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1. The 4th European Standardization Summit will be held on 4 June 2015 in Riga

The 4th European Standardization Summit will be held on 4 June 2015 at the National Library of Latvia in Riga. How standardization can contribute to a cleaner and smarter economy in Europe is the theme for 2015. The Summit will focus primarily on the construction sector, which represents a major part of the European single market and is especially important for the Latvian economy.

While the economic recovery of Europe is still underway, the issue of competitiveness remains at the core of EU policies. Calling for a smarter and cleaner economy, the EU strives to promote growth, create jobs, foster competitiveness and secure Europe’s position in the global market.

The construction sector accounts for more than 10% of Europe’s economic output. It mostly consists of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and provides almost 30% of industrial employment or about 20 million jobs. Construction also has a key role to play in ensuring that every citizen can have a good quality of life. This puts the spotlight on the construction sector as having a vital importance for the European economy and society.

The goal of a “smarter and cleaner” economy in the construction sector translates into improving the energy performance of buildings, integrating sustainability into architecture, developing smart cities, linking science and standardization and advancing the design and management of buildings. The Summit’s parallel sessions will build around these critical topics and the plenary session will consider the current state of play in the construction sector, present ongoing and future standardization developments, and outline priorities for action.

The programme of this event is available here: ftp://ftp.cencenelec.eu/EN/News/Events/Riga/20150518EU_Standardization_Summit_Programme.pdf

2. WTO and UNEP enhance dialogue on trade and environmental issues

A flagship event on trade and environment marking the 20th anniversary of the WTO was held at WTO headquarters on 28 April 2015 with the participation of Director-General Roberto Azevêdo and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr Achim Steiner.

The event provided an opportunity to take stock of the increasing interconnections between trade and environment since the establishment of the WTO and to look ahead to what needs to be done to ensure these two areas continue to be mutually supportive in the years to come.

The event brought together leaders and renowned experts in the field of trade and environment, including the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

DG Azevêdo highlighted the increasing importance of trade-related measures aimed at environmental goals and the role of WTO institutions and activities in ensuring such measures contribute efficiently to sustainable development.

Mr Steiner and Mr Azevêdo emphasized the need to redouble efforts at all levels to ensure that trade and environmental policies go hand in hand.
3. Participants urged swift conclusion to ITA 2 negotiations

Many participants urged a swift conclusion to ongoing negotiations on the expansion of the ITA product coverage (ITA 2) at the meeting of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Committee on 8 May. They also commended the holding of the workshop the previous day on non-tariff barriers in trade of information and communications technology (ICT) products.

Many participants said that the negotiations for expanding the ITA coverage came close to conclusion last December, and urged swift conclusion to the negotiations. They welcomed the participation of Director-General Roberto Azevêdo in pushing forward the ITA negotiations, adding that ITA 2 success will also help the Doha Round negotiations.

The European Union said that the basis for inclusion of products in the ITA 2 list is consensus, and urged the participants concerned to not block agreement but to accept what is already on the table. Japan called for progress to be made at the meeting of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) trade ministers meeting in the Philippines later this month and at the June mini-ministerial on the sidelines of the OECD meeting. The United States said it considers ITA 2 a top trade priority, adding that its IT industry as well as those of other countries are getting impatient over the lack of agreement.

Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Montenegro, Singapore, Colombia, Australia and Hong Kong, China also supported the early conclusion of ITA 2.

Korea said it is actively engaged in good faith negotiations, and sees the remaining gap as not big and within reach. China said that it has been doing all it can for ITA 2, including holding difficult consultations with domestic industry, but members cannot expect just one participant to make contributions all the time as all participants must contribute. It said participants must not make unrealistic requests, and should instead focus on what is on the table.

The Chair, Mr Fred Payot (Switzerland), reported that the WTO Secretariat held a successful workshop the day before on non-tariff barriers affecting trade in ICT products, with the participation of many industry representatives from all over the world.

He said that speakers from the industry made concrete recommendations around the principle “for each area of certification: one global product, one global standard, one global test and one global certificate.”

