International items of interest for February 2014 are as follows:

1. The European Standardization Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) have published a new European Standard on accessibility requirements for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) products and services. More>>

2. CEN and ETSI have adopted and issued the basic set of standards for Cooperative Intelligence Transport Systems (C-ITS). More>>

3. CEN has launched a new website to embrace the changing ways that we interact in the modern world. More>>

ISO items of interest for February 2014 are as follows:

1. Nominations for the 2014 Lawrence D. Eicher Award are now open. More>>

2. A new online collection of country codes is now available on the Online Browsing Platform. More>>

3. A new ISO technical report on smart communities infrastructures gives practical advice to help counteract the effect of infrastructure systems on the environment. More>>

4. A new ISO publication on the measurement of the protein content of cow's milk has been published. More>>

IEC items of interest for February 2014 are as follows:

1. The IEC and Russian Federal standardization and conformity assessment agencies have signed a Statement of Cooperation. More>>

2. The IEC Global Visions interviewed Thembani Bukula, Regulator Member at National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). More>>
1. European Standard on accessibility requirements for ICT

The European Standardization Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) have published a new European Standard on accessibility requirements for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) products and services.

This new standard (EN 301 549) is the first European Standard for accessible ICT. It is intended in particular for use by public authorities and other public sector bodies during procurement, to ensure that websites, software and digital devices are more accessible – so they may be used by persons with a wide range of abilities.

The new European Standard and its accompanying Technical Reports provide a framework for developing a wide range of applications that will make ICT products and services more accessible for the 80 million Europeans who are living with various types of disability. Potential applications include audio and/or tactile interfaces that can be used by visually impaired persons, or hardware such as smartphones and laptops that can be operated using one hand.

More information is available from: http://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Press_Releases/Pages/PR-2014-03.aspx

2. CEN and CENELEC C-ITS

CEN and ETSI confirmed at the 6th ETSI workshop on ITS in Berlin, that the basic set of standards for Cooperative Intelligence Transport Systems (C-ITS), as requested by the European Commission in 2009, have now been adopted and issued. The so-called ‘Release 1 specifications’ developed by CEN and ETSI will enable vehicles made by different manufacturers to communicate with each other and with the road infrastructure systems.

When they have been applied by vehicle manufacturers, the new specifications should contribute to preventing road accidents by providing warning messages, for example about driving the wrong way or possible collisions at intersections, as well as advance warnings of roadworks, traffic jams and other potential risks to road safety. This vision of safe and intelligent mobility can be achieved by utilising wireless communication technologies to link vehicles and infrastructure and identify potential risks in real time.


1. New CEN website

CEN has launched a new website to embrace the changing ways that we interact in the modern world.

The new CEN website provides public access to up to date information about published standards and ongoing standardization activities. The ‘Search Standards’ facility allows to find standardization deliverables in the CEN catalogue, and there is also information about the work of specific Technical Committees, as well as recent, ongoing and upcoming developments (Standards evolution and forecast). Much of this information is available in three languages (English, French and German).

Guided web conference tours of the new website have been organised for March. Please contact Alison.deleon@standards.org.au for the dates and times
1. Lawrence D Eicher Award

Nominations for the 2014 Lawrence D. Eicher Award are now open.

This prestigious award recognises excellence in technical work and provides a fantastic opportunity to promote the committee's achievements to the ISO community and a global standardization audience.

More information on eligibility criteria and the nomination procedure is available from: http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about/iso-awards.htm#2012_ISO-Awards_LDE-content-Anchor

2. Online collection of country codes

The new online collection of country codes provides the most recent official country codes used by millions of operations worldwide in the exchange of goods and information. You can now get the latest list of country codes and/or subdivisions, not to mention formerly used codes, in one convenient location on the Online Browsing Platform (OBP).

The country codes are the latest collection made available through the Online Browsing Platform (OBP), which already contains the quality management, environmental management, food safety management and IT security families of standards.

3. Evaluating smart community infrastructures

Community services like energy, water supply, waste management and transport require large infrastructure systems which are important for economic and social development, but can also have a heavy cost on the environment.

A new ISO technical report on smart communities infrastructures gives practical advice to help us counteract this worrying trend.

The new ISO technical report, ISO/TR 37150:2014, Smart community infrastructures – Review of existing activities relevant to metrics, aims to do away with this confusion by reviewing relevant metrics and providing stakeholders with a better understanding of available solutions.

More information is available from http://www.iso.org/iso/news.htm?refid=Ref1817

4. New ISO publication - Protein content of cow’s milk

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) and ISO have joined forces to expand the scope of an international standard used worldwide in the dairy industry to measure the protein content of cow's milk.

The Kjeldahl method now encompasses milk from other species as well as internationally traded dairy products covered by Codex standards. The revised standard ISO 8968-1:2014 (IDF 20-1:2014) reconfirms the crucial role of the Kjeldahl method in trade harmonisation and enhances consumer protection safeguards.

More information is available from http://www.iso.org/iso/home/news_index/news_archive/news.htm?refid=Ref1815
1. Statement of Cooperation with Russia

In a move that will bring benefits to both Russian companies operating in international markets and international companies working in the Russian market, the IEC and Russian Federal standardization and conformity assessment agencies have signed a Statement of Cooperation.

The 23 December 2013 Statement of Cooperation was agreed between the IEC, the Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology, the national standardization body of the Russian Federation (Rosstandart) and the Russian Federal Accreditation Service (RusAccreditation).

The Statement of Cooperation represents a significant step in enabling increased trade with Russia. It aims to eliminate excessive regulation in the trade of electrotechnical products, facilitating, for example, the acceptance of certificates issued by the IEC System for Conformity Assessment of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE).

The head of Rosstandart, noted that the Statement of Cooperation will promote a close cooperation with the IEC. He also emphasised the importance of establishing unified procedures for the recognition of the certificates issued by members of IECEE conformity testing and certification schemes.

2. IEC Global Visions - NERSA

The IEC Global Visions interviewed Thembani Bukula, Regulator Member at National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). In this interview, he explains why the use of IEC International Standards and participation in IEC work allow countries to ensure that investment in national electrical infrastructure is secure, reliable, safe and affordable.

Bukula says that standards play a very important role in his work – he is responsible for electricity regulation in South Africa – as they provide a body of knowledge that is crucial for the design, installation and maintenance of infrastructure. They allow regulators to reduce the cost of electricity supply, making it more reliable, safe and affordable.

Bukula, who is a member of the IEC Council Board, further explains that being part of the IEC has many benefits, including easy access to the pool of knowledge and experience of engineers across the whole world. Participating in standardization work and using International Standards is also an asset when they plan investments because they are no longer limited to investors and suppliers from their own country. In his own word, they have the world to choose from and, as a result, by getting the most competitive prices, they end up with relatively affordable products or services.