



Productivity Commission to Look at Standards Australia

Mr John Tucker, CEO of Standards Australia, has welcomed the official announcement that the Australian Government, through its Productivity Commission, will undertake a review of its relationship with Standards Australia and the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello and the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Ian Macfarlane MP made the announcement in early February. It is the first review in more than a decade.

Mr Tucker said the review comes at a time when Standards Australia is going through major changes.

"While Standards Australia has an 80-year history of working with business and the community we are always open to new ideas and ways to help make Australia safer and more productive," Mr Tucker said.

"Following extensive consultation Standards Australia has recently developed a revised business model designed to meet the future standards-related needs of Australia.

"The Productivity Commission review offers a timely opportunity to test support for these proposed changes in our operating and governance structures.

"The review is a real opportunity for Standards Australia to demonstrate how we can work quickly and efficiently to respond to the needs of governments, regulators, industry and the community," Mr Tucker said.

In a joint statement Treasurer Costello and Minister Macfarlane said: "The Government enjoys close relationships with Standards Australia and NATA and recognises them as Australia's peak bodies in standards development and laboratory accreditation respectively."

Minister Macfarlane said the study would look at the history of the relationship between the Australian Government and the organisations, the cost impact and benefits to business and the wider community of standards.

The review would also look at the role of standards in regulation and overseas models.

The review will be undertaken in the context of Australia's need for an effective and internationally recognised and harmonised standards and conformance infrastructure. The Commission is required to provide a final report by November 2006.

More information available from: <http://www.pc.gov.au/study/standards/index.html>

Greenhouse Emissions, Tracking Our Success

There's plenty of discussion on the greenhouse effect and what to do about it. Ratifying Kyoto. Voluntary industry schemes. Carbon trading. Tree planting. Renewable energy. The list is endless.

But there's a yawning gap in the debate - how do we know if any of this will work? Who is reporting greenhouse emission reductions and how are they doing this reporting?

The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate meeting in Sydney is a case in point.

The six-member-nations - the US, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea - and their major industries are telling the world how they plan to cut emissions.

While this might be achieved through new technologies including pumping gases back into the earth, new energy technology funds and reductions in energy use, questions still remain.

Greenhouse Emissions, Tracking Our Success (continued)

If major greenhouse gas generators like the aluminium, oil and heavy industries sign up to long term energy and emission reforms, then at some point, someone, preferably independent, has to assure the rest of us they are keeping their part of the deal.

In Australia this is currently achieved through self-assessment. Some businesses have developed greenhouse accounting practices that provide a fair understanding of the emissions they produce and the potential reductions they can or are making.

While this might work in countries with more advanced probity and governance protections, in less developed countries, where the risk of manipulation is very real, stronger assessments and verification controls will be needed.

Over the past three years Standards Australia and the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) has been working with industry and governments to develop a set of four International Standards - the final one to be published mid-2006 - for measuring, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions.

They provide the clearest, simplest and strongest way to report reductions, describe how the reductions have been achieved and spell out who is qualified to do the reporting.

They are stand-alone documents that can be incorporated into a greenhouse gas reduction strategy, both at Government and industry levels. In fact they are already being incorporated in governmental mechanisms in Canada.

And being recognised as International Standards, with a reputation for consensus and integrity, they will also form an important tool in greenhouse gas credit schemes and the management of risk associated with climate change assets or liabilities.

There is little argument that global warming is an imminent, serious threat that needs global action now. As temperatures climb, seas rise, glaciers melt and coral is bleached, the world has a responsibility to future generations to come up with answers.

And whatever path we take, whether its Kyoto or voluntary industry based schemes then we have to be sure it is having an impact - we might only get one chance.

Without a standardised process that provides consistent reporting across all industries, in all countries, on a regular basis then it might be too late before we really know if our response to climate change is succeeding.

Using a system like this we will see clearly who is meeting their global responsibilities and who isn't. Stricter accountability will surely lead to better outcomes.

New Guidelines for the Installation of Household Rainwater Tanks

Standards Australia along with the Hon. John Hill MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation in South Australia, earlier this month launched new guidelines for the installation of domestic rainwater tanks.

The guidelines, entitled the National Rainwater Tank Design and Installation Handbook, have been developed by Standards Australia, Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association of Australia (MPMSAA) and the Australian Rainwater Industry Development Group (ARID).

"This new handbook is a major step forward in water conservation and will be used by plumbers, builders and councils," Mr Tucker said.

"When the clear instructions in this book are followed it will give homeowners the guarantee their new rainwater tank is being installed properly and will work safely and efficiently.

"These new guidelines, Australia's first and most comprehensive, spell out in detail the practical information needed for the collection, storage and use of rainwater on private properties in our towns and cities," he said.

Issues dealt with in the handbook include:

Performance requirements such as possible contamination between rainwater and drinking water;

Design and installation including materials, site preparation, and pump requirements;



L to R: Executive Director MPMSAA Mr Ray Herbert, Chairman ARID Mr David Beattie, Minister for Environment and Conservation Hon John Hill MP, and Chief Executive Officer Standards Australia John Tucker

Rainwater storage for protection against bushfires;

Rainwater treatment devices including filtration and screening for gutters and downpipes; and

Health issues such as mosquito control, preventing access by birds and small animals.

