

NEWS

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION RELEASES FINAL REPORT INTO STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Mr John Tucker, CEO of Standards Australia, said the Productivity Commission's report into Standards Australia, makes a series of demanding recommendations while acknowledging that Standards Australia had "embarked on an significant plan to address key issues of concern."

"The report recognises the challenges faced by Standards Australia and the reform agenda being implemented to address them," Mr Tucker said.

"Many of the recommendations, including increased partnership arrangements, greater emphasis on project management and better use of technology, were already part of the reforms being undertaken by Standards Australia.

"For the past two years Standards Australia has been going through a major reform process focussing our attention on greater involvement with other standards development organisations.

"An important role for Standards Australia in the future will be the continued accreditation of other organisations to develop Australian Standards.

"Standards Australia does not, must not and should not be seen as having a monopoly on developing industry and community standards," Mr Tucker said.

Key recommendations in the report include:

- Standards Australia continuing as Australia's peak non-government standards development body;
- Continued adoption of International Standards ahead of Australian Standards, wherever appropriate;
- Increasing the transparency of the justification for new or amended Standards;
- Maintaining or increasing current Federal funding for consumer and industry involvement in international standardisation activities;
- Increased participation by consumer groups in the ISO consumer policy group;
- Improving the balance of interests represented on committees including increasing representation from small business, consumer and other community groups;
- Reducing the barriers to volunteer participation by reducing the cost of involvement;
- Strengthening Standards Australia's appeals and complaint mechanisms.

Mr Tucker said recommendations calling for governments to undertake regulatory review statements for mandatory Standards and to fund low cost access to Standards referenced in regulations would be welcomed by all businesses and consumers.

"The report also places strong emphasis on Standards Australia's continuing role in coordinating with international standards organisations," Mr Tucker said.

The report concluded key elements of the publishing agreement between Standards Australia and SAI Global were of major concern noting, "some of the terms of the publishing agreement continue to create perverse incentives and constraints for Standards Australia".

Mr Tucker said he would continue to engage SAI Global on the terms of the current publishing agreement and was confident a "win win" result could be found.

REGULATION FORUM CALLS FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING FROM GOVERNMENT

A major industry forum in Sydney has heard that government must listen more intently to business owners and become more aware of the impact of "black letter" regulation on small business.

More than 100 business leaders, government officials and community leaders attended the forum, hosted by Standards Australia, in Sydney.

Speaking at the forum Mr John Tucker, Standards Australia CEO, said while there will always be a need for regulation, Governments must become more aware of its impact on business and the alternatives to regulation.

"Governments, first and foremost, should be looking to minimise the need for regulation," Mr Tucker said.

"Governments need to show more imagination, to consider other options to regulation and to listen to the business community, not just consult.

"This means greater use of internationally and nationally consistent industry self regulation including greater use of consensus based codes of conduct and Standards.

"There are a whole range of alternatives to regulation that require less administration by Government and less compliance by business but still provide the safety and probity frameworks set down by regulation.

"Regulation is costing the Australian economy around \$86 billion a year, or more than 10 percent of the nation's GDP.

"This is money would be much better spent on growing businesses, creating jobs and strengthening our economy," Mr Tucker said.

Other panellists at the forum included Peter Hendy, Chief Executive, Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Peter Kell, CEO, Choice, Craig Winkler, CEO, MYOB, John Martin, Commissioner, ACCC, Roger Wilkins from Citigroup and Angela MacRae, Member of the Federal Government's Regulatory Review Taskforce.

The forum heard that the small to medium size enterprise sector "was dogged by excessive and unreasonable regulation" and that many regulations are simply unnecessary.

Concerns were also raised that while the Federal Government had accepted 158 of the 178 recommendations made by the Banks Taskforce looking into regulation only 15 percent were immediately acted on, suggesting a lack of political resolve and underlining the difficulty in cutting red-tape.

Other key findings from the Forum found:

Reducing the regulatory burden could be better achieved by:

- Understanding that less can be more;
- Keeping regulation aligned to the real world;
- Having post-implementation reviews of laws;
- Using laws as a tool for achieving outcomes;

Solving the regulatory conundrum could be achieved by

- Better balancing business and consumer interests;
- Avoiding unnecessary black-letter law;
- Endorsing a pro-competition approach;
- Appreciating the benefits of regulation;
- Increasing consultation with SME owners;
- Encouraging superior risk analysis.

