Victoria, Seychelles. President Michel handed the Instrument to the Director of the WTO Accessions Division, who received it on behalf of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

According to WTO rules, Seychelles will become a full-fledged member on 26 April 2015. By depositing the document with Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, Seychelles activated the 30-day countdown to its WTO membership, which will be effective on 26 April 2015.

Seychelles is the 33rd government to accede to the rules-based multilateral trading system through Article XII negotiations since the WTO was established in 1995.
1. Open workshop for the “connected consumer” on 13 May in Geneva

An open workshop on “connected consumer in 2020: Empowerment through standards” will be held on 13 May in Geneva.

This workshop will bring together representatives of standards organizations, consumer associations, government agencies, and businesses to consider whether standards can effectively safeguard consumers’ privacy in a rapidly changing world.

Cloud computing, the Internet of Things and the rise of social media are just some of the developments which have transformed the way people treat their personal data. While purchasing goods and services online is already commonplace in many parts of the world, consumers now also rely more and more heavily on social media and online interactive platforms for both personal and commercial uses. This has revolutionized the marketplace through new collaborative business models in which consumers are both providers and end-users.

What does this mean for the privacy and protection of personal data? What conditions create more benefits and opportunities while minimizing risks and undesirable outcomes? Can consumers purchase goods and services, join social networks, enjoy the convenience of the emergent Internet of things... yet achieve good outcomes for consumer protection?

The ISO Committee on consumer policy will consider such questions at their international one-day workshop at the Mövenpick Hotel, Geneva, on 13 May 2015.

2. ISO/ASME 14414:2015 Pump system energy assessment is published

ISO/ASME 14414 Pump system energy assessment is now published. It aims to reduce energy consumption by enabling organizations to effectively determine the minimal amount of energy that is required by various pump systems, thus enabling facilities to improve energy efficiency, subsequently reducing consumption and the carbon footprint.

Pump systems are used to move liquids across a wide range of applications within industrial processes, buildings and transportation. From pumping water from a well to fuel injection in a car and even manufacturing medicines, pump systems are used everywhere. But all too often they are given more energy to function than they actually need. This new international standard intends to change all that, saving the planet and people's wallets in the process.

This standard was developed in conjunction with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME); it sets the requirements for conducting and reporting the results of a pumping system assessment, allowing facilities to not only calculate their current energy consumption but identify ways to reduce energy and improve its efficiency.

By providing a common definition for an assessment, it also enables consistency across organizations and countries, ensuring contracting for assessment services.
3. CASCO launches a NWIP: Conformity assessment for services

A New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) to develop a Technical Report (TR) providing an example of a Type 6 certification scheme for services as described in ISO/IEC 17067 has recently been launched by CASCO.

Conformity assessment and certification of services has been increasing in the global economy over recent years. Examples are tourist services (tourism), hotels, restaurants, transportation of persons and goods, transport of dangerous goods, infrastructure maintenance, specialized cleaning and sanitation services as well as in the areas of healthcare, food and cosmetic manufacturing. There has been a steady increase in the number of standards that are being developed in the services area and with this increase comes an increase in demand for conformity assessment tools specific for services.

This NWIP was launched to address this need. It will provide guidance on how to develop, operate and maintain a scheme for services and will be of interest to scheme owners, certification bodies and other stakeholders.

4. The revision of ISO 22000 on food safety management is underway

ISO 22000 Food safety management systems—Requirements for any organization in the food chain is now under revision. This standard specifies requirements for a food safety management system where an organization in the food chain needs to demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to ensure that food is safe at the time of human consumption.

Since the first publication of ISO 22000 in 2005, players in the food chain, including manufacturers, consumers and governments, have been facing new food safety requirements—spurring a need for the standard to be revised. A consultation held last year among users of the standard brought up gaps in the current version. Certain terms were found to be potentially confusing: unnecessary repetition was revealed and some concepts needed clarifying.

Based on this feedback, the revision group will thus tackle the following issues:
- clarify certain key concepts, especially critical control points required to be managed, operational programs needed, approach to risks, product withdrawal and recall, and a combination of external control measures;
- update terms and definitions;
- make the standard simpler and more concise;
- avoid making the content too prescriptive; and
- ensure a greater coverage of SMEs.

What’s more, ISO 22000 will have the same format as other management systems standards (MSSs), which will now follow an identical structure with common texts, terms and definitions. This will make life easier for companies wanting to be certified to several MSSs, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 22000. The coordinated format will ensure coherence between the standards, simplify their integrated use and facilitate their reading and understanding by users.

While food industry experts may be especially involved in this revision, other users of the standard will be specifically targeted as necessary. These include SMEs, feed producers, pet food industry players, regulators looking for a model by which to develop regulatory requirements with a food safety management approach, even manufacturers who don’t directly “manage food” but whose activities fall within the scope of the standard, e.g. water.