The recommendations included: the establishment of a centralized database of administrative and technical requirements; avoiding duplication of conformity assessment procedures and use of globally recognized standards; encouraging the use of e-labeling as a solution to the costly problem of the proliferation of marking requirements; harmonizing practice in the field of energy efficiency requirements; and encouraging global cooperation to avoid forced localization requirements.

Switzerland suggested that the incoming chair consult with members on how the Committee should proceed with these recommendations, and report at the next meeting. The Philippines, Japan, Chinese Taipei and the EU supported this proposal. The US said that it has heard several doable solutions at the workshop, in particular on e-labeling. It encouraged other ITA members to allow e-labeling use to reduce costs to IT companies.

The Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Andrew Stains (United Kingdom) as it new chair.
1. Proposal on a new field of technical activity: Rare Earth

A proposal has been submitted by SAC (China) for a new field of technical activity – Rare Earth.

The scope of this new field of technical activity is standardisation in the field of rare earth ores, concentrates, metals, alloys, compounds, materials, including the reuse and recycling of waste rare earth products.

It is proposed to develop a three-category standard system for the full life cycle of rare earth, the first category being basic standards; the second, testing and analysis standards; and the third, rare earth product standards.

- **Category 1:** Basic standards; terms and definitions; designation system; packing, marking, transport and storage;
- **Category 2:** Testing and analysis standards; chemical analysis of rare earth concentrates, metals and materials; determination of particle size and specific surface area of rare earth compounds;
- **Category 3:** Product standards; rare earth product standards from concentrates to materials, including reuse and recycling aspects.

Priorities will be given to the items listed in the first and second categories, because common understanding of definitions and common testing methods are essential for producers and users of rare earths globally. They are the base for the standardisation of rare earths internationally.

For more information or to provide any comments on this proposal, please email Jonathan Russell, National Sector Manager: Jonathan.Russell@standards.org.au, by 10 August 2015.

2. New consolidated ISO Supplement to the ISO/IEC Directives is now available

The new (6th) edition of the Consolidated ISO Supplement to the ISO/IEC Directives is now available online. Part 1 has become applicable as 1 May 2015.

There is no change to the 2014 edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 but a corrected version has been released which corrects clause 1.8.

Both of these documents and the track changes versions can be accessed at: www.iso.org/directives.

The updated ISO Forms can be accessed on www.iso.org/forms.
3. Revision of ISO 31000 Risk management—Principles and guidelines has started

The revision of ISO 31000 *Risk management—Principles and guidelines*, and its accompanying Guide 73 on risk management terminology has now started. ISO/TC 262/WG 2, the working group responsible for developing core risk management standards, gathered from 3 to 9 March 2015 in Paris, hosted by AFNOR, ISO member for France—to discuss the necessary changes to be made to the standard.

It is important that ISO/CD 31000, *Risk management—Principles and guidelines*, and ISO/CD Guide 73, *Risk management—Vocabulary*, are revised at the same time. All the terms and definitions in ISO 31000 are contained in ISO Guide 73, so any changes to the terms and definitions in ISO 31000 must be identical in both documents.

ISO/TC 262/WG 2 addressed a total of 656 comments at its March 2015 meeting in Paris. While they did complete the task, it has demonstrated a need for a new high-level document that will require a full technical review by ISO/TC 262/WG 2 to develop a design specification (DS) that outlines additional issues to be addressed based on the comments examined in Paris. The DS will, of course, have to be approved by the participating members of ISO/TC 262 in order to proceed.

ISO 31000 has been adopted as a national standard by more than 50 national standards bodies covering over 70% of the global population. It has also been adopted by a number of UN agencies and national governments as a basis for developing their own risk-related standards and policies, especially in the areas of disaster risk reduction and the management of disaster risk.

A need was expressed by risk practitioners, especially in the G20 economies, for a high-level document that reflects the way risk is managed in multinational organizations and national governments, as well as how risk management should be incorporated into the governance and management systems of organizations.

