

## International Update

International and regional items of interest for January 2017 are as follows:

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1. CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2017 is now available [More>>](#)
2. WTO members agree on reforms for trade policy reviews and monitoring [More>>](#)
3. WTO Director-General urged caution on protectionism at World Economic Forum in Davos [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for January 2017 are as follows:

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1. An international workshop on *Sharing Economy* will be held in March 2017 in Canada [More>>](#)
2. A New Work Item Proposal on *Guidelines on Integrating a Business Excellence Framework with ISO management system standards* has been submitted [More>>](#)
3. ISO/TC 309, a new ISO committee on Organizational Governance, has been established [More>>](#)
4. ISO 19011 *Guidelines for auditing management systems* is at Committee Draft stage [More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for January 2017 are as follows:

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1. 2017 IECEx International Conference will be held in Shanghai China, April 2017 [More>>](#)
2. The IEC work to advance international trade in the global spotlight [More>>](#)
3. New team for the IEC Directives Maintenance Team (DMT/JDMT) [More>>](#)

**\*\* For further information about any article please email: [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au)**

## International

### 1. CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2017 is available

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The CEN and CENELEC Work Programme 2017 is published and can now be accessed and downloaded online.

This Work Programme 2017 provides an overview of the most important standardization activities that will be developed at CEN and CENELEC this year. It covers all of the different fields and sectors that CEN and CENELEC are dealing with, and it also includes information about other activities related to international cooperation, SME participation, societal stakeholders' involvement, education about standardization, etc.

Those standardization activities respond to market needs, and in particular to the demands of European industry. To help the community and other interested stakeholders be actively involved in European standardization activities, this year's edition includes specific details about the relevant Technical Bodies and the number of standards and other deliverables that have been published by CEN and/or CENELEC.

To access this Work Programme, please visit the 'Publications' section of the CEN-CENELEC website: [http://www.cencenelec.eu/news/publications/Publications/cen-cenelec-wp2017\\_en.pdf](http://www.cencenelec.eu/news/publications/Publications/cen-cenelec-wp2017_en.pdf).

### 2. WTO members agree on reforms for trade policy reviews and monitoring

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WTO members have agreed on reforms to further improve the review of members' trade policies and practices and the monitoring of the global trading environment. The decision to implement changes, such as adjusting the frequency of Trade Policy Reviews, was taken at a meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body on 21 December following completion of the sixth appraisal of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM).

After six months of intensive work and discussions to review the functioning of the TPRM, the Trade Policy Review Body accomplished its work plan for the appraisal exercise and reached a consensus at the December meeting to make changes to the mechanism. One important decision emerging from the appraisal process is to adjust the cycle of TPRs to ensure their continued effectiveness amid the rising number of WTO members. The current review cycle which have members undergoing a TPR every 2, 4 or 6 years depending on the size of their economy will be changed to frequencies of 3, 5, or 7 respectively. The new arrangement will be phased in starting from 2019.

The TPRM, which includes regular Trade Policy Reviews for WTO members and a monitoring of developments in the international trading environment, was initially established in 1989 under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and made permanent under the WTO, as part of the 1994 Uruguay Round agreements to improve members' adherence to their WTO commitments and contribute to the smooth functioning of the trading system.

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo commended members for concluding the appraisal and agreeing on improvements to the TPRM.

"The monitoring and review of trade policies is essential to the health of the global trading system, so I congratulate members on the successful completion of the Sixth Appraisal of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism. The changes agreed by members today will help to strengthen the mechanism," DG Azevêdo said.

Members also agreed to revise the timeline for the question-and-answer process of the TPRs, so that members under review who opt to provide early written answers to other members' questions will have

one more week to prepare the answers. Members also noted efforts by the Secretariat to develop an information technology system to better manage this question-and-answer process. Furthermore, to enhance the transparency of trade policies, there was agreement to establish a regular practice for members to provide brief reports on significant changes in their policies during trade monitoring meetings.

The next appraisal is due in 2021.

### 3. WTO Director-General urged caution on protectionism

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Attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo welcomed the strong desire shown by ministers and the private sector for new negotiated outcomes to be delivered at the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2016. Responding to concerns about a potential rise in protectionism, the Director-General urged WTO members to show leadership and caution.