Governments could respond better by:

- Having better educated policy decision-makers;
- Cutting the complexity of the tax regime;
- Standardising eligibility tests for business;
- Pursuing cost-benefit analyses of regulation;
- Encouraging political will for change;
- Listening to business, not just consulting.

Mr Tucker said the forum was an important event that for the first time had brought together the key interests in an open forum to debate how to reduce the regulatory burden on small business.

"Small business plays a hugely important role in the Australian economy and its important all levels of government work hard to free it from unnecessary red tape.

"The forum was an important step forward in achieving this," Mr Tucker said.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND COUNCIL MEETING

The Standards Australia Annual General meeting was held in Sydney on November 22 where several new Hon Councillors were appointed including:

- Russell Cooper as Chair of Management and Business Standards Sector Board;
- George Davey as Chair of Food Standards Sector Board;
- Ian Graham as Chair of Electrotechnology Standards Sector Board;
- Mr Bill Nagle as Chairman of the Gas Standards Sector Board; and
- David Singleton as Chair of Building Standards Sector Board.

The Board also expressed special acknowledgement to George Edwards as outgoing Chair of Environment Safety & Materials Standards Sector Board and Richard Dixon Hughes as Chair of Communications, IT and E-Commerce Standards Sector Board

Don Gray was appointed a Life Councillor in recognition of his significant contribution to the objects of Standards Australia over many years.

Don has filled many roles since his appointment as Chairman of the Electrotechnology Standards Sector Board 1988.

Don has also been:

- Chairman of the Standards Development Board, 1999- 2000
- Chairman of the Standards Australia Board, 1994 - 2000
- Vice president, IEC, and Chair of the IEC Conformity and Assessment Board, 2003 - 2008.

Other important appointments made during the AGM included the appointments of Robert Burford, Norm Crothers, Mike Balch, John Martin and George Thomson to the Standards Accreditation Board for three years

Peter Hendy, Adrian Smith and Louise Cox were reappointed to the Board for a further three-year term.

Four organisations, have also become new members of Standards Australia:

- Energy Networks Association - Category B
- Concrete Institute of Australia - Category B
- Property Council of Australia - Category C
- National Maritime Safety Committee - Category A

Changes were also made to the Constitution to cater for the expanded role of the Standards Accreditation Board.

STANDARDS AWARDS

Each year, Standards Australia recognises a select group of committee and board members for their meritorious contribution to standardisation in their field.

Standards Australia is pleased to advise that the following members were selected and received the 2006 Standards Australia Awards for outstanding service to standardisation

- Professor Greg Hancock - The Standards Award for Outstanding Service
- Associate Professor Tony Stokes - Outstanding contribution in the Electrotechnology Sector
- Mr Ralph Garbutt - Outstanding contribution in the Fire Protection Sector
- Mr Ern Millard - Outstanding contribution in the Materials and Safety Sector
- Mr Noel Higgins - Outstanding contribution in the Communications, Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Sector
- Committee IT-014 Health Informatics - Outstanding Committee

A full article will appear in the January edition of Up Magazine.

2007 AUSTRALIAN DESIGN AWARDS - ENTRIES NOW ONLINE

The Australian Design Awards, a division of Standards Australia, is pleased to announce the public release of entries into the 2007 Australian Design Awards. **Take a closer look.**

Use the navigation tools to discover our most cutting edge designs for the year, including Australia's first ever \$1 billion car program, the **VE Commodore** by GM Holden.

Also competing in the automotive and transport category are a number of innovative new products including the **Optalert** drowsiness detection sunglasses, the **Shu Roo Slimline** road wildlife deterrent and the **Alcolizer Easy Check** personal breathalyzer, indicating that road safety is an obvious area of concern for Australian motorists.

Next generation Australian design icons are also being presented, with offerings from well-known brands **Victa**, **Sunbeam**, **Breville** and **Nylex Esky**.

Australian design is becoming more established through the development of new products and technologies purpose built for our unique outdoors lifestyle and harsh environmental conditions. Examples include the **Series 55 BB+RT Orbit Blocks** for the world yachting market, the **SolarScan** melanoma detection unit and the drought-conscious **Caroma H2Zero Waterless Urinal**.

With **prams**, **vans** and **automobiles**, there is no doubt something of interest for everyone. For further information, please contact the Australian Design Awards on (02) 8206 6090 or at mail@designawards.com.au.

HEALTHCARE - GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In September 2006 Ottawa played host to the ISO General Assembly. During it's open session on Healthcare - Global challenges and opportunities for International Standards, Standards Australia's Consultant, David Rowlands participated as a speaker.