The handbook also includes Australia's first easy guide for "problem busting" with a comprehensive table outlining possible problems, causes, preventative and corrective measures.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2004 1.3 million homes across Australia had rainwater tanks. The same report found around a third of all households, a further 2.1 million, were considering installing a tank.

The average cost of buying and installing a basic rainwater tank with pumps is around \$2000.

Mr Tucker said that as Australian summers become hotter and rainfall becomes less it is imperative that we all do what ever we can to conserve water.

"The latest CSIRO predictions are for temperatures across Australia to rise by two degrees by 2040 and six degrees by 2070 and the frequency of drought is likely to increase by up to 70 percent within the next 25 years," Mr Tucker said.

"There is clearly an important need for Australians all do what we can to conserve water.

"And as State Governments across Australia offer rebates on rainwater tanks it is important that regulators and purchasers know they are getting value for money," Mr Tucker said.

Interview with Kevin Mckinley, Deputy Secretary General of Iso

After a seven-hour delay, lost luggage and no dinner, Deputy Secretary General of ISO Kevin McKinley, flew into Sydney.

He had zigzagged across the Tasman for two days on a flying visit that saw him discussing international food standards with Codex Alimentarius in Melbourne and the ISO strategy for management systems standards at a meeting in Taupo, New Zealand.

Despite a torrid two days, Kevin spent his final morning in Sydney, before returning to Geneva, with Standards Australia staff discussing the work of the ISO and the future directions on International Standards.

Standards Australia (SA) spoke with Kevin after his briefing to discuss Australia's involvement in standards development around the world.

SA: A part of your presentation today dealt with Australia's involvement with International Standards. Where do we fit in the world of International Standards?

Kevin: Australia is a respected contributor to International Standards.

Australia takes up leadership positions in standardization related to your export resource industries, for standards related to the construction and building industry and on subjects of global consistency in environmental and safety issues which seem to be a fabric of Australia.

Also, your leadership role in certain ISO Committees demonstrate interest in people issues such as workplace safety and fire fighting equipment.

Australia is also perceived as a respected and industrialised contributor and has shown linkage to organisational challenges through its own standardization initiatives in business and risk management.

Standards Australia's participation on ISO Council and its past leadership of the ISO Technical Management Board also contribute to Australia batting at or above its weight globally.

SA: What are the big challenges? If you were to point at one or two things that could threaten the existence of organisations such as Standards Australia or the ISO, what do you they would be?

Kevin: I think that standardization as an organisational model is in an excellent position. There will be an increasing need for international technical harmonisation and a need to increase the level of global efficiency in the way we do things.

Interview with Kevin Mckinley, Deputy Secretary General of Iso (Continued)

So the business model for international standardization is very sound. I think that a challenge for standards bodies is the extent and the pace at which they are able to bring their stakeholder community to an international level. That's a real challenge because if you stay too national or regional in your approach, there will be some point in the future where it is detrimental, where it disadvantages your region or economy.

Therefore ISO and its partners, IEC and ITU, are well positioned. We need nimble international organisations to come up with efficient international solutions for technical consistency, for consumer confidence and to support regulatory objectives.

So the ISO model is sound for the future. An on-going challenge will be to ensure that the national members have a shared vision of the role of International Standards as we go forward.

SA: So how do the national bodies achieve that?

Kevin: The key vehicle for accomplishing this shared vision is the ISO Strategy for 2005-2010. I understand Australia has developed its own 2006-2011 strategy that includes plans for international engagement. This is important and we're seeing organisations asking "where are we, where are we going to be in the future?" It's also appropriate and essential that national standards strategies resonate and link with the global trends, strategies and objectives.

There's also a need to consider regional dynamics, the impact of large economies and trading partners and the growing importance of emerging economies such as China and India. For Australia, being in touch and engaging with initiatives in regional standards groupings, such as the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), certainly allows you to be part of a peer network and maintain a sense of where other partner economies are going.

It's also important to stay abreast of developments in other regional standards groupings (eg, Americas - COPANT, Europe - CEN). Combined with effective participation in ISO, these approaches can allow you to monitor and influence international developments, take key information back, and then reorient and focus your own national approaches.

The full interview with Deputy Secretary General of ISO Kevin McKinley can be read online by clicking [here](#). (link to full interview)

Fishy Idea Wins Award

A young Coffs Harbour student has won one of Australia's most prestigious high school design awards for his unique approach to providing farmed fish with a natural source of organic food.

Lincoln Morris, who has just completed Year 12 at Bishop Druitt College, developed his Floating Fish Feeder as part of his HSC Design and Technology course.

Lincoln was presented with the \$500 Best Concept Design and Innovation Excellence Award, sponsored by Standards Australia, at the Powerhouse Museum on December 5, 2005.

The Award is part of the annual DesignTECH program, run by the Board of Studies NSW, designed to recognise the best student design in NSW schools.

Lincoln said the award would help him pursue a career in engineering design.

"My passion for fishing was the driving force behind pursuing the idea that my friend presented to me," Lincoln said.

"I worked with my friend who has a wetland area full of bass and he wished to provide another natural food source.

"The Floating Fish Feeder attracts hundreds of insects, which swarm around the device, when they hit the water the bass are able to feed on them.