The Director-General took part in World Economic Forum sessions on global trade and investment, digital trade and protectionism, and held a series of meetings with leaders from business, labour and government. He also attended an informal ministerial gathering on WTO issues hosted by the Swiss government on 20 January 2017. The meeting was attended by ministers from a wide range of WTO members, including Benin and Morocco, as coordinators of the WTO Least-developed Countries Group and the WTO Africa Group, respectively.

Speaking after the ministerial gathering, the Director-General said:

*2017 is an important year for the WTO as we prepare for our Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December. So it's very welcome that we are actually starting the year with some positive news. The WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement is on the verge of entry into force. I received the 107th ratification today, from Nigeria. Just 3 more required for the Agreement to enter into force. This shows that members are delivering on their commitments and it means that we will be able to start delivering the benefits of the Agreement.*

*Clearly trade is very high on the political agenda at the moment. I recognize the concerns about globalization — and the need to respond. The net positive effect of trade means nothing if you've lost your job. So we need better domestic policies to support people and get them back to work. But attacking trade won't help here. I have heard a lot of talk about protectionism and trade wars this week. That would destroy jobs, not create them. I am urging everyone to show caution and leadership. We must avoid talking ourselves into a crisis.*

*Of course there is a lot of uncertainty ahead of us. But my message is: don't be paralyzed by that uncertainty. Instead we need to work even harder. Ministers agreed today to increase their engagement throughout 2017. This will be essential to keep strengthening and improving the trading system.*

The informal ministerial gathering was chaired by Swiss Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann. His summary of the meeting is available at [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/schneider\\_ammanspeech\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/schneider_ammanspeech_e.pdf)

## ISO

### 1. An international workshop on *Sharing Economy*

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ISO will hold an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) meeting to develop an IWA on Sharing Economy on 21-23 March 2017 at the CSA Group in Ontario Canada.

Ahead of the workshop, two information meetings via WebEx will be organized and dates will be confirmed in later January or early February 2017.

The purpose of this IWA is to develop a document through an international discussion (within the ISO structure) that provides a viable standardization solution or solutions on the challenges associated with the sharing economy. Discussions will be focused on for-profit sharing economy business models that both disrupt traditional sectors and challenge (or attempt to reform) regulations governing activities in those sectors.

The main objectives are to:

- foster the sharing of knowledge and best practices on meeting the challenges;
- support the development of innovative responses across multiple service sectors; and
- articulate high-level principles for the sharing economy.

For more information please contact [Varant.Meguerditchian@standards.org.au](mailto:Varant.Meguerditchian@standards.org.au).

### 2. NWIP on *Guidelines on Integrating a Business Excellence Framework*

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A New Work Item Proposal on Guidelines on Integrating a Business Excellence Framework with ISO management system standards has been submitted to ISO from SCC (Canada).

The scope of the activity is:

*Organizations implementing single or multiple management systems and simultaneously the Business Excellence framework are faced with the major challenge of lack of alignment. This can be attributed to multiple factors, including but not limited to, organizational design/structure, responsibilities matrix, contextual understanding of the linkages/inter-dependencies, silo mentality and turf protection.*

*Guidelines on Integrating a Business Excellence Framework with ISO management system standards" will provide the roadmap on integrating the national/international business excellence frameworks with management system standards, for enhancing organizational efficiency, facilitating effective decision-making, and promoting transparency, innovation and continuous improvement.*

Scope will exclude the development of an ISO Business Excellence standard and/or development of ISO Management System standard/s. Instead it will focus on the integration aspects, available best practices, and provision of useful practical tips for better organizational management.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact [Jonathan.Avery@standards.org.au](mailto:Jonathan.Avery@standards.org.au) by 5 April 2017.

### 3. New ISO committee on organizational governance

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A new ISO committee on organizational governance, ISO/TC 309, has been established to focus on Standardization in the field of governance relating to aspects of direction, control and accountability of organizations. This committee aims to develop standards on organizational governance, which is how an organization is directed, controlled and held accountable to achieve its core purpose on the long term.

