June 2017

International Update

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**** For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au**

International

1. New publication shares best practices for National Committees on Trade Facilitation

After the recent entry into force of the landmark Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), a new publication reports that many WTO members have set up national bodies for coordinating the implementation of the Agreement and would like assistance to ensure their effective functioning. The publication released on 2 June details best practices for establishing a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) based on a survey of over 100 members and observers as well as experiences shared at a 2016 workshop.

Among the survey respondents, 63% said they had already established their national committee as of November 2016. Furthermore, 27% of those with an established NCTF said they needed assistance while 42% of those still establishing their NCTF also called for help.

The TFA — which will help expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods across borders — entered into force on 22 February 2017. It requires WTO members to establish a national committee to facilitate domestic coordination for, and implementation of, the Agreement. However, it does not provide guidance on how such committees should be established.

The publication entitled “National Committees on Trade Facilitation: Current Practices and Challenges” aims to provide information on national experiences, best practices and recommendations with respect to the establishment and functioning of NCTFs.

It draws on the experiences shared by more than 35 speakers during a workshop that took place on 8 June 2016 at the WTO and on the results of an electronic survey conducted by the WTO Secretariat, which collected information on the practices of, and challenges faced by, 99 WTO members and six other countries in the process of acceding to the WTO.

The publication provides information on how to define an NCTF's mandate and institutional framework, including its composition, participation of the private sector, and the role of the chairperson. It also provides guidance on roadmaps and the proper long-term functioning of an NCTF. The last section of the publication deals with the main challenges in establishing and maintaining an NCTF and highlights sources of technical assistance for the implementation of the TFA.

The publication highlights the experiences of members participating in the workshop in order to provide examples of differing approaches.

Download the publication **here**.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/fac_09jun17_e.htm

2. Changes to Travel Subsidies for Australian Delegates Attending ISO and IEC Meetings

Every year around 500 delegates represent Australian mirror committees at ISO and IEC international technical committee and working group meetings. Of these delegates approximately two-thirds are provided a subsidy to assist with their costs in attending the meeting. The subsidies are provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science as part of the Support for Industry Services Organisation (SISO) Programme and are administered by Standards Australia.

For Australia to actively participate and therefore influence the direction and content of standards in a given area, attendance at meetings is vitally important. Standards Australia is encouraged by the increase in participation by delegates at meetings over the years.

A set amount of funding is allocated to delegates based on location of the meeting, the number of days attending and the numbers of Australian delegates attending. The last review of the subsidies was undertaken in 2014. In recent years, international travel has seen changes in average airfares and related costs to various regions and a review was seen as timely to ensure these changes were taken into account. As a result some modifications have been made to the subsidy levels and will come into effect for travel occurring after 1 July 2017. The new amounts are set out in the *Guide to nomination and funding application process for international meetings* (PDF).

For more information please contact International Engagement Manager, Karen Batt, karen.batt@standards.org.au.

3. PASC Annual General Meetings held in Vancouver

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) was pleased and honoured to host the annual general meetings of the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) in Vancouver, British Columbia from April 30 to May 5, 2017. The theme of this year's joint conference was "Regional Collaboration in a Global Environment."

There were approximately 110 participants who were given the unique opportunity to strengthen the close relations between PASC and COPANT member bodies to benefit both regions. The highlight of the week was the joint COPANT-PASC workshop on 'Enabling Innovation through Standardisation.' It provided a great opportunity for participants to discuss the best ways to demonstrate how standardization offers value to all stakeholders.

International organisations including the WTO, ISO, IEC and ITU also presented during the week and discussed the need of their respective organisations to further scale up efforts to collaborate and coordinate standards work on existing and emerging areas, such as smart cities, information technologies, industry 4.0 and block chain.

For more information about PASC, upcoming events and recent news please visit the **PASC** website.

ISO

1. New Work Item Proposal – Green Finance: Assessment of Green Financial Projects

ISO has received a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) from the Standardization Administration of China on **Green Finance: Assessment of Green Financial Projects**.

The scope of the proposed standard is: *This International Standard specifies the classification of green financial projects. This International Standard also specifies a framework for assessing green financial projects, including principles, scope, methodologies, procedure, reporting, and assessment bodies. This International Standard helps users to identify and assess green financial projects.*

The proposed standard will:

- Be addressed by a new Project Committee
- Provide a universal definition and classification of green financial projects
- Establish common guidelines for assessing green financial projects before investment decisions

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact Stakeholder Engagement Managers, Jonathan Avery jonathan.avery@standards.org.au or Brett Lovett, brett.lovett@standards.org.au by 31 August 2017.