David's presentation tackled the relations between voluntary standards, regulations and public policies and covered a wide range of applications of standards as a tool for health policy and regulation.

To download a copy of David's presentation Standards as a tool for health policy and regulation click **here**.

KNOWLEDGE BASED IDENTITY VERIFICATION STANDARD

Standards Australia, in collaboration with the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO), recently held a series of industry roundtables across the country to discuss the development of the Knowledge Based Identity Verification Standard, also referred to as the "Known Customer" Standard.

The Known Customer Standard has its roots in the AGIMO driven Gatekeeper Public Key Infrastructure Framework, and aims to make certain processes of identity verification for electronic services both simpler and cheaper.

Electronic services provide a convenient and efficient channel for organisations to deal with individuals and other organisations. These organisations are faced with the challenge of ensuring that the identities of its users are reliably known. This challenge is often met by applying identification and verification Standards when users apply for electronic services. This provisioning service can be expensive, inconvenient and time consuming for both the organisation and the applicant.

Sometimes a person has to undertake a number of identity verification processes to meet similar requirements for different service providers, and this is where the Known Customer Standard is applicable. The Standard provides a framework whereby one organisation can rely on the previously established process of verifying someone's identity by another organisation where a credential has been issued. This means less costs for the organisations involved (imagine not having to employ an office full of front end employees endlessly imposing a 100 point identity check on new customers), and lessens the burden on customers having to undergo rigorous identity checks every time they apply for a new credential.

With this concept in mind, and armed with an excellent draft document written by the widely respected John Snare, the Standards Australia and AGIMO team took to the state capitals to trawl for feedback. Roundtable discussions were convened firstly Sydney, then Canberra, Melbourne and Perth. The roundtables were all interesting and informative, with considerable engagement across the spectrum of key stakeholders, with notable representation from federal and state governments, the privacy lobby, and private business interests.

The Productivity Commission's report on standard setting and accreditation recommended making greater use of independent experts to prepare early drafts of Australian Standards, and also to increase the use of partnering arrangements. The successful development of an early draft of the Known Customer Standard and the subsequent programme of industry roundtables shows that Standards Australia has the capability of implementing these recommendations. It will hopefully provide a sound blueprint for future partnered projects.

GONG RIDE

On Sunday 5 November in heavy rain and a 40 knot head wind, Standards Australia's employees and committee members took part in the 25th Multiple sclerosis (MS) Sydney to Gong Bike Ride.

Approximately 20 riders completed the Gong Ride under the Standards Australia banner. Once the ride was completed, participants gathered at the Standards Australia finish site for a hot sausage sizzle and cool drink.

The team raised a total of \$1380 for Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often disabling disease that randomly attacks the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). The progress, severity and specific symptoms of the disease cannot be predicted; symptoms may range from tingling and numbness to paralysis and blindness. MS is a devastating disease because people live with its unpredictable physical and emotional effects for the rest of their lives.

Thank you to all who participated.

COMING UP

ROPS AND POWER TAKE-OFFS FOR AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS

Accidents involving power take-offs on tractors often have horrific consequences for the victims. Clothing can be caught in an unguarded rotating shaft, dragging the victim into the shaft, resulting in lacerations, broken bones, or death.

No less dangerous, are the consequences of not having a Roll-over Protection Structure (ROPS) fitted to a tractor, or worse, a ROPS that has been built, to a non-tested design. It is not widely appreciated that a ROPS is intended to deform and so absorb energy generated during a roll-over incident—rather like the crumple zones in most cars. If a ROPS is not correctly designed, it may be too rigid, and fail to deform during the roll-over, so placing massive stresses on the tractor chassis. Alternatively, the ROPS may collapse under the forces, and fail to protect the driver.

Committee ME-065 Agricultural Tractors and Machinery, has taken the first steps towards adopting International Standards dealing with ROPS and Power Take-offs (PTO) for agricultural tractors, as Australian Standards. While the Committee is a Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee, after consultations with stakeholders, the Committee agreed that the seven Standards would be published as Australian Standards not joint Standards.

When adopted, the Standards will supersede AS 1121 Guards for agricultural tractor PTO drives, and the three Parts to AS 1636 Roll-over protection structures.

The Standards for power take-offs will deal with safety requirements, and dimensions of rear-mounted PTOs and the strength and wear tests for guards on PTO drive shafts, a total of four Standards. The remaining three Standards will deal with ROPS for agricultural tractors, both narrow track, and tractors with a track-width exceeding 1150 mm.