"When the device is used on the dam, the bass have time to condition to it and they should return to it for feeding on a regular basis," Lincoln said.

Floating Fish Feeder provides a natural food source for a fish farm by using ultra-

Fishy Idea Wins Award (Continued)



The award winning Floating Fish Feeder designed by Lincoln Morris.

violet fluorescent lights to attract insects during the dusk period each day.

It is powered by a solar panel and battery located on shore using making it a fully energy efficient unit.

Stephanie Watson, Manager of the Australian Design Awards, a division of Standards Australia presented Lincoln with the award.

"The Best Concept Design and Innovation Excellence Award is awarded to the student whose project best represents excellence in innovation, concept design, detail resolution, commercial viability and overall quality of presentation," Ms Watson said.

"Lincoln's project represents problem solving at its best.

"Lincoln has identified an untapped market niche and responded with a design solution that is both well resolved and technologically advanced.

"Standards Australia is proud to help young school student designers on their way to careers in industrial, engineering or any other form of design."

Australia Prominent at IEC's General Meeting

More than 20 Australian experts participated in the International Electrotechnical Commission's (IEC) General meeting in Cape Town in late 2005.

The Australian delegation, lead by Mrs Else Shepherd AM, provided input to the series of meetings that covered both management and technical issues.

The IEC Council appointed Australia's Don Gray for a second term as Chairman of IEC's Conformity Assessment Board, and also elected a New Treasurer, Mr Olivier Gourlay, from France, who has financial experience with the World Bank and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).

New members on the IEC Council Board were appointed from Korea, India and Mexico.

Australia remains a member of the Council Board until the end of 2006.

Trade driven issues and matters between IEC and ISO, and also with the US Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, dominated technical management discussions at the IEC's Standards Management Board.

At the technical committee meetings the IEC stressed to members the importance of their contribution to the development of documents and drafts through their active participation at meetings.

The leading points from the technical meetings were:

Environmentally-Friendly IT

Paul Robinson (IBM Australia) reported that IEC TC108 Safety of electronic equipment within the field of audio/video, information technology and communication technology is aiming to finalise it's project on environmental criteria for IT equipment by October 2006. On the safety side, this committee's hazard-based standards development team (HBSDT) is reviewing the established standard IEC 60950, with a challenging amount of work which is expected to span some five years.

Electromagnetic Compatibility

Subcommittee 77A Low frequency phenomena deals with low frequency phenomena - compatibility in electricity supply systems. Australian delegate Alex Baitch reported that new work was initiated on the effects of unbalance in low voltage networks, and on emissions from low voltage installations. The aim is to ensure that electrical equipment performs properly in all situations.

Radio Interference

Ray Garrett (Chair of Standards Australia's Committee TE-003, Electromagnetic interference) noted that progress was made by the IEC committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) towards emission limits for broadband communication on power lines (BPL). The CISPR subcommittee also looked at the implications of digital radio broadcasting in relation to interference limits.



Ian Graham, Member of Standards Australia's Board, Else Shepherd AM, Chair, Australian national committee of IEC, Warren Miller, Standards Australia, Secretary, Australian National Committee of IEC.

Australia Prominent at IEC's General Meeting (Continued)

Explosion Protected Electrical Equipment

Ajay Maira (Workcover NSW) and Ralph Wigg (Ex Solutions) enjoyed some success at the meetings of TC31 Equipment for explosive atmospheres, where Australian proposals for improvements to the IEC Standard for intrinsically safe equipment were accepted. The committee agreed to progress the resulting Standard to a final vote.

Measurement of Electricity

IEC Committee TC13 Equipment for electrical energy measurement and load control deals with measuring equipment for electricity. Bill Henley (NEMMCO) found that the international work in that area is now being driven strongly by European Union issues, with efficient use of electricity stimulating the need to measure it reliably. Australian utilities will be influenced by this, particularly in relation to liberalization of electricity markets. Interests in TC13's work has also grown in developing countries as electricity supply is extended to communities who are unfamiliar with post-consumption billing.

High Voltage Switchgear

Alex Baitech participated in the meetings of subcommittees 17A and C, which considered a large range of national comments on revision of the key IEC Standard 62771-1, Common requirements for HV switchgear.

Electrical Accessories

Australian delegate David Browne attended IEC subcommittee 23E which is finally moving forward to a voting draft on its proposed standard for sophisticated residual current devices (RCDs) which respond to a wider range of unsafe situations. (These are known as "safety switches" in Australia.) The working group also made progress on several other documents on protective devices, during its 4 days of meetings.

The strong participation by Australian delegates at these meetings and the commitment shown by Australian industry to ensure that the Australian position is heard at these fora is evidence of the extent to which electrical technology, and products based on this, are tied to international standards. Over 70% of Australian electrical standards, many of which affect trade through their use by regulators, are closely aligned to IEC. The IEC meetings in Cape Town have demonstrated the ability of Australian interests to help shape the future of these standards.

Warren Miller

Group manager - Electrotechnology

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Standards Australia's Warren Miller at the IEC's General Meeting

Shortlist Announced for 2006 Australian Design Awards

An automatic cot rocker and a portable Internet radio receiver are among 104 unique Australian products that have been Shortlisted for this year's prestigious Australian Design Awards.

