

NEWS

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NATIONAL FORUM ON CCTV SYSTEMS

In a move designed to strengthen Australia's counter terrorism capabilities and protect "soft targets" Standards Australia held the nation's first major forum on the use of closed circuit television systems by industry and government.

The forum brought together experts and potential users of surveillance systems to comment on the draft guidelines for CCTV that have been drawn up by Standards Australia.

Mr John Tucker, CEO Standards Australia, said the forum was a major step forward in developing a consistent and comprehensive set of guidelines for the use and operation of CCTV security systems by the private sector.

"While government is working on developing new CCTV systems for public infrastructure, soft targets such as restaurants and tourist attractions are often less protected.

"Surprisingly there are currently no national or international standards that give the private sector clear advice on the management, installation and maintenance of CCTV systems," Mr Tucker said.

More than 100 security industry, business and government representatives gathered in Sydney for Australia's first major forum on closed circuit television security systems hosted by Standards Australia.

The Director General of the NSW Attorney General's Department, Mr Laurie Glanfield AM, officially opened the forum.

The new guidelines cover three areas dealing with:

- A Code of Practice, detailing recruitment, training, storage of information, privacy issues, responses to incidents;
- Installation, customer requirements, equipment, evaluation;
- Technical requirements.

Mr Mark Bezzina, General Manager Strategy Development for Standards Australia, said the standards, when finalised early next year, would provide a framework for any business or organization, without the in-house skills, to build and operate effective surveillance systems that also addresses privacy issues.

- Potential users for the new standards include:
- Major sporting venues and nightclubs;
- Banks and ATMs;
- Theatres, shopping centres and public spaces; and
- Local councils.

Special guest at the forum was Dr George Arnold, one of the world's leading security standards experts.

Dr Arnold leads an international taskforce for the International Standards Organisation that is providing high level advice on current international security systems and standards.

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON SECURITY STANDARDS SIGNED

In a move designed to improve security standards in Australia and the United States a high level treaty has been signed between Standards Australia's National Centre for Security Standards (NCSS) and the American National Standards Institute's Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP).

Both organizations are currently developing standards and guidelines for the private sector to help business and industry better protect their assets and clients.

Mr Sadleir said the agreement would strengthen ties between the peak standards developers in Australia and the US.

"This is an important agreement that will see greater cooperation as both our countries develop security standards to protect our communities against the threat of terrorist attacks."

"It formally expresses the desire of both organizations to cooperate and collaborate as we develop guidance material related to security," Mr Sadleir said.

The agreement was signed at the forum on CCTV security systems hosted by Standards Australia.

CAPTION: The security standards agreement was signed by Mr David Sadleir, Chairman, of Australia's National Centre for Security Standards (left) and Dr George Arnold, Chairman, American National Standards Institute (right) in Sydney, Australia on November 10, 2005.

COMMITTEE MEMBER LOUNGE

Committee members can now take a break, recharge and stay connected when visiting Standards Australia's Sydney Office to attend committee meetings. The new lounge, set up like a mini Qantas Club lounge, is open to Committee members and offers facilities such as work stations from which members can plug in their lap tops and access email, tea and coffee facilities, cable television and comfy couches.

The Committee Member Lounge is set up to support committee members while they are away from their offices, it is located on Level 6 of Standards Australia's Sydney Office.

A WINDOW DESIGNED TO DAZZLE

Peep through the window on Bathurst Street and you'll see a selection of notable Australian Design Awards entries of years gone by. Last years' Award winner the FCS H-2 Surfboard fins, the Breville Citrus Press and the Victor Razor Lawn Mower are among the Australian design icons on display.

With applications for the 2006 Australian Design Awards program now closed, in the coming months there'll be a new burst of products on show in the newly face-lifted window.

The display is designed to demonstrate how Standards Australia, through the Australian Design Awards, strives to recognize and reward great Australian design and innovation, and the importance of design in creating safe, reliable and quality products.

The prominent new Australian Design Awards window is located in the Standards Australia building on Bathurst Street between Sussex and Kent Streets, it attracts high volumes of both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

THE CATCH HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONAL – 2006 AUSTRALIAN DESIGN AWARDS

Australia's response to the 2006 Australian Design Awards - Call For Entries campaign has been nothing short of exceptional, with a number of 'world-first' innovations caught in the net and now available for viewing at www.designawards.com.au.

Each year the selection of entries give an insight into the current thinking of designers, entrepreneurs and the business community alike on the potential and future of the Australian design industry.