The drafts will be available for comment early in the New Year.

Committee: ME-065 Agricultural Tractors and Machinery

Chair: Don Quick

Projects Manager: Michael Sanderson

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GLYCEMIC INDEX OF FOODS

Glycemic index (GI) is a property of the carbohydrates in different foods, specifically the blood glucose raising ability of the digestible carbohydrates. The need for an established, recognised, scientific method as the standard method for the determination of the GI of foods was raised as a Project Proposal due to its increasing use as a nutrition claim, illustrating the importance of GI within human nutrition. As a result, the Working Group (WG) FT-024-00-02³ Glycemic Index was formed under the direction of the Standards Australia Technical Committee FT-024³ Food Products.

The Standard sets out a method for determining the Glycemic Index (GI) of carbohydrates in foods, defines the glycemic index and outlines qualifying factors and requirements for its application.

It is intended for use by food manufacturers, accreditation bodies, regulators, educational institutes, testing laboratories, and research organisations.

The draft Australian Standard was developed by considering members knowledge, experience on GI testing and using the following international scientific research publications as basic documents:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization (FAO/WHO) Joint Expert Consultation: Carbohydrates in Human Nutrition. Geneva: Food and Agriculture Organization, Food and Nutrition-1998;
- Original Communication³ Determination of the glycemic index of foods: inter-laboratory study, TMS Wolever, HH Vorster, I Bjorck, J Brand-Miller, F Brighenti, JI Mann, DD Ramdath, Y Granfeldt, S Holt, TL Perry, C Venter and Xiaomei Wu, European Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2003) 57, pp 475-482; and
- Original Communication³ Glycaemic index methodology. F Brouns, I Bjorck, K Frayn, AL Gibbs, V Lang, G Slama and TMS Wolever. Nutrition Reviews (2005) 18, pp 145-171.

AS 4694³ 200Y Glycemic index of foods is now in the publishing system and is expected to be published in early 2007.

Committee: Food Products, FT-024

Chair: George Davey, NSW Food Authority

Working Group: Glycemic Index, FT-024-00-02

Chair: Peggy Douglass

Projects Manager: Numani Weerasuriya

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INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS

We live in an increasingly security-conscious world. The people who remember walking the streets at night without fear or leaving their keys in the car while shopping are getting older. Where did honesty and trust go?

Laments aside, Standards Australia is helping people and businesses adjust to the current reality. Intruder alarms are used in homes and businesses to reduce security risks and new Standards for intruder alarm systems are being finalised.

The following parts to AS 2201 Intruder alarm systems are due for publication in early 2007:

- Part 1; Clients premises - Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance
- Part 5; Alarm transmission systems

These revisions are significant because:

- A new tool is provided which helps readers classify the security risks they face;
- A new intruder alarm system classification scheme has been introduced which will facilitate appropriate selection of systems based on the security risk classification;
- The latest technologies and data encryption techniques will be covered; and
- Dual path alarm transmission techniques will be covered.

By using the same risk profile classification scheme used by insurance companies, these Standards should result in lower insurance premiums for clients with compliant alarm systems. Another example of Standards Australia helping our economy be a "well-oiled machine".

Committee: EL-031, Intruder alarm systems

Chair: John Cleary

Project Manager: Lyndon Hughes

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MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY

Standards Australia is currently revising Part 3 of AS/NZS 2243 Safety in laboratories series. AS/NZS 2243.3 specifies requirements for safety relating to microbiological aspects of laboratory work and requirements for various types of containment facilities.

Subcommittee CH-026-03 is conducting the detailed drafting for the revision and is working with appropriate organisations such as the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to ensure the Standard is aligned as closely as possible with the requirements of these organisations. Improvements in the consistency of terminology, requirements and their presentation have been made. These are expected to translate to benefits for users through users being able to more readily identify differences in requirements (where they still exist), leading to opportunities for improving compliance and auditing arrangements.

The revision of AS/NZS 2243.3 includes:

- Considerable reformatting to clarify when the laboratory requirements are applicable and when to use the separate requirements set out for animal, plant or invertebrate containment facilities;
- Separate risk group definitions for plant pathogens as they are rarely infectious for humans;
- Risk Group lists have also been updated to reflect current precautions for the various microorganisms;
- New clauses cover laboratory biosecurity, emergency preparedness, transfer of cultures, work with human cell lines and principles of containment; and
- References to formaldehyde have been modified to acknowledge its reclassification as a known human carcinogen.