Other Shortlisted products include a state-of-the-art heart blood pump, the world's first soft stadium seat and the 2006 Commonwealth Games Queen's baton, which will visit 71 countries leading up to the games in Melbourne.

Designers from Dyson in America, Volvo in Sweden, LG in Korea, Philips in The Netherlands joined Australian experts to select the Shortlisted products from more than 250 entries.

Stephanie Watson, Manager of Standards Australia's Australian Design Awards said the Shortlisted products are now being shipped to Sydney where industry professionals will spend a week judging the originality, design, safety and commercial viability before the winners are announced on 19 May, 2006.

"Every year, more and more Australian designers and businesses are entering their new products in the Australian Design Awards, Ms Watson said.

"They are recognising the enormous benefits of the national exposure, the value of peer review, the competitive advantage and the international opportunities the Awards provide," she said.



Alessi Marli Appribottiglie (bottle opener)

Shortlist Announced for 2006 Australian Design Awards (Continued)

Other products going into the final round of judging include:

A new blood pump with only one moving part that connects directly to the heart allowing the heart to rest and possibly recover;

A personal boating safety transmitter system that provides an alarm when someone falls over board and generates a signal to find them;

A multi-user voice wireless conference system, which incorporates the latest acoustic technology and touch screen remote control;

The fourth generation cochlear implant for people with severe to profound hearing loss incorporating the latest audiological software;

A police utility vest designed to spread the weight and provide easy access to equipment. It is designed to breathe and prevent lower-back pain;

The world's first soft tip-up stadium seat designed for safety and comfort;

A dramatically smaller, lightweight, travel friendly sleep apnea device;

The world's first portable compact internet radio;

A revolutionary sticky tape dispenser that is designed to avoid losing the end of the tape. It can be also used like a packing tape dispenser; and

A tougher, quieter and cleaner trailer pump designed for the mining and construction industry that can operate unsupervised for 24 hours.

All 2006 Australian Design Awards Shortlisted entries can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

SPECIAL OFFER - 2005 AUSTRALIAN DESIGN AWARDS YEARBOOK

The annual Australian Design Awards Yearbook is a high quality publication showcasing Australia's best in design and innovation for the year. Immaculately designed and presented, it makes the perfect showpiece for any coffee table as well as providing insights and industry opinions on Australian design.

There are a limited number of 2005 Australian Design Awards Yearbooks up for grabs. To obtain your complimentary copy (valued at \$53.00) please contact the Australian Design Awards at: mail@designawards.com.au with your name and postal address. Don't miss out.

VALE

Sergeant George Panayiotis

We recently heard of the unfortunate death of one of our Committee members, Sergeant George Panayiotis who died in an accident in Egypt in January 2006. Sergeant Panayiotis was nominated to Standards Australia Committees CS-068, Radar Speed Detection, and CS-098, Laser Speed Detection, by Victoria Police in September 2000. He was an active member of these Committees, assisting with the preparation of numerous standards. He had been involved in the speed detection area for more than 20 years with Radio and Electronic Services in Victoria Police and will be missed by other members of the Committees with whom he had worked for many years.

Ron Read

Standards Australia would like to mark the recent passing of Mr Ron Read, a major contributor to Standards Australia's committees through his membership of ME-001, ME-015 and ME-017, over a period of about 30 years. His primary contribution was leading the development of AS/NZS 3788 Pressure Equipment - In-Service Inspection, an Australian Standard® which has generated enormous benefits for Australian industry, ensuring the safety and reliability of plant and equipment worth billions of dollars. Standards Australia acknowledges Mr Read's great contributions to Australian Standards®, and we express our condolences to his wife and family.



Mobilert



R Triton



Razzor Scuttlebug

Committee Member Lounge Promotion

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.

Visit our Committee Member Lounge and give us your feedback or suggestions by putting them in the suggestion box. At the end of each quarter Standards Australia will choose the best suggestion or most valuable piece of feedback. The winner will receive a David Jones voucher to the value of \$100.

coming up

Fresh Start For Health Committees

The start of a new project manager in the Health and Food section has brought a fresh start to some of Standards Australia's Health committees. Due to staff changes and limited resources, progress on some committee projects has been delayed. Following review of the committees and their current projects, a prioritisation system is in place to ensure the projects are reactivated based on the needs of the community.

The highly anticipated revision of AS/NZS 4815: Office-based health care facilities – Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment was first priority for the new project manager.

Committee HE-023 - Processing of Medical and Surgical Instruments met in December last year to finalise the draft of this Standard. The Meeting was very productive and all comments received on the draft document were considered and changes recommended. The committee is currently reviewing the altered document over the next month prior to the draft being submitted to the Standards Sector Board for approval for publishing. It is anticipated that this important health Standard will be published in the near future.

Other committees that will be meeting in the first half of this year, include Committee:

HE-027 Hospital beds: A joint Australian / New Zealand Standard for the safety of medical beds for adults is currently in draft form. The committee will be meeting to consider comments received during the public comment period;

HE-007 Packaging of Infectious Materials: This committee is working on a standard for the transport of biological material that may cause disease in humans, animals and plants;

CS-009 Devices for Contraception and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections; This committee is currently writing standards for contraceptives including Diaphragms and Condoms; and

HE-023-00-01 Performance of cleaning products for the cleaning of reusable medical devices and equipment in health care facilities: This working group is creating a Standard for cleaning agents used in the critical step of cleaning medical instruments, prior to disinfection or pre-sterilization. Members of the group have been working on research that will form the basis of this Standard. It will be meeting in the near future to consider the research results.