This year more than ever, we are witness to a fully integrated, truly Australian approach to design. Products submitted to the 2006 Australian Design Awards reflect our entrepreneurial spirit, world-renowned ingenuity and the Australian way of life. Australian design is becoming more and more established through the development of new products and technologies purpose designed for our unique multicultural society, outdoor lifestyle and harsh environmental conditions.

Moreover, Australian designers offer flexible and intelligent solutions to new business ideas resulting in low production costs and highly marketable products. Australian and international entrepreneurs are increasingly turning to our best and brightest industrial designers to realise the commercial potential of their ground-breaking initiatives.

The products entered into the 2006 Australian Design Awards represent the kind of sophisticated, high-precision design solutions to which countries like Germany, Sweden, Italy, Japan and indeed the US have become accustomed. Australia is fast becoming a design force to be reckoned with and this can be attributed to its emerging talent for ideas generation, highly skilled design solutions and business acumen.

MOU WITH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & HERITAGE COUNCIL

On Thursday 15 September 2005, the Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia John Tucker and Mr David Borthwick, the Chair of the Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) and Standards Australia.

The MoU provides a basis for mutual co-operation between the two organizations in the development of standards relating to environmental protection, to ensure that relevant Australian Standards® are developed and utilized for environmental protection instruments developed by the EPHC.

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council comprises Ministers of the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Dr Bruce Kennedy of the National Environmental Protection Council Service Corporation witnessed the signing.

Caption: L to R: Mr John Tucker (Standards Australia) with Dr Bruce Kennedy (National Environment Protection Council Service Corporation) and Mr David Borthwick (Dept of Environment & Heritage) at the signing of the MoU.

ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Singapore recently played host to the ISO General Assembly and its associated meetings, representing the first time a Southeast Asian country has played host to this annual gathering at which there were 360 delegates from 113 countries and representatives from 10 international and regional organizations.

Australia was represented at the ISO General Assembly by Mr John Castles (Standards Australia's Chairman and head of delegation), Mr John Tucker (CEO) and Ms Philippa Seagrave (General Manager Community Materials and IT). John Castles presented in the keynote session on standards and innovation. Other workshops were held on 'standards to support trade in services' and 'security and the global economy'.

The ISO Council met on 24 September, where developing a first Partner Standards Development Organisations agreement between ISO and multi-national SDO's with global reach, such as ASTM and IEEE, was the dominant issue, along with ongoing focus on achieving real strategic and operational synergies between ISO and IEC.

The next ISO General Assembly will be hosted by the Standards Council of Canada in Ottawa in September 2006.

NEW KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STANDARD

In a world first, Standards Australia has released a major new national knowledge management standard that will help Australian organizations use their knowledge to innovate, learn and respond in increasingly competitive markets.

John Tucker, Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia, said "the corporate knowledge of major institutions and businesses is now considered as valuable as its physical assets".

"As we recognize that the knowledge of individuals and organizations is a key driver of our national prosperity ‐ this standard is both timely and very relevant", Mr Tucker said.

Sue Halbwirth, Committee Chair and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities and Social at the University of Technology Sydney said the standard would become an important tool for senior executives, business and government leaders.

"It gives a flexible and iterative approach to ensure the knowledge in their organizations is created, shared and applied to strengthen the organization.

"There are many different tools and techniques that can be used to achieve this and many are described in the new standard," Ms Halbwirth said.

The new standard, **AS 5037-2005 Knowledge Management ‐ a guide**, has a practical application for:

- Fostering innovation;
- Connecting the organization both internally and with its stakeholders;
- Protecting corporate knowledge in a changing and aging workforce;
- Managing risk;
- Leveraging new technologies;
- Growing social networks;

Improving the flow of information around an organization; and

Building new capabilities.

David Rymer, Deputy Chair of the Standards Australia Knowledge Management Committee said the Standard is about transforming performance rather than conforming to a process.

"Our economy is fuelled by ideas and the clever implementation of intellectual capital. Leveraging knowledge is central to the major issues facing Australia's boardrooms and governments", Mr Rymer said.

Catherine Livingstone, Chair of the Australian Business Foundation, launched the Standard on 8 November.

NEW FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE STANDARD

Standards Australia has launched a major new standard designed to improve the reliability and performance of fire protection systems and equipment.

The new Australian Standard®, *Maintenance of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment Standard (AS 1851-2005)*, is based on a year round maintenance cycle that moves beyond one-off annual inspections.

Mr John Tucker, CEO Standards Australia, said the new standard was a major step forward that would help protect life and property.

"This new Australian Standard will ensure continuity and reliability of fire protection systems and equipment," he said.