The comment period finishes in the first quarter of 2007, and it is anticipated the new edition will be published by the end of 2007.

Committee: CH-026, Safety in Laboratories

Chair: Dr Angelica Vecchio-Sadus, CSIRO

Projects Manager: Carol Foster

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NON-ELECTRICAL (MECHANICAL) EQUIPMENT FOR HAZARDOUS AREAS

Currently the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) are considering new Standards for mechanical equipment integrity in hazardous areas. Standards Australia has commenced work to monitor and influence the development and introduction into Australia, to achieve positive industry outcomes.

The introduction of such mechanical Standards would have a huge impact on the specification and manufacture of mechanical plant and installations throughout the country. Examples of the impact can be demonstrated with electrical equipment for hazardous areas where tight Standards, testing and certification of electrical equipment is commonplace.

IEC Technical Committee TC31 has recently changed its title and scope to remove the reference to 'electrical'. The changes in TC31 were done to recognise the fact that this Committee has been producing Standards that are not just related to electrical apparatus for most of its nearly 60 years as an IEC Committee, and also to open up the possibility of developing other Standards that were not electrical related.

Committee EL-014, Equipment for explosive atmospheres (previously titled 'Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas) mirrors IEC TC 31 and has recently set up a new Subcommittee (EL-014-10) to deal with this subject.

The Committee has begun work to identify issues with existing Standards to consider and strategise approaches to influence the global development.

The Committee is still seeking active representation from persons with mechanical equipment or plant design interests and expressions of interest or enquiries should be directed to:

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Projects Manager

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Committee: EL-014-10, Equipment for explosive atmospheres

Chair: Neil Dennis

Project Manager: Jose David

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RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HAZARDOUS AREAS

The historical approach for selection of equipment to be used in hazardous areas consists in linking equipment to zones. This approach is prescriptive and relatively inflexible.

The IEC through its Technical Committee, TC 31 - Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres, has developed an alternative risk assessment method encompassing Equipment Protection Levels (EPLs) for explosion protected equipment (Ex equipment).

The EPLs system clearly indicates the inherent ignition risk of equipment, no matter what type of protection is used.

This alternative approach is now being introduced in all Standards managed by IEC TC 31, which Australia has been adopting during the last ten years.

The EPLs system covers the current three groups - coal mining (Group I), gases (Group II) and dusts (Group III), as follows:

- For coal mining there are two levels of protection being 'very high' - EPL Ma and 'high' EPL Mb.
- For gases there are three levels of protection being 'very high' EPL Ga, 'high' EPL Gb and 'enhanced' EPL Gc.
- For dusts there are also three levels identified as EPL Da, EPL Db and EPL Dc.

Each level of protection is linked with specific performance parameters and conditions of operation.

This methodology will provide an alternative to the traditional classification of hazardous areas and selection of equipment in accordance with the acceptable types of protection for each zone.

As EL-014 Committee mirrors IEC TC31, it is indispensable to participate actively in all the IEC work regarding this issue, which will have the potential to significantly impact on the current practices for hazardous areas.

Committee EL-014, Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres, (previously titled 'Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas) has recently set up a new Subcommittee to deal with this subject (EL-014-12) and the 1st Meeting was held on 31 July 2006.

The Committee is still seeking active representation from persons with expertise in this field and expressions of interest and enquires should be directed to:

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Committee: EL-014, Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres

Chair: Ralph Wing

Project Manager: Jose David

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GLASS HANDBOOK SHATTERS THE MYTH

An authoritative guide on how to best use glass is set to shatter a whole range of misconceptions held by industry and home handymen about this age-old commodity.

Shortly to be released by Standards Australia, it comes in the form of HB 125, The glass and glazing handbook, to assist tradespeople and consumers when choosing the most appropriate glass product for their needs.

The handbook was written primarily to complement the requirements and provide additional guidance and explanation to AS 1288-2006, Glass in Buildings?Selection and installation, which superseded AS 1288-1994. The revised Standard contains significant changes and additions to the 1994 edition and the handbook elaborates on some of the new sections and clauses, particularly section 4, Design for wind loading and section 5, Criteria for human impact.