“Good governance positions organizations for success,” says Dave Adamson of BSI, ISO’s member in the United Kingdom, who put together the proposal for the creation of ISO/TC 309, Governance of organizations. Of the recently launched technical committee, he says: “It exists to make sure that organizations fulfil their purpose successfully on behalf of the people to whom they are accountable. For example, this could mean that an organization is clear about their purpose and values to stakeholders, or is transparent about the way they run the business.”

Adamson believes everyone can benefit from the work of the new ISO committee. “The first standard, for instance, is likely to offer high-level principles and direction on how to establish an effective governance system that can be used by organizations of all sizes, from the largest multinational to the smallest one-person business. The standards produced by ISO/TC 309 may also be useful for regulators as tools to support public policy.”

The new ISO committee, whose secretariat is held by BSI, will consolidate good practice for effective governance of organizational performance by developing standards for all aspects of governance, including direction, control and accountability. These should help organizations demonstrate commitment to stakeholders through evidence and reporting, and encourage the governing body to make the right decisions, upholding the organization’s purpose and values and meeting its objectives.

In addition to this overarching standard on governance, the committee is also considering work on whistleblowing, compliance and corruption. With prior responsibility for ISO 37001 on anti-bribery management systems and ISO 19600 on compliance management systems, it will benefit from the pool of experts that developed those standards.

Adamson hopes this work will help meet the targets of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, dedicated to the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions, by increasing transparency and accountability, as well as good direction and control of organizations.

The committee’s first meeting was held in mid-November 2016 in London and, already, 38 countries have expressed interest to be involved in this work. Australia is currently a P-member on the committee.

#### 4. ISO 19011 *Guidelines for auditing management systems*

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ISO 19011 *Guidelines for auditing management systems* is under revision and has just reached the first voting stage, Committee Draft (CD) stage. It aims to help with the effective audit of those management systems to ensure continuous improvement, allowing harmonization across systems and a uniform approach of the auditing process where there are multiple systems in place.

Denise Robitaille, Chair of ISO/PC 302, *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, said that when the standard was last published in 2011, there were 11 management system standards (MSSs), but that number has since grown significantly to 39, with 12 others in development.

“As organizations see the benefit and need for management systems, there has been an increase in the number of sector-specific standards to respond to the mandate.

“There are now MSSs that cover areas such as health and medical, environment, services, information technology and more. In addition, the two most popular MSSs – ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 – have recently been updated, so the auditing of these systems needs to reflect the variety and number of standards being developed.”

ISO 19011 is applicable to all organizations that need to conduct internal or external audits of management systems or manage an audit programme. It is intended to apply to a broad range of potential users, including auditors, organizations implementing management systems and organizations needing to conduct audits of management systems for contractual or regulatory reasons.

ISO 19011 also provides guidance on external audits, including certification and supplier, which support the implementation of the MSS. The revised version of ISO 19011 is due to be published mid-2018.

## IEC

### 1. 2017 IECEX International Conference

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The IEC and IECEX, together with Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA), in conjunction with UNECE, are organizing the 2017 IECEX International Conference in Shanghai, China and on 11-12 April 2017.

The two-day event is a unique opportunity for industries in the region to not only become better acquainted with IECEX and find out how they can best benefit from the services the System provides, but also to get involved and form precious contacts and networks within the Ex community of experts.

The conference will bring together experts from all over the world, involved in international standardization, equipment manufacturing, inspection, repair and overhaul of Ex equipment and systems, and the assessment and certification of personnel competence. Issues concerning requirements and regulations in the region will also be covered.

The conference will be held in Shanghai with details to be included shortly on the official IECEX website. For further information please visit the IECEX website: [www.iecex.com](http://www.iecex.com)

### 2. The IEC work to advance international trade in the global spotlight

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Dr Shu Yinbiao, IEC Vice-President and Convener of the Market Strategy Board (MSB), participated in the panel discussion—*Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*—at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, 17 January 2017, in Davos, Switzerland.

At a time when the eyes of the world's political, business and civil society leaders were focused on this Swiss mountain village, Dr Shu showcased how the work of the IEC encourages international trade.

