International items of interest for January 2014 are as follows:

1. CEN and CENELEC have launched a new section on their website to encourage stakeholders to get involved in standardization. More>>

2. The COPANT General Assembly will be held 21-23 April 2014 in Havana, Cuba. More>>

3. CEN and CENELEC are hosting StandarDays for newcomers to European Standardization. More>>

ISO items of interest for January 2014 are as follows:

1. ANSI (USA) and DIN (Germany) will be hosting a workshop with the purpose of developing an International Workshop Agreement on Specification and Method for the Determination of Performance Parameters of Automated Pipetting Systems. More>>

2. ISO has received a proposal from DIN (Germany) for a new field of technical activity on domestic gas cooking appliances. More>>

3. The Republic of Korea is relinquishing the Secretariat of ISO/TC 219 Floor coverings. More>>

4. ISO has established a new technical committee ISO/TC 289 – Brand evaluation. More>>

5. Benin, Malawi and Nepal have recently become full ISO member bodies. More>>

6. A new edition of the Vienna Agreement guidelines has been released. More>>

IEC items of interest for January 2014 are as follows:

1. The IEC has announced the publication of the first globally relevant Technical Specification for a single external charger for a wide range of notebook computers and laptops. More>>

2. The IEC has published a brochure outlining their work in smart grids. More>>
International

1. CEN and CENELEC website tool for stakeholders

CEN and CENELEC have launched a new section on their website as part of their ongoing efforts to encourage the widest possible range of stakeholders to get involved in standardization activities and help shape the content of European Standards.

Standards can have significant impacts on the safety and wellbeing of consumers and workers, as well as on the wider society and the environment. Enabling organisations representing societal stakeholders to participate in the development of standards helps to ensure that all relevant concerns can be taken into account during the drafting process.

The 'Societal Stakeholders' Toolbox' is aimed in particular at supporting the participation of organisations that are concerned with defending the interests of consumers, protecting the environment, and promoting the health and safety of workers.

The 'Societal Stakeholders' Toolbox' can be accessed directly from the homepage of the CEN-CENELEC website. It provides practical advice to organisations representing consumers, workers and environmental interests on where to find information about ongoing standardization activities and how they can contribute to the standards development process at national, European and international levels.


2. COPANT General Assembly

The COPANT General Assembly will be held 21-23 April 2014 in Havana, Cuba.

Workshops on education about standardization, Young Professionals and conformity assessment will take place.


Standards Australia is one of nine adherent members of COPANT.

3. CEN and CENELEC StandarDays

CEN and CENELEC are continuing their efforts to provide the public with the information they need in order to understand European Standardization, and be able to use it to their advantage.

StandarDays is a two day information session aimed at newcomers to European Standardization, as well as those who would like to understand CEN and CENELEC better.

The information days give a clear and structured overview of the European Standardization System, of the CEN and CENELEC products and processes, as well as the benefits of involvement in European Standardization to potential stakeholders.

StandarDays will be taking place 25-26 March 2014 in Brussels, Belgium.

More information is available from: http://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Events/Pages/EV-2014-03.aspx
ISO

1. Workshop on automated pipetting systems

The ISO Technical Management Board has approved a joint proposal from ANSI (USA) and DIN (Germany), for a workshop with the purpose of developing an International Workshop Agreement on Specification and Method for the Determination of Performance Parameters of Automated Pipetting Systems.

The objective of this project is to develop an international workshop agreement for Automated Pipetting Systems, which will provide guidance in the classification and determination of performance parameters of said systems. This workshop agreement will benefit the manufacturers, users and service organizations of such pipetting systems.

The kick-off meeting will take place on 13 May 2014 in Frankfurt, Germany.

For more information about this workshop please contact alison.deleon@standards.org.au

2. NFTA on domestic gas cooking appliances

ISO has received a proposal from DIN (Germany) for a new field of technical activity on domestic gas cooking appliances.

The scope is Standardization in the field of Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances, considering a whole appliance: terminology, classification, constructional and performance characteristics, test methods and marking. Excluded from this scope are cookstoves covered by the standards being developed in ISO/TC 285.

For more information or to provide any comments on this proposal, please email Jennifer Harwood, National Sector Manager: jennifer.harwood@standards.org.au by Thursday 10 April 2014.

3. Re-allocation of ISO/TC 219

KATS (the Republic of Korea) has informed the Central Secretariat that it wishes to relinquish the Secretariat of ISO/TC 219 Floor coverings.

ISO/TC 219 has published 73 standards in the field of of textile, resilient and laminate floor coverings.

If you are interested in discussing Australia assuming the Secretariat role, please email National Sector Manager jason.lazar@standards.org.au for more information by Monday 07 April 2014.

4. ISO/TC 289 – Brand evaluation

ISO has established a new technical committee ISO/TC 289 – Brand evaluation.

The scope of ISO/TC 289 is standardization of brand evaluation, including the terms and the definitions of the brand, the methods and the guidelines of brand evaluation, and the work of standardization in related fields.

The secretariat has been allocated to SAC (China).

After consultation with stakeholders, Australia elected to be a Non-member.

5. ISO membership changes

The following standards bodies have upgraded from Correspondent Member to a Full ISO Member as of 1 January 2014:

- The Agence Béninoise de Normalisation et de Gestion de la Qualité (ABENOR)
- Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)
- Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM)
6. Vienna Agreement

The 6th edition of the 'Guidelines for the implementation of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between ISO and CEN' is now available at www.iso.org/va.

This document provides guidance to technical committee chairs and secretariats on how to implement the Vienna Agreement and includes all relevant updates to operations and processes.

The FAQs to the Vienna Agreement are currently under revision and they will be made available soon.
IEC
1. Single charger for notebook computers

The IEC announced the publication of the first globally relevant Technical Specification for a single external charger for a wide range of notebook computers and laptops.

Each year billions of external chargers are shipped globally. They are generally not usable from one computer to the next.

This new IEC Technical Specification covers critical aspects of external chargers for notebook computers, their connector and plug, as well as safety, interoperability, performance and environmental considerations.

The new IEC Technical Specification opens the way to a significant and very real reduction of e-waste related to power supplies and will allow consumers to use a single external charger with a wide range of notebook computers. This will also make it much easier for external chargers to be reused or replaced when needed. IEC work ensures that the charger is reliable and safe to use, and that it provides the required level of performance.

IEC Technical Specification 62700: DC Power supply for notebook computer will be available in early 2014.

2. Smart grids and smart cities

In most countries in the world power distribution networks need to be upgraded to cope with the integration of renewable energy and increasingly decentralised power generation. Innovative storage solutions will be essential to level out the intermittent nature of power generation from renewables.

Optimal distribution, storage and monitoring of electrical power resources, via smart grids, smart buildings, electric vehicles and smart meters will be central to ensuring the best possible use of energy.

Many of these issues were addressed at the IEC World Smart Grid Forum 2013 which took place last September in Berlin, Germany.

The IEC has published a brochure giving an overview of the IEC work on smart grids. The brochure is available from: http://www.iec.ch/about/brochures/pdf/technology/IEC_Electrical%20Energy_Keep_the_power_on.pdf