According to window and glass expert, Mr Noel Stokes, author of the handbook, there are many common mistakes made with respect to choosing and using glass. The bulk of these relate to misunderstandings about the intent of the Standard, particularly for human impact safety requirements, and the limitations of the deemed-to-satisfy solutions given in AS 1288:2006. There is also confusion about the relative merits of toughened and laminated safety glass, which can offer security, safety and noise insulation.

Mr Stokes said "the confusion appeared to emanate from the many different types of glass that were available on the market today. Some glass products minimise the risk of injury when they are broken; others resist penetration and provide security, or reduce noise transmission, ultraviolet rays and heat from the sun," said Mr Stokes.

To assist with gaining a better understanding of the various sections and clauses in the Standard, a chapter in the handbook is devoted to frequently asked questions. New chapters have also been included covering topics that are matters of current interest to designers and other users of glass, such as explaining the performance of Low-E glass, the characteristics of toughened glass and glass maintenance issues.

"The use of glass in swimming pool fences, which has been for many a cause of confusion, has been addressed with the inclusion of a separate chapter.

"Even the choice of ordinary 3 mm glass for residential windows - it's a poor performer in all areas, including energy efficiency and noise transmission, yet it was the most commonly used glass," Mr Stokes said.

However, the revised Standard now restricts the maximum area for 3 mm annealed glass. The rationale for introducing the area limitation was in recognition of the high rate of breakage and frequent resultant injury from 3 mm thick glass in common, everyday use and the awareness that it has an actual thickness of only 2.8 mm.

HB 125 provides information on how to select the right type of glass for a range of different uses, including worked examples to Section 4 for wind loading requirements, fin design, balustrades, sloped overhead glazing and mirrors.

The handbook also provides information on energy-efficiency and the regulatory requirements that have now been adopted throughout Australia.

It complements the Australian Standard, AS 1288:2006, Glass in buildings?Selection and installation, as well as provides industry with a summary of the glazing requirements in the Building Code of Australia (BCA 2006).

Committee: BD-007 Glazing and fixing of glass

Chair: Dr Ignatius Calderone

Projects Manager: Bill Iskander

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HOW TO KILL THE BUGS, BUT NOT YOURSELF

As global trade has revolutionised Australia's economy, it has also increased the threat from pests which have the potential to devastate Australia's ecology. As pests from anywhere on the planet can hide inside shipments of grain, fruit, timber products or other agricultural goods, good fumigation practices are vital to avoid the potentially disastrous results for local flora, fauna, and farmers. Apart from trade applications, fumigation is used to destroy pests in buildings, soil, and vehicles.

Good procedures are fundamental in an industry that deals with toxic gases on a daily basis. The Australian Standard AS 2476 General fumigation procedures covers issues such as safety and detection equipment, protective clothing, notifications, signage, ventilation, documentation and clearance procedures.

Revision of the current edition has commenced in order to bring requirements up to date with altered regulatory requirements, and with the current approach to occupational health and safety. The use of regular risk assessments will help ensure that fumigators, and those working around fumigated goods, buildings or containers, are able to do their work safely.

The Standards Australia Technical Committee CH-005-08, which includes representatives from government, research establishments and the fumigation industry, are working to develop a draft for public comment in 2007.

Committee: CH-005-08: Fumigation

Chairman: David Cox

Projects Manager: Philip Wood

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UNRESTRAINED CARGO

During rapid braking or a motor vehicle collision, motor vehicle occupants can sometimes receive serious injury from unrestrained cargo. Cargo barriers endeavour to provide a shield of separation between cargo and occupants of a vehicle.

Due to changes in technology and industry requirements, the joint Standards Australia / Standards New Zealand Committee ME-084 - Cargo Restraint Systems for Occupant Protection in Light Vehicles is revising AS/NZS 4034.1: 2001 Motor vehicles - Cargo barriers for occupant protection - Cargo Barriers and AS/NZS 4034.2:2001 Motor vehicles - Cargo barriers for occupant protection - Partial cargo barriers.

The Standards focus on providing manufacturers, suppliers and users with the requirements for cargo barriers in order to protect the passengers and drivers, in the event of a collision, when seated in front of cargo in a motor vehicle.

In this revision provision has been made for:

- The use of cargo barriers in vehicles fitted with side airbags. The Committee recognises this results in increased clearances in some areas for such vehicles, which increases the risk of objects passing through in the collision, but considers that it is preferable to provide as much protection as possible in these situations rather than no protection at all.
- The display of airbag type, description and location on plaque or label.

It is anticipated that new editions of the Standards will be available in late 2007.