Many companies and organizations do not use ISO 22000 on its own, but in conjunction with quality management standard ISO 9001, hence the desire to align the two standards and ensure their coherence. If all goes according to plan, the standard is expected to be published in 2017.
5. ISO/TC 285 has begun a program of work

Experts within ISO/TC 285 *Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions* have begun work on developing three new standards and one technical report that will provide guidance and specifications for a number of areas such as laboratory and field testing methods, performance indicators and social impact assessments.

Harmful smoke from inefficient cookstoves causes over 4 million deaths each year, not to mention the impact it has on the environment. Improving health, reducing fuel consumption and providing economic opportunities are just some of the drivers behind the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves' mission to have clean cookstoves in 100 million households by 2020.

Technical standards and guidelines for cookstoves are an essential tool to support that mission. ISO/TC 285 secretary Sally Seitz from ISO's USA member ANSI said it is an ambitious program of work but an important one: "We are also committed to working with ISO member bodies in affected regions to increase stakeholder participation in the development of these standards, and to assist them in developing national networks and programs to support their implementation."

The first set of these standards is expected in 2016, with working drafts completed later this year.
IEC

1. Registration for the 79th IEC General Meeting is open

The 79th IEC General Meeting will be held from 12 to 16 Oct 2015 in Minsk, Belarus. It will be hosted by the IEC National Committee of Belarus (BELST).

The program for this meeting will soon be mailed to all National Committees for distribution to the delegates who will be attending the Minsk meeting. The program is also be available on the IEC website (http://www.iec.ch)

Participation in this 2015 IEC General Meeting is open to IEC delegates registered in the IEC Expert Management System (EMS) and to representatives of invited organizations. Registration for the General Meeting, starting on 15 April 2015, can only be completed online. A Guide for participants can be accessed here: http://meetings.iec.ch.

2. SPARC (International Lighting event) 2015

Australia’s lighting industry is proud to present SPARC—Australia’s premier event for the international lighting community. SPARC will be held from 27 to 29 May 2015 at Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island, Sydney, Australia.

SPARC features a world-class seminar program of invited speakers, a display of the latest lighting technology and a spectacular gala dinner. SPARC coincides with Vivid Sydney, a festival of light, music and ideas, which offers wonderful opportunities for complementary activities showcasing lighting.

Renowned international experts in lighting design, education, research and architecture will discuss global developments and future directions in lighting. Dr Prest, Vice Chairman of IEC TC 34: Lamps and related equipment, will give a presentation at the event.
As World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April every year, it is important to highlight various IEC standardization activities in the domain that is the object of this year’s 2015 World Health Day: Food safety – the global view. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) it is estimated that two million deaths occur every year from contaminated food or drinking water. Many more people are victims of food poisoning every year.

Many IEC Technical Committees (TCs) and Subcommittees (SCs) prepare International Standards for equipment and issues that are immediately associated with health and medical issues. These include the safety of medical equipment, acoustics or medical imagery equipment. A less noticeable but critical aspect of IEC standardization work concerning health issues is to ensure food products and water are safe from the place they are produced all the way down to the end-users.

As food production needs boosting to meet the needs of a growing global population at the most reasonable cost possible, raising production levels is essential. Providing additional and selective lighting to improve vegetable growth, increase milk yields in dairy farms or egg production in chicken farms is proving very effective. The recent introduction of LED-based lamps is opening new prospects in these areas. International Standards for lamps and related equipment are prepared by IEC TC 34.

Using chemicals to disinfect food products and utensils is effective but may present adverse side-effects for humans and the environment. These can be avoided with the use of various electrotechnical processes, such as UV radiation and ultrasonic cleaning and disinfection. UV radiation is used for water treatment as well as to destroy epidemic bacteria such as E-coli, salmonella and germs directly on eggs, other products or on food processing equipment and plants. IEC TC 62 develops International Standards for the safety of UV equipment used for water treatment appliances.

As for ultrasonic equipment it is present in the food industry to clean equipment and handle food products. IEC TC 87: Ultrasonics prepares International Standards for equipment and systems in the domain of ultrasonics.

From producers to consumers food products must be kept at low temperatures to prevent them from becoming unfit for human consumption or toxic. The provision of appropriate cooling and freezing equipment is essential to prevent decay and the possible proliferation of pests and diseases. In homes fridges have allowed households to keep foodstuff fresh for longer periods and to cut down instances of food poisoning.

International Standards for general and performance requirements of electrical household and similar cooling and freezing appliances are prepared by IEC SC 59M.

More IEC TCs and SCs involved in the development of International Standards that are essential for producers, distributors and consumers to ensure food products and water that reach individuals at the end of a long production and supply chain are safe to consume.