2. Revision of ISO 22000 on Food Management

Revision is ongoing for ISO 22000 on food safety management systems, which has just reached the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage. The revised standard will incorporate a new core structure as well as recognized key elements to ensure food safety at every step of the food chain.

The ISO 22000 revision aims to consolidate the most recent issues surrounding food safety to suit the current landscape of the food sector. It is a very comprehensive process and the working group revising the standard has covered several extensive concepts. The experts met three times in 2016 and processed 1800 comments from a variety of global stakeholders representing a broad range of positions. Now, their main task is to translate the revised concepts included in the standard and communicate these to the users in a clear and concise manner that makes ISO 22000 easier to understand and implement for organizations of all sizes, in every aspect of the food chain.

The new version of ISO 22000 will contain a number of minor alterations that have been introduced to increase the readability and clarity of the standard, as well as some substantial changes that are more structural in nature. The main highlights are as follows:

- The new version will adopt ISO's new High-Level Structure (HLS), which is the common framework for all management systems standards. This common structure makes it easier for businesses to integrate more than one management system into their processes at a given time.
- The revised standard will provide a new understanding of the notion of "risk". Risk is a vital concept for food businesses and the standard will distinguish between risk at the operational level (through the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point approach, or HACCP) and risk at the strategic level of the management system (business risk) with its ability to embrace opportunities in order to reach a business's specific goals.
- The standard will clarify the distinction between two Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycles. The first applies to the management system as a whole while the second, embedded within it, addresses the operations described in Clause 8, which simultaneously covers the principles of HACCP defined by the Codex Alimentarius.

The revised version of ISO 22000 is expected to be published by June 2018.

For more information on the DIS stage and how you can contribute to the standard's development, contact Standards Australia Stakeholder Engagement Manager Brett Lovett, brett.lovett@standards.org.au.

Source: https://www.iso.org/news/ref2192.html

3. TMB Communiqué Edition 56 – June 2017 is now available

The TMB Communiqué Edition 56 (June 2017) is now available. Be sure to **download** a copy of it so that you can find out about all the latest TMB decisions, upcoming changes to the Directives and other useful information. Here are some highlights of the Communiqué:

Highlights from the June 2017 TMB Meeting:
Updates from TMB Taskforces, final report from the ISO Strategic Advisory Group on Ageing Societies and review of post-meeting surveys for plenary meetings.

L.D. Eicher Award – Winner to be announced at the ISO General Assembly
7 standards committees have been nominated for the L.D. Eicher Award to recognize committees with an outstanding performance. The winner, chosen at the June TMB meeting, will be announced at the upcoming ISO General Assembly to be held in September in Berlin, Germany.

New ISO Guide on Systematic Review has been published
The ISO Guide on Systematic Review is reviewed every 5 years after publication to ensure that appropriate deliverables are established and met. You can read the Guidance on the Systematic Review process in ISO to find out how the SR affects you.

For any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Technical Management Board directly at tmb@iso.org.

4. Organizational resilience made simple with new ISO standard: ISO 22316

Resilience is the key for any business wanting to thrive in an ever-changing world. A new standard just published will help put organizations in a better position to meet the challenges ahead.

Climate change, economic crises and consumer trends are just some of the pitfalls that can dramatically affect the way an organization does business and survives. Organizational resilience is a company's ability to absorb and adapt to that unpredictability, while continuing to deliver on the objectives it is there to achieve.

A new standard, ISO 22316, *Security and resilience – Organizational resilience – Principles and attributes*, provides a framework to help organizations future-proof their business, detailing key principles, attributes and activities that have been agreed on by experts from all around the world.

James Crask, Convenor of ISO/TC 292's working group WG 2, the group of experts that developed the standard, says improving the resilience of organizations ensures they are not only better placed for anticipating and responding to potential risks, but can harness opportunities as well.

"The standard takes a wide view of the things that can drive resilience in an organization; many of these are behavioural and have historically been overlooked. This is why one of the key principles of the standard is to help them develop a culture that supports resilience.

"It also involves building upon existing forms of risk management, having shared values and an awareness of changing contexts, all the while underpinned by strong and empowered leadership."
ISO 22316 was developed by working group WG 2, *Continuity and organizational resilience*, of technical committee ISO/TC 292, *Security and resilience*, whose secretariat is held by SIS, the ISO member for Sweden. It is now available through the ISO Store.

Australia is a Participating Member on ISO/TC 292 *Security and resilience*, if you are interested in Australia's involvement or would like any additional information please contact Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Jonathan Avery, jonathan.avery@standards.org.au.

Source: https://www.iso.org/news/Ref2189.htm

5. Guidelines for optimizing use of management consultancies just published

From improving processes to boosting profits, management consultancies can make a huge difference to the organizations they work with. Clarity and transparency are the keys to success –for both parties. A new standard just published aims to help.