For information on any of the above committees contact Annette Keay, Project Manager: annette.keay@standards.org.au; or Ph: +61 2 8206 6593.

Dangerous goods: Revising the retail sector

AS/NZS 3833:1998, The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods in packages and intermediate bulk containers, was the first Australian Standard® to take a risk-based approach to the storage and handling of dangerous goods. Now that the Standard has been in use for seven years, users and regulators have had a chance to identify any shortcomings with the first edition.

The main concern with the 1998 edition has been identified as Section 3, Retail storage, which was written based on the concept of 'consumer commodity' package sizes, which were very small. Although these package sizes aligned with those in dangerous goods transport regulations, they were much smaller than many of the packages sizes found in supermarkets and hardware stores.

Subcommittee CH-009-11 decided to replace the term 'consumer commodities' with 'retail packages' and have revised the actual volume of the retail package sizes to better reflect the real sizes found in the retail sector.

Another issue facing retailers using the Standard has been the stringent segregation requirements for incompatible dangerous goods in retail distribution

Fresh Start For Health Committees (continued)

centres, which have to work in conjunction with picking orders and minimum travel distances for fork lift trucks and similar equipment. This issue will be discussed at a further meeting of the Subcommittee, with expertise being sought from the retail industry.

At this stage, the subcommittee has considered the maximum quantities allowable for minor storage under the Standard, and quantities based on floor area and occupancy have been developed. Other work being done as part of this revision includes the development of more clearly-defined segregation requirements and further advice on transit storage.

It is envisaged that a public review draft revision of AS/NZS 3833 will be available in mid-2006 and publication of a new edition by the end of 2006.

Subcommittee: Safe Warehousing of Dangerous Goods, CH-009-11
Secretary: Ms Dawn Lindsay
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Cold-formed Steel Structures

Following extensive research in Australia on cold-formed steel sections and significant modifications of the American Iron and Steel Institute's Specification for the Design of Cold-formed Steel Structural Members, a revised edition of the 1996 AS/NZS 4600 - Cold formed Steel Structures has been produced.

The revised Standard proposes some major changes to the current edition, including the alignment of terminology with AS/NZS 1170 series for structural design actions; the acceptance of welding to remove confusion and alignment of the Standard to AS 1397; and an increase in the allowable design stresses of G550 steel.

AS/NZS 4600 was published in December 2005 and will be referenced in the 2006 edition of the Building Code of Australia.

Committee: Cold-formed Steel Structures, BD-082
Chairman: Prof Greg Hancock, The University of Sydney
Projects Manager: Eddy Go
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Cathodic Protection of Metals-internal Surfaces

Standards Australia is currently revising AS 2832.4, Cathodic protection of metals-Internal surfaces.

Corrosion of a metal is an electrochemical reaction between the metal and its environment, which results in wastage of the metal. It is a combination of chemical effects with an associated flow of electrical energy (corrosion current).

In many practical situations where it is impossible to change the nature of the environment, employing cathodic protection may prevent corrosion. This is achieved by applying an appropriate direct current flowing in opposition to the original corrosion current, thus preventing the natural tendency of the metal to react with its environment. In practice, the electrical potential of the metal at risk is used to judge whether adequate protection is being achieved.

To employ cathodic protection, a circuit is established by connecting a suitable source of direct current to the structure to be protected.

Two types of cathodic protection systems are available:

- (a) Galvanic anode systems, which employ metallic anodes that sacrifice themselves to provide the source of direct current for protection of the structure.
- (b) Impressed current systems, which employ an external electrical power source of direct current for the protection of the structure.

This Australian Standard® specifies the requirements for the cathodic protection of internal surfaces of pipes and structures including, but not limited to, heat exchangers, hot water systems, clarifiers, ballast and water storage tanks, cooling conduits and process plants. The internal surfaces of these vessels/structures may contain waters, seawaters, drinking water, brackish waters, sewage and brines.

The Standard specifically covers the following subjects such as; the design of

Cathodic Protection of Metals-internal Surfaces (Continued)

structures requiring cathodic protection, coatings for use on internal surfaces, criteria for the choice of cathodic protection potential, the design of cathodic protection systems, the installation of cathodic protection systems and the operation and maintenance of cathodic protection systems.

Committee MT-014-03 believes this Standard will be published by June 2006.

Committee: Cathodic protection of Metals - MT-014-03

Chairman: Dave Robinson

Project manager: Mr Greg Langtry

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Welding of Cold-formed Steel Structures

Committee WD-003 has commenced work on a new Australian Standard® to be designated AS/NZS1554.7. This Standard takes cognisance of the changes in the latest edition of AS/NZS 4600 Cold-formed steel structures, and will provide guidance to fabricators for the welding of light gauge structures.

The current existing AS/NZS 4600 refers to the American Welding Society for its welding requirements of steels up to 3mm thick and to AS/NZS 1554.1 for thicker sections. This combination poses difficulties for users of Australian and New Zealand Standard steel grades.