"It will provide building owners and managers with a far simpler system to help them manage the quality of maintenance work undertaken by outside contractors".

"Fire protection systems and equipment need to be reliable, have integrity, be functional and perform as designed".

"To do this, they need to be maintained correctly - this new Australian Standard will go a long way to ensuring this happens," Mr Tucker said.

Commissioner Greg Mullins of the NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) joined Standards Australia staff and committee members for the official launch in Sydney today.

Commissioner Mullins said the NSWFB played an important role in ensuring that building fire safety systems were maintained and capable of operating to their original design requirements.

"The NSWFB welcomes the introduction of the new Australian Standard, which is the result of many hours of dedicated work by standards committees".

"This Standard provides industry with clear guidelines for the maintenance of building fire safety systems, making it easier for building owners and contractors, and most importantly, safer for building occupants," Commissioner Mullins said.

The new standard consolidates the sixteen parts of the previous editions to maximize reliability and minimize the risk of failure of fire systems and equipment.

It is designed for the use of regulators, building managers and owners, fire protection contractors and service personnel including fire protection designers and installers.

It takes into consideration the requirements of OH&S regulation and the maintenance provision of the Building Code of Australia.

The four main components of the Australian Standard deal with inspection, test, preventative maintenance and survey. Systems interfaces are also considered, for example, detection and alarm systems with atrium smoke exhaust plant, alarm systems with stairwell pressurization, automatic fire sprinkler systems with HVAC fire mode operation and warning facilities.

The Australian Standard has been developed with representatives from property, fire prevention and protection, engineering and emergency services industries.

MAKING NEWS

Barbecue safety tips as families move outside

Standards Australia today issued a warning on the dangers of barbecues as a Milperra woman from South Sydney recovers from burns after mistaking a bottle of methylated spirits for water while cleaning her barbecue.

Standards Australia working on new roadside cannabis test

Standards Australia is in the final stages of developing new procedures that will allow police to have confidence in devices used for random roadside drug tests.

New guidelines for stronger, safer and more durable wharves and jetties

The design and construction of Australia's wharves, jetties and boat ramps is set to take a big leap forward with the release today, by Standards Australia, of the nation's first set of guidelines for the construction of maritime structures.

New standards for dog muzzles

Following the brutal attack by three American pit bulls on their owner near Maitland yesterday Standards Australia will investigate the possibility of adopting the British guidelines for dog muzzles.

From farm to fork - new food handling guidelines

For the first time in Australia, farmers to fast food operators will have a concise and consistent set of guidelines designed to minimize the risk of contamination and food poisoning as food moves from the farm gate to the dinner table.

More information about these news items and others can be found at www.standards.org.au

COMING UP

JUMPING CASTLES & INFLATABLE AMUSEMENT RIDES

Following a series of accidents and the death of an eight-year-old girl in Adelaide in March 2001 new rules for have been released for the operation of jumping castles and other inflatable amusement rides.

The new Australian Standard®, developed by Standards Australia, strengthens operation and manufacturing requirements, particularly the anchoring system designed to stop rides lifting or being blown away in strong winds.

The Australian Standard stresses the need to continuously monitor weather conditions and to clear and deflate the device if the wind velocity approaches the maximum permitted by the manufacturer. It details the number of anchorages points and the force each anchor is to withstand.

The new standard sets out the requirements and guidance for the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of land-borne amusement devices including jumping castles, inflatable slides and mazes.

The new Australian Standard provides clear details including:

- Requirements on the number of anchorages points and the forces there must be able to sustain;
- Rides must be able to withstand a minimum wind speed of 40 km an hour;
- No sharp or hard objects able to come in contact with children;
- Material must meet flammability requirements;
- New design requirements to avoid built in entrapment points where fingers, legs, arms or heads can become caught;
- Strict supervision requirements including monitoring the size and number of children on the ride;
- Requirements for impact absorbing materials at all exits, entrances and open sides.

The standard has been developed with the cooperation of safety regulators, operators, manufacturers and professional engineers including the South Australian Government's Department of Administrative and Information Services.

Committee ME-051: Amusement Rides and Devices

Chairman: Mr Richard Baird

Projects Manager: Carol Foster (carol.foster@standards.org.au)

HOSPITAL WIRING

Joint Standards Australia's Committee HT-021, Wiring of medical treatment areas in hospitals is meeting in December 2005 start work on the revision of AS/NZS 3003:2003

Electrical installations - Patient treatment areas of hospitals and medical, dental practices and dialyzing locations. AS 3003 specifies special requirements for electrical installations in those patient treatment areas of hospitals and other medical practices, in which medical electrical equipment is used for procedures where the patient comes into contact with the equipment.