Offering specialist sector knowledge and experience, it is no wonder more and more organizations are turning to management consultancies. Whether it be bringing a product to market, training staff or advising on an organizational overhaul, management consultancies offer a wide range of services and support. Their use has grown dramatically in recent years as businesses and governments look to improve their performance and processes.

ISO 20700, Guidelines for management consultancy services, draws on research and experience from a wide range of management consultancies worldwide and aims to increase transparency and effectiveness for both client and consultancy.

Robert Bodenstein, Chair of ISO/PC 280, Management Consultancy, the ISO project committee that developed the standard, whose secretariat is held by UNI, ISO's member for Italy, said that it brings together industry best practice to help make management consultancies more effective.

"Management consultancies can bring valuable expertise to an organization, with their in-depth knowledge and broad experience of an industry, to help clients bring about growth or change more effectively. In this way, they make a strong contribution to the economy," he said.

"This new standard is aimed at not only helping consultancies work even more effectively and efficiently, but helping with the development of the profession."

ISO 20700 gives practical guidelines based on outcomes and emphasizes the importance of understanding clients' needs. It is useful to all management consultancies, regardless of size, and maintains a focus on innovation, differentiation and ethical behaviour. It is also useful for clients in that it helps them better understand what they can expect from a management consultant in a consultancy project.

Australia is a non-member of ISO/PC 280 *Management Consultancy*, if you are interested in finding out more please contact Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Jonathan Avery, jonathan.avery@standards.org.au

Source: https://www.iso.org/news/ref2160.html

1. Virtual Reality Training for Disaster Relief

When disaster strikes, whether in the form of an earthquake or a production plant going up in flames, the actions and decisions of first responders can affect directly the number of lives saved. But how well can anyone prepare for a situation without actually experiencing it?

The answer is quite well, thanks to state-of-the-art VR training programmes, which immerse users into a seemingly real disaster scenario. Background noise, visual and auditory cues create unique settings and incidents which require users to respond to the specific situation. This hands-on approach is far more effective than learning check lists for a number of possible disasters.

VR training is becoming used increasingly because there are many advantages including:

- Safe – trainees can practise real-life skills in a safe environment
- Efficient – individuals and large groups can train alone or together
- Comprehensive – predesigned modules cover all types of situations
- Cost effective – VR training doesn't require special environments to be built or people to be transported, can be used multiple times and may be offered for free to emergency services
- Tailored – response agencies will be able to tailor open source platforms to suit their requirements, infrastructure and available resources
- Scalable – agencies can train alone or together for a coordinated response with other emergency services

Behind the VR scenes, software drives components such as displays, sensors, images, maps and tracking technology, which link to the hardware (headsets or helmets). A number of IEC technical committees (TCs) and their subcommittees (SCs) produce International Standards and have testing systems which help ensure the reliability, safety, efficiency, interoperability and quality of the components within this technology.

To find out more about virtual training for real solutions please visit see the *recent IEC publication*.

Source: https://blog.iec.ch/2017/06/vr-training-for-disaster-relief/

2. 10 Years of Marine Energy Standardisation

Today, a number of different technologies are being developed to extract energy from oceans, such as tidal, river and ocean current and wave power. Though only a few large-scale systems currently operate, several are being demonstrated in Asia, Europe and North America.

Slowly but surely
While marine energy has a great and often predictable source of power, important engineering challenges have restricted the scale of projects. These include operating in difficult conditions, and the effect the technology has on marine life and other marine users, such as the shipping and fishing industries. According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), global ocean energy capacity in 2014 was 0,53 GW.

IEC leads the way
The growth of Renewable Energy (RE) globally, including the emerging marine RE sector, is dependent on the development of International Standards and the verification of compliance to these. Third-party verification to consensus-based standards reduces marine energy equipment and project risk, improves their safety, performance and reliability, which increases confidence in the marketplace.

Against this backdrop, IEC Technical Committee (TC) 114: Marine energy - Wave, tidal and other water current converters, was established in 2007 to prepare International Standards for marine energy conversion systems.

Jonathan Colby is the third Chair of IEC TC 114. His involvement with IEC began in 2008 as a Subject Matter Expert developing Technical Specification IEC TS 62600-200 on electricity-producing tidal energy converters. Colby served as the US Technical Advisor to the US Technical Advisory Group prior to his appointment as Chair.

“Our work is crucial to developing the marine energy industry. If an industry can collectively establish technical standards and certification processes via global consensus, not only can international markets evaluate technology viability fairly, they can do it more efficiently and ultimately, it will lead to the confident adoption of Marine Energy technologies worldwide”, said Colby.