The new Australian Standard recognises the requirements of the American Welding Society, but generally follows the layout, intent and format of the existing Australian/New Zealand series to enhance readability and understanding by the user.

Significant items within AS/NZS1554.7 that vary from those of the other parts of AS/NZS1554 are as follows:

The dynamic loading (fatigue) provisions of AS/NZS 4600 call up AS/NZS1554.1 category SP or AS/NZS1554.5, as appropriate, and this is reflected in the Scope of AS/NZS1554.7.

Whilst recognition of existing pre-qualified welded joints from AS/NZS 1554.1 is retained, four new weld joint types are included in the new Standard. These are the flare, arc-spot, arc-seam, and arc-plug welds.

Service temperature limitations, in regards to brittle fracture, on the steels being welded have been included. It is not expected though that this will adversely impact on design or steel type requirements for most of Australia or New Zealand given the limited thickness of the steels being welded.

Provision has been made for the AS1397 steel grades G500 and G550.

The concept of pre-qualification is being retained from AS/NZS 1554.1 so as to limit testing requirements and provide consistency with our current AS/NZS 1554.1 category GP testing requirements (minimal).

AS/NZS1554.7 is likely to be completed around March / April 2007.

Committee: Welding of structures, WD-003

Chairman: Bruce Cannon

Projects Manager: Nabil Kolta

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Keeping up with the Earthmovers

Standards Australia's Technical Committee, ME-063 - Earth-moving Equipment, is responsible for the preparation and development of Australian Standards® relating to earth-moving machinery such as crawlers, back-hoes, dump trucks etc. There are currently 68 Australian Standards within this portfolio, which are mainly adoptions of corresponding International Standards.

Most of these Australian Standards were published in 1988 and since then a lot of the corresponding ISO Standards have been modified or even withdrawn. Consequently, the committee has decided to update the Australian versions by taking the same action as the International committee (ISO/TC 127) and to bring the documents into line with their corresponding international editions. Some Australian earth-moving standards will therefore be withdrawn and many others will be republished this year.

Keeping up with the Earthmovers (Continued)

The majority of the Australian earth-moving machinery standards could be subdivided into 9 headings as follows; Nomenclature (AS 2951 series), Basic shapes and dimensions (AS 2952 series), Human dimensions (AS 2953 series), Rated loads and volumetric ratings (AS 2954 series), Tests and measurements (AS 2955 series), Instrumentation and operator's controls (AS 2956 series), Operation and maintenance (AS 2957 series), Safety (AS 2958 series) as well as Protective structures (AS 2294 series). There are also standards on laboratory testing of guards and on seat belts fitted to such machinery.

Readers are advised to keep informed as to the latest status of the revisions by contacting the Project Manager or through the Standards Australia website. <http://www.standards.org.au/>

ME-063 also has two Working Groups that are currently developing standards for the repair and maintenance of wheels, rims and tyres used on 'off-the-road' earth-moving machinery and for quick hitches that are attached to excavator and backhoe arms. These projects will be available for public comment within the next few months.

Committee: Earth-moving Equipment, ME-063

Chairman: Mr John Smith

Projects Manager: Mr Bob Maynard

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An Rfid Data Model for Libraries

Standards Australia is examining proposals for an appropriate Radio Frequency Identification data-model for Australian libraries and publishers.

Radio Frequency Identification, generally referred to as RFID, is beginning to find a home within the worldwide library sector. The technology promises to both increase efficiency in current library operations, while at the same time opening doors to new ways of managing library collections. By replacing the traditional barcode and also the item security tag, RFID tagged library books and other materials are liberated from the line-of-sight restrictions imposed by optical barcode technology. In a productivity sense, this means the difference between issuing books individually and issuing an entire stack of books in one action. Similarly, a complete shelf of books could be read for inventory or shelf-order purposes by means of a compact hand held device - in a matter of seconds.

One of the major impediments for libraries considering migration to RFID is the lack of purpose-designed standards. Currently, library RFID vendors are shipping systems that comply with ISO 15693 and ISO 18000-3 Mode 1. These Standards were developed with applications other than libraries in mind and are weak in areas important to libraries such as data security, reader authentication, password protection etc. In addition, these standards don't prescribe a tag data-model with the result that there is currently no interoperability between vendor's systems.

The data-model would include such considerations as:

Borrower Privacy

Improved integration between libraries and publishers

Compatibility with automatic circulation equipment

Cooperative arrangements between library organisations

Main Committee: Information and Documentation, IT-19

Working Group: RFID for Libraries, IT-19-01-02

Chairman: Alan Butters

Project Manager: Irene Hagstrom

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Detection Of Drugs In Oral Fluid

Oral fluid drug testing has developed in recent years to provide an alternative way to detect consumption of drugs, particularly drugs of abuse. All drugs are present in oral fluid, which refers to all fluids found in mouth, including saliva, depending on a number of physiological attributes or from exposure of the oral cavity through inhaled smoke (cannabis).

The collection of oral fluid is relatively non-invasive compared to blood, and in most cases, trained collectors can rapidly collect samples. Oral fluid testing will be looking for evidence of "recent" use, whereas urine testing is looking at persons having a history of prior use. The drugs present in oral fluid differ from those in urine. This is because parent drugs are found in oral fluid and metabolites are predominately found in urine.

