International Update

International items of interest for August 2014 are as follows:

1. CEN Annual report 2013 and CEN-CENELEC Annual Report 2013 have been released More>>
2. International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) Annual Report 2013 has been released More>>
3. The presentations given on CEN Construction Sector Network Conference 2014 are now available More>>

ISO items of interest for August 2014 are as follows:

1. The ISO Council has elected five new members to the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) for the 2015-2017 term More>>
2. ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) will hold its 30th plenary and workshop on 24-26 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland More>>
3. ISO 14046 Environmental management – Water footprint – Principles, requirements and guidelines has been published More>>
4. ISO 16715 Cranes – Hand signals used with cranes has been published More>>
5. ISO 18617 Sustainable purchasing has reached Committee Draft stage More>>

IEC items of interest for August 2014 are as follows:

1. IECRE (The IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Renewable Energy Applications) Basic Rules have been approved More>>
2. AFSEC-IECEx seminar on 7-8 September 2014 for the mining sector in Africa More>>
International


The CEN Annual Report 2013 provides an overview of activities implemented by CEN during 2013.

The CEN Annual Report can be downloaded from:

The CEN-CENELEC Annual Report 2013 provides an overview of joint activities implemented by CEN and CENELEC during 2013.

The CEN-CENELEC Annual Report can be downloaded from:

2. IAF MLA Annual Report 2013

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) Annual Report 2013 has been released.

The purpose of the IAF MLA is to provide users in countries with accreditation bodies that are IAF MLA signatories assurance that equivalent certification bodies in other countries operate to the same standard as those in their own country.

This 2013 Annual Report sets out the detailed activity that was carried out as part of the peer evaluation process, to ensure that regulators and the business community can have confidence in the Arrangement.

The Annual Report also details the scope of the IAF MLA, new scope extensions, the signatories to the IAF MLA across each region, and provides a summary of what has been added to the MLA during the last twelve months.

The report can be downloaded from: http://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAF_MLA_AR_2013.pdf

Annex 1 lists the latest update of the IAF MLA Signatories, associated scope and sub scope and contact details for each Accreditation Body.

3. PowerPoint presentations on CEN Construction Sector Network Conference 2014

The presentations given on the CEN Construction Sector Network Conference held during the Building Test Expo in Brussels SQUARE on 18 June 2014 are now available.

Building Test Expo is an international free-to-attend exhibition and forum focusing on effective testing and certification of construction products in order to promote increased innovation, quality, safety and sustainability.

The presentations are available at:
1. ISO TMB members

The ISO Council has elected the following five members to the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) for the 2015-2017 term, with terms beginning on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2017:

- SIS (Sweden)
- ABNT (Brazil)
- DSM (Malaysia)
- SABS (South Africa)
- SFS (Finland)

2. CASCO 30th plenary and workshop

The ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO) will hold its 30th plenary and workshop from 24 to 26 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The plenary will start with the open day. In the morning, CASCO convenors will present the technical work of their respective working groups, while the afternoon activities will focus on a number of key topics for conformity assessment. The second day of the plenary will be dedicated to the review of working documents and reports from liaisons.

The CASCO workshop will close the plenary week and welcome standards developers, representatives from accreditation and certification communities as well as experts from various industry sectors. All together they will try to shed new light on the use of the CASCO toolbox, benefits and challenges as well as potential solutions.

3. ISO 14046 has been published

A new ISO international standard, ISO 14046, Environmental management – Water footprint – Principles, requirements and guidelines, has been published. This will allow all kinds of organizations, from industry, to government and NGOs the means to measure their ‘water footprint’, or their potential environmental impact of water use and pollution.

ISO 14046:2014 provides principles, requirements and guidelines for conducting and reporting a water footprint assessment as a stand-alone assessment, or as part of a more comprehensive environmental assessment. Developed by experts from all over the world, the standard is based on a life-cycle assessment and can assist in:

- assessing the magnitude of potential environmental impacts related to water,
- identifying ways to reduce those impacts,
- facilitating water efficiency and optimization of water management at product, process and organizational levels, and
- providing scientifically consistent and reliable information for reporting water footprint results that can be tracked over time.

In addition, it includes geographical and temporal dimensions and identifies the quantity of water used and changes in water quality.

Sustainability is a key priority for governments and businesses alike, and the ability to accurately assess a water footprint is a vital step towards this goal.
4. ISO 16715 has been published

ISO 16715 Cranes – Hand signals used with cranes has been published, which includes a set of universal hand signals for adoption wherever lifting operations take place in building or construction, making those operations safer and more efficient.

The objective of this standard is not to replace unique national signals, but to arrive at a set of uniform signs for projects involving more than one country having its own unique “cues”. By adopting the ISO hand signals, building and construction sites anywhere in the world can share a common language, transforming a “tower of Babel” into a place where raised hands no longer just signal bafflement or frustration.