Achievements

Comprised of 15 participating countries and 11 observers, IEC TC 114 has seven active project teams, which are developing new Technical Specifications (TSs), two maintenance teams and six *ad hoc* groups, which are working on strategies for the next steps of the eight existing TSs.
The ultimate goal is for these publications to become International Standards, which will address:

- system definitions
- management plan for technology and project development
- performance measurements of wave, tidal and water current energy converters
- resource assessment requirements, comprising:
- design and safety including reliability and survivability
- deployment, operation, maintenance and retrieval
- commissioning and decommissioning
- electrical interface, including array integration and / or grid integration
- testing: laboratory, manufacturing and factory acceptance
- measurement methodologies of physical parameters of the device

The work is varied and involves liaising with other IEC TCs, which cover: hydraulic turbines (IEC TC 4), systems aspects for electrical energy supply (IEC TC 8/SC 8A), wind energy generation systems (IEC TC 88), and international organizations, such as the IEA and its Ocean Energy Systems and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Given that the industry as a whole continues to grow, a Task Force has been established to review the strategic business plan to take into consideration global market developments and needs.

Part of a global RE scheme for quality assurance

In 2014, IECRE, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Renewable Energy Applications, was created in recognition that the ever-increasing demand for electricity, and the need to reduce the share of fossil fuels in power generation, have led to rapid development and growth of the RE sector, and to address the specific requirements of the RE sector, which are not covered by the existing IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

IECRE aims to facilitate international trade in equipment and services for use in RE in the marine, solar PV and wind energy sectors, while maintaining the required level of safety. Each of these sectors will be able to operate IECRE Schemes that cover products, services and personnel, to provide testing, inspection and certification.

Jonathan Colby has dedicated much time to setting up the marine sector of IECRE in his role as Chair of the Marine Energy Operational Management Committee (ME-OMC). Equally, the publications of IEC TC 114 will be used in the System as the benchmarks against which to assess marine energy systems. Work has begun to promote IECRE at international events, such as IRENA Innovation Week 2016, and Hydrovision International 2017.

"The ME-OMC has made significant progress outlining the rules and operating procedures for issuing Test Reports and Conformity Statements, the underlying components of deliverables such as Prototype and Type Certificates, among others. Focus will shift to the essential work of peer assessing Renewable Energy Test Labs (RETLs) and Renewable Energy Certification Bodies (RECBs), both with a scope in Marine Energy, following Member Body approval of the critical Rules and Operational Documents (ODs). Simultaneously, close collaboration with IEC TC 114 enables important feedback between the Standards writers and the certification community, essential for the success of TC 114, the ME-OMC and the Marine Energy Sector at large", Colby concludes.

Australia is a non-member of IEC/TC 114 *Marine energy – Water, tidal and other water current converters.* If you would like any further information please contact Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Jonathan Avery, jonathan.avery@standards.org.au

Source: http://iecetech.org/Technical-Committees/2017-04/Ten-years-of-marine-energy-standardization

3. Low Voltage Direct Current Conference in Kenya is Great Success

IEC and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) hosted the first ever low voltage direct current (LVDC) Conference for Sustainable Electricity Access, in Nairobi on May 22-23, 2017.

Over 170 participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin and North America attended the event.

Conference discussions focused on how to bring adequate, clean, affordable electricity to the 1,2 billion people who go without.

Policy makers, funding agencies, project implementers, government and non-government bodies, technology research organizations, academia and field practitioners, addressed the realities, challenges, and consequences of electricity access, or lack thereof. Topics included:

- Defining electricity access with a view to developing LVDC International Standards
- Funding electricity access programmes
- How to implement projects, including the gap between assumptions and reality
- Technological solutions to realize such projects

"An important outcome of the Conference is that industry leaders from electrotechnical companies across the world were really listening and now have a clearer idea of what the global community expects of the standardization community", said Vimal Mahendru, Chair, IEC Systems Committee, LVDC and LVDC for Electricity Access (SyC-LVDC), and IEC Ambassador.

Many countries in the developing world still require electricity access standards. The IEC Affiliate Country Programme aims to enable these countries to get involved in the standardization process, and to adopt IEC International Standards. Fourteen Affiliate Country Members attended the Conference and their delegates also participated in subsequent IEC plenary meetings for LVDC standardization.

"The work of the LVDC standardization community would be considered done, only when there was electricity in every hut, home, village, town, district, state and country, and it should be clean, affordable, abundant and available 24 hours a day, every day of the week", said Mahendru.

Find out more about LVDC in the following IEC brochures: Electricity access – More than a promise: LVDC and LVDC the better way.

Source: https://blog.iec.ch/2017/05/lvdc-conference-in-kenya-is-great-success/