A number of commercial on-site drug screening devices are now available and are being used by various groups.

The European Union Roadside Impairment Testing Assessment Program (ROSITA) is examining these devices for applicability for this purpose. A similar program is being run in the United States.

It was agreed that an Australian Standard® was required to assist laboratories and the industry in providing guidance on the proper procedures to follow. It will also assist to guarantee appropriate collection of specimens handling and transport to the laboratory with chain-of-custody issues in mind, and laboratory-based screening and confirmation procedures.

The Standards Australia committee CH-039, Detection of Drugs in Oral Fluid, has recently issued for public comment a series of draft Standards on the procedures for the collection, detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid. They are three parts as follows:

DR 05590 Part 1: Introduction and definition of terms used in the detection of drugs in oral fluid.

DR 05591 Part 2: Collection, on-site initial testing, storage, handling and dispatch of oral fluid specimens.

DR 05592 Part 3: Laboratory analytical procedures.

The closing date for comment on the above drafts is on 3 March 2006.

Committee: Detection of Drugs in Oral Fluid, CH-039

Chairman: Prof Olaf Drummer, Head (Scientific Services) Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Projects Manager: Patricia L Carreto
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Lamps and Related Equipment

The Standards Australia/ Standards New Zealand technical committee EL-041 is actively committed to improving the safety and performance of lamps, lamp-holders, components and various types of light fittings that are used locally. The committee supports the initiatives of the Australian Greenhouse Office and the Department of Environment and Heritage on reductions of CO₂ and other hazardous substances.

In 2005, Australian Standards® were published to improve the safety and performance aspects of lamps and related equipment. They generally align with international requirements, providing a common platform of use. These are as follows:

Particular requirements for emergency lighting. (AS/ NZ 60598.2.22) This Standard was published in liaison with committee LG-7, Emergency Lighting in buildings. This Standard is new and was developed to address the safe and reliable operations for emergency lighting luminaires.

Particular requirements for portable luminaires for garden use (AS/NZS 60598.2.7). This Standard is new and addresses safety requirements of luminaires for garden use. This was developed based on the International Standard for acceptance worldwide and will support the objectives of the local industry and regulators.

D.C. supplied electronic ballasts for tubular fluorescent lamps - Performance requirements (AS/NZS 60925). This new Standard aims to improve the performance of electronic ballasts used with tubular fluorescent lamps.

Lamps and Related Equipment (Continued)

Auxiliaries for lamps - Starting devices (other than glow starters) - Performance requirements (AS/NZS 60927). This new Standard will improve the performance requirements for starting devices used with lamps.

AC supplied electronic ballasts for tubular fluorescent lamps - Performance requirements (AS/NZS 60929). This Standard was revised to supersede the 2000 edition and flow with the worldwide trend on performance issues of electronic ballasts used with AC supplied tubular fluorescent lamps.

Particular requirements for Portable General purpose luminaires (AS/NZS 60598.2.4) was revised and re-published in 2005. This Standard improves the safety aspects of portable general-purpose light fittings.

Committee: Lamps and related equipment, EL-041

Chairman: Mr. Owen Manley

Project Manager: Nat Krishnan

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Health Informatics - Messaging and Communication in Healthcare

As technology continues to advance, there is an increasing demand for Health Informatics Standards to guide the development of messaging technologies to be used for data interchange within the health care environment.

Of particular interest is the Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2 protocol, which is a widely used Australian Standard® that enables healthcare applications to share clinical and administrative data between different information systems and health care organisations.

The IT-014-06 Messaging and Communication working groups have developed and published several Implementation Standards for HL7 Version 2 in the areas of Patient Administration, Diagnostics, Clinical Referral, Prescription and Immunization.

Additionally, the Message Usage Model Handbooks aim to provide guidance on the implementation of healthcare messaging and to identify the way existing messaging standards should be used within the health sector environment.

The wide distribution and adoption of Health Informatics Standards should significantly enhance the efficiency and quality of the Australian health care system and improve patient safety.

All Health Informatics Standards are available for free pdf download by clicking [here](#)

Recent Health Informatics publications include:

AS 4700.1-2005 Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 1: Patient administration

AS 4700.3-2005 Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 3: Electronic messages for exchange of information on drug prescription

AS 4700.5-2005 Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 5: Immunization messages

AS 4700.7-2005 Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.3.1 Part 7: Diagnostic imaging orders and results

Upcoming messaging publications in 2006 include:

Message Usage Model - Part 1: Overview

Message Usage Model - Part 2: Current Standards

Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.5, Part 1: Patient administration

Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 6: Referral and discharge summary

Committee: Messaging & Communication, IT-014-06

Chairman: Dr Ric Marshall

Projects Manager: Renati Barel

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Gas Installations

At the last meeting of the Gas Standards Sector Board (GSSB) in October 2005 a Task Group was formed to look at the future direction and development of AS 5601 - Gas Installations.

As a result, two new objectives were created for this Australian Standard®:

1. The Standard is to be produced as a joint Standard between Australia and New Zealand.
2. A performance-based approach is to be taken, thus establishing an outcome for the Standard. Risk assessment principles should be applied to consider a possible alternative to the current prescriptive solutions. Such an approach should be included with the introduction of fundamental principles.