A number of commentators in the biomedical industry have questioned the need for equipotential earthing in cardiac protected areas. They have stated that experience in the last 20 years has shown no justification for this costly addition to medical electrical installations. Acceptance of this view by the committee would cause a major revision of AS 3003.

Other significant changes proposed to AS 3003 include:

- Cover reference to overhead bathroom heater;
- Cover the issue of mobile installations;

Consider different requirements for cleaner's outlets in areas that are cleaned; when they are not in use such as operating theatres.

Committee HT-021 will also commence the production of a new document covering commissioning and in-service testing of installations in accordance with AS 3003.

The new standard is intended to cover:

- Tests (what kind and how)
- Test equipment
- Verification of calibration
- Timing and frequency of testing

Committee: HT/21, Wiring of medical treatment areas in hospitals

Chairman: Rob Hopkins

Project Manager: Brian Lester (brian.lester@standards.org.au)

THE NEW TIMBER FRAMING DESIGN STANDARDS

Standards Australia Technical Committee TM-002 has recently completed the work on revising the 1999 edition of the AS 1684 series of Australian Standards® Parts 2, 3 and 4, as follows:

AS

1684	Residential timber-framed construction (known as the Timber Framing Code)	
1684.2	Part 2:	Non-cyclonic areas
1684.3	Part 3:	Cyclonic areas
1684.4	Part 4:	Simplified ‐ Non-cyclonic areas

The Supplements (span tables) to Parts 2 and 3 will also be attached to either Part in a CD-ROM, and printable by the user.

The objective of this revision has been to address issues and practices that have been raised by some state's building industry interests to better reflect their needs and construction practices, and also includes editorial amendments and some technical changes to correct mistakes and enhance the application of the document.

This edition also improves the ability of building certifiers to assess and approve applications in accordance with deemed to satisfy documents and to provide more economical deemed to satisfy details.

For the purpose of user-friendliness, each part of the Standard will be published with bound and loose-leaf formats

The three Parts of AS 1684-2006 series and the Supplements (to Parts 2 and 3) will be referenced in the Building Code of Australia by way of BCA's next Amendment which is published in early 2006 and is gazetted on 1 May 2006.

It is anticipated that a series of seminars will be conducted in the major state capitals in early 2006 to launch and introduce the new edition of the AS 1684 series.

Committee: TM-002-Timber Framing

Chairman: Mr Peter Juniper

Projects Manager: Chi-nam Si (Chi-Nam.Si@standards.org.au)

NEW PROJECTS

Here is a selection of New Projects that Standards Australia is embarking on View the full list of New projects visit www.standards.org.au.

Paints and related materials - Pavement marking materials, Part 5: Guidelines for the performance assessment of pavement marking materials

Committee: CH-003

Project Number: 7194

Project Manager: Boris Krastev

Product Type: Australian Standard®

Objective: To develop a guide for the performance assessment of pavement marking materials.

Electricity metering, Part 4: Socket mounting system

Committee: EL-011

Project Number: 7041

Project Manager: Brian Lester

Revision of: AS 1284.4-1994

Product Type: Australian Standard®

Objective: To provide electricity utilities and manufacturers with minimum requirements and tests for socket mounting systems for electricity metering equipment.

The storage and handling of corrosive substances

Committee: CH-009

Project Number: 7191

Project Manager: Dawn Lindsay

Revision of: AS 3780-1994

Product Type: Australian Standard®

Objective: To revise AS 3780 in light of changing regulatory requirements and other dangerous goods standards.

Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), Part 6.1: Generic standards - Immunity for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments

Committee: TE-003

Project Number: 6801

Project Manager: Johit Dass

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To define the immunity test requirements for apparatus in residential, commercial and light-industrial environments in relation to continuous and transient, conducted and radiated disturbances including electrostatic discharges.

Guidelines for siting of radiocommunications facilities: Fixed satellite earth stations

Committee: RC-006

Project Number: 4911

Project Manager: Johit Dass

Revision of: AS/NZS 3516.3:1991

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To provide a guide for relevant issues related to the siting of fixed location earth stations including aviation concerns, site sharing, environmental issues and the significant increase in the number of operators.

Australian Electronic Communications in Healthcare - Guidelines

Committee: IT-014

Project Number: 6794

Project Manager: Renati Barel

Product Type: SA Handbook

Objective: To produce best practice guidelines for electronic communications between healthcare providers and between providers and patients in line with ethical, clinical, legal & legislative requirements that are compatible with current practice, workflow and lifestyles.