Here is an excerpt of Shu's Davos address where he speaks about the IEC:

*I have been working for the IEC for many years. IEC stands for International Electrotechnical Commission. The products of the IEC are standards. Standards can promote international trade, with technology standards.*

*IEC has now over 20,000 expert engineers from all over the world. With IEC standardization, the manufacturers and the labs can manufacture their products according to unique (international) standardization. This is very helpful.*

*IEC was founded in 1906, we are 110 years old already. And it has a very good working procedure – everyone can participate in standardization development...the Standards are produced by consensus. Every expert has to agree with the Standard.*

*The IEC work is divided into many groups. We call these groups Technical Committees (TCs). In the TCs they are working in a specific area, for example, like electric cars. The engineers come together; they meet several times in a year.*

*For one Standard it may take several years to finish. So they are very careful for the standardization but it is not difficult, people are very enthusiastic to participate in the standardization development.*

### 3. New team for the IEC DMT/JDMT

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The work of the Directives Maintenance Team (DMT) is undertaken by a team of experts who report to, and are elected by, the SMB members. About half of the group are SMB members or alternates, and the other half are experts from National Committees with a wide variety of experience. The DMT is charged with taking policy decisions made by the SMB and translating them into the rules we all know and work by in the IEC Directives.

2016 marked a significant change with new leadership. In June, Jim Matthews, the outgoing SMB Chair was elected to a six year term as Convenor of the DMT. Jim has been involved in IEC work for over 25 years as a project leader, SC and TC Secretary, NC President and SMB Chair, bringing significant practical experience to the role. Peter Lanctot of the IEC Central Office was appointed to the role of DMT Secretary upon the retirement of Rémy Baillif. Peter also brings lots of diverse IEC experience, as the Secretary of IEC Market Strategy Board, the Smart Energy Systems Committee and several IEC Systems Evaluation Groups including Smart Cities and Smart Manufacturing.

The DMT met in June, August and December of 2016. A lot of the focus has been on making sure that with the transition, all the work assigned by the SMB through SMB decisions was identified and tracked.

The DMT works to address changes to the ISO/IEC Directives and the IEC Supplement through the year, and after an SMB review and approval in February 2017, will be published in the next edition of the Directives and Supplement in Q2, 2017.

Topics proposed for SMB approval include:

- A new Annex providing a procedure for Questions of Principle from TCs to the SMB
- New procedures for approval of Interpretation Sheets to facilitate better interaction between the Standardization and Conformity Assessment community
- Consideration on how to capture comments on FDIS drafts for use in future revisions
- Safeguards against the introduction of unexpected changes to CDV texts going directly to publication
- Reinstatement of longstanding requirements for approval of Category A or B Liaisons by the Chief Executive Officer and Category D Liaisons by the SMB
- Additional language further clarifying the restrictions on fees for IEC meetings (WG / PT / SC / TC – all types) and the requirement for WGs to notify the NC Secretariat of a meeting in any IEC member country

The SMB has asked the DMT to work with the counterparts in ISO to see if some of the differences in ISO, IEC and JTC 1 in their separate supplements can be reduced. The Canadian DMT member, Tony Capel, prepared a detailed comparison between all the variations of the Directives for IEC, ISO, and JTC 1. Some issues were actionable by the DMT, while others were introduced to the Joint Directives Maintenance Team (JDMT), composed of representatives from IEC, ISO and JTC 1. Many of these will be discussed in mid-2017 at the next meeting of the DMT and the JDMT.

For future work, the DMT will continue to be tracking and addressing issues related to SMB decisions.

Topics the DMT will be addressing include:

- Opportunities to further harmonize language between IEC and ISO.
- The list of “important” Administrative Circulars (AC) will be reviewed to ensure their incorporation into the Directives, and once they are, withdrawal of the AC.
- Forms will become obsolete, as the IEC rolls out the new dashboard with online entry of project information. DMT members will review references to forms in the Directives and compile a list of changes to make them more generic.
- The naming and procedures used to prepare IEC Deliverables known as PAS and TS.

The work of DMT is absolutely essential to ensure that IEC’s standardization work is efficient and effective.