The revised Standards are expected to be published no later than the end of 2017.

4. Conference and training on 'Using ISO and IEC standards to support public policy'

A full-day conference followed by a half-day training course on 'Using ISO and IEC standards to support public policy' will be held in Geneva on 2-3 November 2015. All the IEC and ISO members and affiliates along with their regulators and policymakers, plus relevant international organizations are welcome to participate.

This conference and training will help delegates learn about the many ways in which International Standards can support public policy goals. It will also cover how to reference standards in regulations, how standards can help implement policy commitments taken at the global level (e.g. sustainability, resilience and development goals), and much more.

The event is a unique opportunity to connect national and international policymakers with standards developers, in order to share experience and best practices.

For more information, please visit the ISO site: http://www.iso.org/iso/standards_and_policy_conference_save_the_date.pdf
The 2015 World Standards Day will be organized by the ISO, IEC and ITU. A traditional poster has already been designed and a video competition is now calling for entries. The purpose of this contest is to raise awareness of the importance of standards in our daily life. The best video will be awarded 1,500 Swiss francs, with the three runners-up each receiving 500 Swiss francs. All participating videos must be uploaded and the link (with hash-tag) should be sent to the ISO between 1 June 2015 and 10 July 2015.

The three organizers of the competition, IEC, ISO and ITU, will get together and select the top 10 favorite videos based on:
- Relevance: does the video really show an example of something that would not work without standards?
- Understanding: does the participant understand the impact of standards developed by IEC, ISO, and ITU on people's lives?
- Creativity and originality: is the video unique and show creativity?

Once the top 10 videos are selected, the organizers will put them up for vote on their social media channels, and then it will be up to the public to decide.

For more information, please visit the World Standards Day website:
http://www.worldstandardscooperation.org/world-standards-day/world-standards-day-2015/
IECEx certification helps keep explosions or fires at bay

IECEx, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, has several solutions for manufacturers of equipment used in refueling operations. The System has put in place a number of Schemes that provide assurance that equipment and systems are manufactured, maintained, repaired and operated according to the highest International Standards of safety.

From the smallest to the largest piece of equipment used in refueling operations, all can be tested and certified by IECEx. An IECEx Certificate is like a passport for manufacturers of Ex equipment. It provides clear proof of claimed compliance with International Standards. It certifies that the equipment in question has the right level of protection. It provides assurance that products bearing an IECEx Certificate conform to the International Standards listed on the same Certificate.

Because Ex equipment has a much higher capital cost than the same equipment used elsewhere, repairing it is often more cost-effective than replacing it. This Scheme assesses and certifies that organizations and workshops that provide repair and overhaul services to the Ex industry do so respecting the strict requirements of IEC 60079-19:2010 Explosive atmospheres—Part 19: Equipment repair, overhaul and reclamation. This ensures that unique Ex safety features are not compromised during the repair or overhaul process. The system includes on-site audits prior to issuing the IECEx Certificate and periodic audits to ensure that repair and overhaul processes continue to comply with IEC 60079-19 and IECEx requirements.

The Certificate of Personnel Competence (CoPC) gives independent proof that the certificate holder has the required qualifications, experience and capability to apply the various Ex-related Standards that cover tasks from area classification to installation, inspection, maintenance and repair covering equipment located in hazardous areas. All personnel working in an environment that uses fuel in high quantities qualify for seeking an IECEx CoPC.

In terms of the IECEx CoPC Scheme, competence is defined as “the ability to apply knowledge” rather than simply assessing knowledge. In this sense, the assessments of persons include assessing their ability to perform certain Ex-related tasks.

A growing number of major companies, especially those in the oil and gas industries require workers to hold an IECEx CoPC certificate which comes with a credit-card-sized photo ID card linked to the central International On-Line Certificate System.
The impact of Electric vehicles (EVs) on the automotive and industrial vehicle sectors will continue to grow in coming decades, not just in terms of volume, but also of value. IEC Technical Committee (TC) 69: Electric road vehicles and electric industrial trucks, which develops International Standards for the sector and works closely together with other IEC TCs, will be central to this expansion.