It is envisaged that the development of the Standard, to be AS/NZS 5601, can be achieved by early 2007 however the development of performance based requirements will most likely be in the following revision.

Committee: Gas Installations, AG-006

Chairman: Bill Patience

Projects Manager: Dianne Dwyer

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Ratings for Small Air Compressors

Once seen as expensive equipment for professionals, the sale prices of small air compressors have now fallen to the point where suburban DIY'ers can afford to enter the market. In their attempts to attract these new consumers, different suppliers have quoted pump displacement, motor power, tank volume or airflow, with little consistency in the way these are measured. As a result, a new purchaser can find it very difficult to select the equipment that suits their needs.

Standards Australia has worked with industry and the Government to develop a draft Australian Standard®, Measurement of pump displacement and free air delivery of a reciprocating air compressor package. Based on an existing protocol from the Compressed Air Association of Australasia, the draft Standard sets out a method to determine the free air delivery (FAD) of a compressor package, and clearly display that rating on the unit.

The rating represents the airflow a compressor package can deliver under normal operating conditions, so that consumers can directly compare the packages on the market, and can find a package suitable for the tools they wish to use.

The method is designed to be simple and cost-effective to encourage suppliers to adopt the rating system.

It is hoped that the introduction of clear, reliable compressor ratings will lead to better purchasing decisions by consumers, better results in the backyard, and a healthier industry for suppliers and manufacturers.

The draft Standard is currently being considered for approval, for publication in mid-2006.

Committee: Testing of air compressors, ME-085

Chairman: Mal Beavis

Projects Manager: Philip Wood

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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 05590 - 3 March 2006 Procedures for the collection, detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid - Part 1: Introduction and definition of terms used in the detection of drugs in oral fluid

DR 06037 CP - 6 March 2006 IT - security techniques - IT network security - Part 4: Securing remote access

DR 06045 CP - 10 March 2006 Limits and methods of measurement of radio disturbance characteristics of electrical lighting and similar equipment

DR 06052 CP - 13 March 2006 Test methods for electric cables, cords and conductors - Method 5.2: Fire tests - Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions

DR 06058 CP - 13 March 2006 Vehicles, boats, and internal combustion engine driven devices - Radio disturbance characteristics - Limits and methods of measurement for the protection of receivers except those installed in the vehicle/boat/device itself or in adjacent vehicles/boats/devices

DR 05578 - 17 March 2006 Masonry units, pavers, flags and segmental retaining wall units - Part 2: Pavers and flags

DR 06011 - 17 March 2006 Classification code for demand response capabilities

DR 06039 - 27 March 2006 Timber - Hardwood - Visually stress-graded for structural purposes

DR 06042 - 29 March 2006 Cranes, hoists and winches - Safe use - Part 10: Mobile elevating work platforms

DR 06060 - 1 April 2006 Zinc and zinc/aluminium-alloy coatings on steel wire

new projects

Boiling and chilled water dispensers

Committee: EL-020

Project Number: 7266

Project Manager: Michael Hourmozi

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To develop a test method for boiling and chilled water dispensers.

Risk management - Lifts, escalators and moving walks

Committee: ME-004

Project Number: 7273

Project Manager: Michael Hourmozi

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To provide a general guide to the management of risks associated with lifts, escalators and moving walks from the establishment of a requirement through the various phases of delivery ending in the life cycle management of the installation.

Mining equipment - Shaft equipment - Shaft overwind safety catch system

Committee: ME-018

Project Number: 7321

Project Manager: Lyndon Hughes

Revision of: AS 3785.1 - 2005

Product Type: Australian Standard Amendment

Objective: To revise the scope of AS 3785.1 to include friction winders.

Feather and down - Method of Test - Part 7:

Determination of the turbidity of an aqueous extract

Committee: CS-035

Project Number: 7103

Project Manager: Suzanne Wellham

Product Type: Australian Standard

Objective: To specify a method to check one of the cleanliness aspects of feather and down through the determination of the amount of undissolved and dissolved matter present in the aqueous extract.

Geographic information schema for coverage geometry and functions

Committee: IT-004

Project Number: 7313

Project Manager: Michael Langdon

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To provide systems users and designers with definitions of conceptual schema for the spatial characteristics of coverages.

Location of digital signatures in health care messaging

Committee: IT-014

Project Number: 6996

Project Manager: Elizabeth Hanley

Product Type: SA Handbook

Objective: To provide advice for health messaging implementers on the incorporation of digital signature strings in health sector messaging.

Interoperability infrastructure governance requirements

Committee: IT-033

Project Number: 5585

Project Manager: Andrew McKay

Product Type: SA Handbook

Objective: The objective of the BizDex framework is to enable enterprises irrelevant of their business specialization and size to readily engage with trading partners through a B2B framework, which supports low cost and scaleable interoperability.

The storage and handling of LP Gas

Committee: ME-015

Project Number: 7237

Project Manager: Dawn Lindsay

Revision of: AS/NZS 1596:2002

Product Type: Joint Standard SA/SNZ

Objective: To revise AS/NZS 1596:2002 in order to update requirements and make some sections more user-friendly