ISO 16715 was developed by technical committee ISO/TC 96, Cranes, subcommittee SC 5, Use, operation and maintenance. The subcommittee comprises 31 national members, including countries and regions as diverse and active in construction as China, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Korea, Japan (which holds the committee secretariat), South Africa, Australia, Russia, Scandinavia, Europe and the USA.

5. ISO/CD 18617 Sustainable purchasing

ISO 18617 Sustainable purchasing has reached Committee Draft stage.

Sustainable purchasing refers to a process whereby organizations meet their needs for goods, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money in terms of generating benefits not only to the organization, but also to society and the economy, while minimizing damage to the environment.

The future ISO 18617 standard will bring value beyond the procurement and the purchasing community by helping to disseminate CSR practices contained in ISO 26000:2010, Guidance on social responsibility, throughout supply chains, and ultimately the entire economy. ISO/PC 277 has been set up to develop the standard and 20 other countries, including Australia, are currently participating in its work.

It aims to standardize guidelines and principles for all stakeholders working with internal and external purchasing processes – including contractors, suppliers, buyers, and local authorities – as part of an effort to demonstrate good practices for sustainable purchasing.

All organizations, independent of their size and sector, will benefit by integrating the principles and issues of social responsibility within the purchasing process. In a nutshell, it will:

- increase the value of these essential emerging management practices;
- help differentiate between the programmes that are genuine efforts to tackle environmental, human rights or corruption issues within the supply chain, and the programmes that are just scratching the surface and can be considered mere “window dressing”;
- encourage other organizations to launch similar programmes by benefitting right away from the experience of early adopters and subject matter experts.

6. Regional Marketing, Communication and IT Forum in Singapore

A regional Marketing, Communication and IT Forum will be held in Singapore on 12 and 13 November 2014.

This will be a great opportunity for Marketing, Communication and IT directors and staff of ISO members of the region to hear more, and exchange, about the marketing and communication developments in ISO and the IT solutions that support them. The challenges for members in the regions around these activities, the specific needs of their customers and stakeholders and how to meet with their expectations will be discussed. This event will also be a great opportunity to strengthen relationship with other members in the region.

A website has been created for the event which will provide further details such as objectives, agenda and venue. Register is open at http://www.cvent.com/d/54qfv9.
IEC

1. IECRE basic rules have been approved

The IECRE (IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Renewable Energy Applications) Basic Rules were approved by CAB at its June 2014 meeting.

The establishment of IECRE was formally approved by IEC CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) at its June 2013 meeting. The objective was to create an international CA (Conformity Assessment) System providing testing, inspection and certification for renewable energy sectors such as wind energy, marine energy and solar PV (photovoltaic) energy.

The CAB approval led to the setting up of the IECRE Forum, a working group bringing together stakeholders from the renewable energy sector as well as officers and leading experts from the IEC CA side. The Forum, in charge of drafting the new System’s Basic Rules, met in October and November 2013 and again in early April 2014 to discuss and finalize the draft document. IECRE Basic Rules were approved by CAB at its June 2014 meeting.

The fast pace set by CAB and the IECRE Forum was made possible by the work previously undertaken by two CAB working groups, WT CAC (Wind Turbine Certification Advisory Committee) and WG 15: Marine Energy. These two groups had done in-depth analyses of their respective sector’s CA needs and requirements, thus paving the way for rapid development of IECRE.

Practically speaking, the IECRE System will be organized in sectors and schemes. Three sectors have currently been defined:

- Solar PV Energy
- Wind Energy
- Marine Energy

Each of these sectors will be able to operate Schemes that cover:

- Products, e.g. components and systems
- Services, e.g. installations and other related offers of the sector
- Personnel, e.g. covering the competence of those working in the sector

While IECRE focuses on these three sectors for now, the door remains open for consideration of other technologies such as CSP (concentrated solar power), geothermal energy and fuel cells.

2. AFSEC-IECEx seminar on 7-8 Sept 2014 for the mining sector in Africa

AFSEC (African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) and IECEx (IEC System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres) are organizing an international seminar in Lumumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 7-8 September 2014.

The seminar will provide a unique opportunity to learn about IECEx and the benefits of using the System. It is for experts, senior staff and professionals from the mining and electrical sectors in African countries who are involved in the standardization, manufacturing, inspection, repair, exploitation, maintenance and overhaul of equipment, specifically in mines.

Day one of the seminar will be devoted to the implementation of IEC International Standards and day two to a site inspection with practical exercises, report and explanation of findings.

The seminar will focus on the three following International Standards:

- IEC 60079-10-1 Explosive atmospheres, Part 10-1: Classification of areas—Explosive gas atmospheres
- IEC 60079-10-2 Explosive atmospheres, Part 10-2: Classification of areas—Combustible dust atmospheres
- IEC 60079-17 Explosive atmospheres, Part 17: Electrical installations inspection and maintenance

The technical presentations will deal with daily problems participants are facing when using equipment in explosive atmospheres, including issues of area classification and the inspection and maintenance of electrical installations.