This huge market is expected to exceed USD 533 billion by 2025. This market, driven by tightening emission standards in many countries, is currently concentrated on North America, Western Europe and Asia (China, Japan and India).

The need for International Standards has emerged. The IEC has been involved in EV standardization for a long time through IEC TC 69, which was created in 1969. Its remit is “to prepare International Standards for road vehicles totally or partially electrically-powered from self-contained power sources, including charging infrastructure for these vehicles, and for electric industrial trucks”.

The growing number of new countries opting for participating status in TC 69 and of experts reflects the mounting global interest in EVs. As of April 2015, 27 Participating and 14 Observer countries were represented in TC 69 with some 220 experts active in its work.

TC 69 laid the groundwork for modern EVs in the early 1980s with a series of Technical Reports (TRs) on “rotating electrical machines (traction motors and auxiliary motors) of electric road vehicles including hybrids, which are fed from the main traction battery” as well as on “wiring and connectors, instrumentation and controllers for electric road vehicles”.

The bulk of TC 69 work focuses on charging issues which include both conductive and wireless power transfer. It also develops International Standards for “Test methods for electrical characteristics electric double-layer capacitors for use in hybrid EVs”, in liaison with IEC TC 40: Capacitors and resistors for electronic equipment.

Enabling it to play a central role in standardization for EVs, TC 69 liaises with many other IEC TCs and Subcommittees (SCs) as well as with various SCs of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), such as TC 22: road vehicles. TC 69 has also established informal coordination with other organizations such as the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the Japanese Electric Vehicle Association (JEVA).

Since energy for EVs is supplied mainly by batteries, TC 69 liaises closely with TC 21: Secondary cells and batteries, and its SCs.

TC 69 also works with the following IEC TCs and SCs:
- TC 64: Electrical installations and protection against electric shock
- SC 121B: Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies
- TC 77: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), the International special committee on radio interference (CISPR), and the IEC Advisory Committee on Electromagnetic Compatibility (ACEC), to ensure compliance with EMC and RFI (radio frequency interference) Standards
- SC 23E: Circuit-breakers and similar equipment for household use
- SC 23H: Plugs, socket-outlets and couplers for industrial and similar applications, and for electric vehicles. The SC develops International Standards in the IEC 62196 series for “Plugs, socket-outlets, vehicle connectors and vehicle inlets for the conductive charging of EVs”

TC 69 stresses that “the ongoing liaison-cooperation with ISO/TC 22/SC21: Electrically propelled road vehicles, is essential for the realization of efficient vehicle-related standards and needs to continue”.

With the growing EV market for cars, commercial and industrial vehicles showing no sign of slowing down, TC 69 standardization activities will continue to sustain the expansion of this market for the foreseeable future.

The IEC Webstore, the one-stop shop for the purchase of IEC International Standards and other Publications, has undergone a major update at the end of April 2015, some six years after the previous version was launched. The interface is clearer and offers more facilities than its forerunner.

This new Webstore version has been developed to adapt to all formats and its design is responsive. Around 1,000 orders are received every month from customers from all over the world.

This new version follows earlier measures aimed at improving access to Webstore information with the launch of applications that allow customers who wish to consult the Catalogue of IEC International Standards and to purchase IEC Publications to do so via computers running under Windows and Mac OS as well as via mobile Android devices.

The IEC Webstore also offers a subscription service for access to online collections, which currently includes three popular series of publications:
- CISPR 16 on specifications for radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus and methods
- IEC 60076 on power transformers
- IEC 61400 on wind turbines

The service offers an attractive price that allows yearly access to all parts of the series for only CHF 550 per year for a single user access.

Publications are in html format, and content is available to read online. There is a possibility to bookmark clauses and a comment function. The service may be extended to more collections in the future depending on response.

Visit the IEC Webstore here: https://webstore.iec.ch/.