Committee: ME-084 - Cargo Restraint Systems for Occupant Protection in Light Vehicles

Chair: James Hurnall

Project Manager: Angelo Di Giunta

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STATIC TRANSFER SYSTEMS

Standards Australia's Technical Committee EL-027: Power Electronics has been actively participating in the parallel IEC Subcommittee 22H: Uninterruptible Power Systems (UPS) to finalise the second part of the three part series of IEC 62310 Static Transfer Systems (STS). The Committee has had significant input to the current text of the International Standard and has recently agreed to adopt the Standard in Australia.

Once published, this Standard would be part two of a three-part Standard, which will consist of the following:

- AS 62310 Static transfer systems (STS)
- 62310.1 Part 1: General and safety requirements (published on 1 December 2005)
- 62310.2 Part 2: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements
- 62310.3 Part 3: Method of specifying the performance and test requirements (work in progress)

The second part provides Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) requirements for free standing alternating current (a.c.) static transfer systems, intended to ensure the continuity of power to load by automatically or manually controlled transfer, with or without interruption, from two or several a.c. independent sources. It includes requirements for the switching elements, their control and protective elements. The AS 62310 Static transfer systems series also includes information for the overall integration of the STS and its accessories into the a.c. power network.

Static Transfer Switches are currently being manufactured, imported and distributed in Australia and no product Standard exists for EMC requirements. Today this is a "no-man's land" costing substantial amounts due to misjudgements of application requirements.

The introduction of this Standard in Australia will establish the most needed guidelines for manufacturers, specifiers and users of static transfer systems especially to ensure a proper neutral management in high availability uninterruptible power systems.

Costly mistakes have been made in the past as a result of inexistent normative guidelines, which could now be successfully avoided.

A draft on Static transfer systems (STS) Part 2: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements, DR 06588 was released for combined procedure with public comment period commencing on 27th September and closed on 8th November 2006. The postal ballots will be finalised shortly and the Standard is anticipated to be published by early January 2007.

Committee: EL-027 Power Electronics

Chairman: Ron Jackson

Projects Manager: Jahanzeb Rahman

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TUNNEL FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Major cities around the world are building more road and rail tunnels, to support the growing need of infrastructure capacity. This arises due to limited available land space with the need to minimise environmental impact. Tunnels represent a special hazardous environment, from the point of view of fire safety. Many accidents have occurred worldwide resulting in fatalities and serious injuries in Azerbaijan, the UK, France, Italy, Japan, Canada, Austria, Germany and the USA.

Major metropolitan cities in Australia are constructing road and rail tunnels at an increased rate to facilitate growing traffic movement between cities and suburban areas. State road and rail authorities are planning to construct more tunnels due to high price of land in city areas. Authorities controlling traffic solutions in cities, such as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, where there is little scope to build new roads in city areas, have no choice but to construct tunnels to satisfy the growing demand of urban spread.

Currently, in each state such as NSW, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, road and rail authorities are following their own guidelines and specifications for Tunnel Fire Safety. These guidelines and specifications are applied in new tunnels construction, together with tunnel upgrading and ongoing maintenance.

Most authorities have prepared their guidelines based on International Standards, such as National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 502, Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) Guidelines and other Standards from different countries. However, the geographical characteristics, landscape features and weather patterns in Australia are different to other countries. Therefore the considerations and assumptions, made in NFPA 502 and other country's Standards, may not be considered appropriate for Australian conditions. It is however, anticipated that the Australian Technical Committee developing a Standard for Fire Tunnel Safety would adopt some of the requirements in other countries Standards.

In NSW, for example, Road and Rail authorities are following a variety of guidelines for Tunnel Fire Safety. Moreover, foreign tunnel contractors, who work in Australia, sometimes attempt to implement their own country's/company's standards/guidelines in Australia which need to be modified for local conditions.

Standards Australia has approved the formation of a new Fire Committee (FP-023) for development of new Australian Standards for Tunnel Fire Safety. A Committee will be formed in early 2007. The Committee will commence work on drafting new Standards relating to fire safety systems and equipment, including fire and smoke detection and extraction, to provide safety for people in road and rail tunnels in the event of a fire or fire related emergency. The terms of reference are to include fire safety at the tunnel design and construction stage, tunnel up-gradation and tunnel maintenance.

Committee: FP-023 Tunnel Fire Safety

Chair: Barry Eadie

Projects Manager: Ahshanur Rashid

ahshanur.rashid@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 [click here](#).

BUILDING

Amalgamation of gas distribution standards into a single standard

Committee: AG-008

Project Number: 8052

Project Manager: Hui Din Lim

Revision of: AS 4568, AS 4645, AS 1697 & AS 3723

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To amalgamate the existing gas distribution standards (AS 4568, AS 4645, AS 1697 & AS 3723) into a single joint standard

Skylights

Committee: BD-075

Project Number: 8258

Project Manager: Ahshanur Rashid

Revision of: AS 4285: 1995

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To revise the current Skylights Standards.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Amendment 2 to AS/NZS 2442.2:2000, Performance of household electrical appliances--Rotary clothes dryers, Part 2:Energy labelling requirements

Committee: EL-015

Project Number: 8180

Project Manager: Pushpender Singh

Product Type: Joint Standard Amendment SA/SNZ

Objective: To update the transition period and registration details.

Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise - Part 2.6: Particular requirements for tumble dryers

Committee: EL-015

Project Number: 8207

Project Manager: Pushpender Singh

Product Type: Joint/International Standard

Objective: Adoption of IEC 60704-2-6 to provide designers, manufacturers and purchasers of clothes dryers with the parameters required to specify the particular requirements for clothes dryer for noise emission values.

Remote controls for mining equipment Part 2: Operation and maintenance for underground metalliferous mines

Committee: EL-023

Project Number: 7489

Project Manager: Peter Meyer

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To develop a new Standard on the operation and maintenance of remote controlled equipment specifically to address the needs of the underground metalliferous mining industry.

MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS

Product Safety Framework

Committee: A-000

Project Number: 7836

Project Manager: James Thomson

Product Type: SA Handbook

Objective: This Handbook has been prepared in multiple parts to provide a Product Safety Framework for product safety using a strong risk management approach.

Market, opinion and social research-Vocabulary and service requirements

Committee: MB-005

Project Number: 8070

Project Manager: James Thomson

Product Type: Australian/International Standard

Objective: To establish the terms and definitions as well as the service requirements for organizations and professionals conducting market, opinion and social research.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY

Thermography-Part 1:Condition monitoring and diagnostics of machines

Committee: MT-007

Project Number: 8252

Project Manager: Greg Langtry

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To specify the method and interpretation of monitoring and diagnostics of machines using thermographic technics.

Methods of test for pulp and paper, Method 439s: Bendtsen roughness of paper and paperboard

Committee: PK-019

Project Number: 8217

Project Manager: Kerrie Newman

Revision of: AS 1301.439s--1991

Product Type: Australian/International Standard

Objective: To specify a method for the determination of the roughness of paper and board using the Bendtsen apparatus.

Training and certification of occupational divers Part 1.2: Occupational SCUBA diver-Specialist

Committee: SF-017

Project Number: 8284

Project Manager: Carol Foster

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To provide the occupational diving industry, in particular occupational divers using SCUBA for a limited range of tasks within specialist industry areas, with a summary of the minimum competencies required in order that such diving may be carried out safely, the minimum training for imparting these competencies and assessment procedures.

DRAFTS

An important stage in the development of an Australian Standard® is the Public Comment period. Here is a selection of Draft Standards currently up for comment. View the full list of Draft Standards that are up for public comment at www.standards.org.au.

DR 06713 CP - 8 Jan 07

Elastomeric seals - Material requirements for pipe joint seals used in water and drainage applications - Part 3: Cellular materials of vulcanized rubber

DR 06717 CP - 15 Jan 07

Metallic materials - Rockwell hardness test - Method 1: Test method (scales A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, N, T)

DR 06698 - 17 Jan 07

Valves for compressed gas cylinders - Part 3: Outlet connections for medical gases (including pin-indexed yoke connections)

DR 06700 - 18 Jan 07

Motor vehicles - Cargo barriers for occupant protection - Part 1: Cargo barriers

DR 06703 - 18 Jan 07

Pressure vessels

DR 06733 CP - 1 Feb 07

Methods of test for pulp and paper - Method 208s: Physical testing of pulp handsheets

DR 06721 - 6 Feb 07

Aluminium and aluminium alloys - Drawn wire, rod, bar and strip

DR 06738 - 9 Feb 07

Electrical installations - Shows and carnivals

DR 06726 CP - 14 Feb 07

The design and construction, filling, inspection, and testing of gas cylinders - Part 1: Refillable gas cylinders for gases other than acetylene

DR 06728 - 16 Feb 07

Metallic materials - Tensile testing at ambient temperature