

International Update

International and regional items of interest for August 2016 are as follows:

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2. Launch of new Pacific Area Standards Congress website [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for August 2016 are as follows:

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IEC items of interest for August 2016 are as follows:

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International

1. WTO Public Forum 2016 on Inclusive trade approaches

Under the theme "Inclusive Trade", the annual Public Forum, will be an opportunity to discuss how a wider range of individuals and businesses can participate in the trading system and how WTO rules can help to ensure everyone benefits from trade. At a time when the business environment is changing and world growth is slowing, it is important to ensure that trade is truly inclusive, allowing small enterprises, women and innovative businesses to take an active role in the global trading system.

Trade is not just for big business. SMEs are playing a greater role in international trade. Many have grown into micro-multinationals. A 2013 study of 2,100 SMEs across 21 countries conducted by Oxford Economics and SAP reported that "the roster of SMEs generating more than 40% of revenue outside their home country will have increased by 66%" by 2016. A report published by eBay in 2013 revealed that over 95% of small businesses engaged on the eBay platform are exporters. Across the eight markets analysed, the average number of international markets reached by exporters is around 30 to 40. Some 60-80% of new businesses analysed "survive" their first year. The respective figure for traditional exporters is only around 30-50%. Innovation has been driving SMEs' expansion into the global market. This year's Forum will examine how the WTO can foster SMEs' participation into the global market. The flagship World Trade Report will be looking at this issue in depth and will be launched at the Forum.

The annual Public Forum is the WTO's flagship event. It provides a unique platform for heads of state and leading global businesspeople, academics and non-governmental organisations to come together and discuss some of the major trade and development issues of the day. Over 1,500 participants attend the Forum each year. It will be held from 27-29 September in Geneva at the WTO's headquarters.

This year's event is particularly special as we are marking the 15th anniversary of the Public Forum. For a copy of the programme visit:

https://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum16_e/pf16programme_e.pdf

2. Launch of new Pacific Area Standards Congress website

The Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) is an independent and voluntary organisation of Pacific Rim National Standards Bodies. PASC's primary role is to support the region's engagement in the international standardisation system for the advancement of economic, societal and environmental well-being.

The Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) launched its new website in August 2016. The website's improved navigation and functionality is hoped to assist in locating information on standards and their benefits and promote regional and international events. The new website and new logo can be viewed at: <https://pascnet.org/>

ISO

1. Vienna Agreement for jointly developed ISO and CEN publications

The main objective of the Vienna Agreement is to ensure that resources available for standardization are put to best use. It helps ISO and CEN exchange information and increases the transparency of CEN work to ISO members as well as helping to make sure work does not have to happen twice at the regional or international level.

The Agreement underlines the fact that international standardization takes precedence over national standardization. This is because International Standards are designed to help harmonize national standards, and therefore technical regulations, which helps reduce technical barriers to trade. Ideally, all ISO members should align their own processes with ISO so that approved International Standards can also be simultaneously adopted as national standards in their countries.

However, the Agreement also recognizes that the Single European Market may have particular needs. For example standards for which there is no international need currently recognized or standards which are required urgently in the European Union but which have a lower priority at the international level.

In these cases the Agreement therefore permits ISO committees to request that work being carried out within CEN, which answers the specific needs of the Single European Market, be made available for voting and comment by all ISO member bodies at the enquiry and formal approval stages. This allows non-European ISO members to influence the content of European Standards and where appropriate to approve those standards as International Standards.

The Vienna Agreement has recently been updated to ensure it is consistent with current practices and processes but the document has been relatively stable since 2001.

For all documents related to the Vienna Agreement and its implementation, please visit www.iso.org/va

2. New Field of Technical Activity – Exhibitions, events and conventions

China (SAC the national standards body of China) has submitted a formal proposal to ISO for a new field of technical activity on exhibitions, events and conventions. The scope of the activity is as follows:

Standardization of exhibitions (trade shows, trade fairs), events and conventions (conferences, congresses, meetings, forums, seminars), including terminology, classification, statistics, information system, safety control, service and personnel requirements, and sustainability management.

It is proposed that the new committee, if formed, will focus on four areas:

1. Basic standards, including terminology, classification and common symbols;
2. Data and information standards, including data statistics and auditing, information acquisition and exchange;
3. On-site service standards, including process, requirements of quality, and surveillance;
4. Supporting services, including logistic, catering, stand-fitting, etc.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact varant.meguerditchian@standards.org.au by 27th October 2016.

3. Supporting the reduction of insurance losses - The role of standards

The ISO Conformity Assessment Committee will host a workshop on the morning of 25th November, with the insurance industry, at the heart of the global insurance market in the City of London (UK).

The management of risk is at the heart of both, the insurance industry and ISO standards, and in particular conformity assessment. This event will explore how these two groups can better understand the issues and opportunities they face, exploring the potential for closer mutual efforts to deliver greater benefits.

The workshop is aimed at being an interactive, debate-led event. More information will be available in due course.

4. New human resource management standards

A new series of ISO standards aims to help not only improve the recruitment process, but improve businesses through better human resource processes.

ISO's new range of International Standards for human resources aims to help HR departments improve their performance and, ultimately, improve the performance of the organization in which they work.

ISO 30408, Human resource management – Guidelines on human governance, provides the guidelines to structure an effective human governance system that is able to respond more effectively to organizational and operational needs but also foster increased collaboration across all stakeholders, anticipate and manage human resource risks and develop a company culture that is aligned with its values.

ISO 30405, Human resource management – Guidelines on recruitment, provides guidance on effective recruitment processes and procedures, and can be used by anyone involved in recruiting staff, whether they be HR professionals or not.

ISO 30409, Human resource management – Workforce planning, helps organizations respond more effectively to their current and projected requirements for staff, while ISO 30400, Human resource management – Vocabulary, provides a common understanding of the fundamental terms used in human resource management standards.

The standards were developed by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 260, Human resource management. Australia is an active participant on this committee.

5. First International Standard for sustainable procurement nears publication

The purchasing decisions an organization makes have impacts far and wide, from the energy it consumes to the quality of life of the workers who manufactured the products it buys. Procurement in the public sector alone accounts for around 12% of GDP and 29% of government expenditure in OECD member countries, it is not something to be taken lightly.

Purchasing sustainably – known as sustainable procurement – should be the goal for any organization as it maximizes its positive social, environmental and economic impacts. This means making smart choices with all purchases, including everything from office supplies to energy providers, caterers and building materials.

A new standard in development, ISO 20400, Sustainable procurement – Guidance, will provide guidelines for organizations wanting to integrate sustainability into their procurement processes. It has

just reached a second Draft International Standard (DIS) stage, meaning interested parties can once more submit feedback on the draft before final publication in 2017.

Sustainable procurement is a key aspect of social responsibility, thus ISO 20400 will complement ISO 26000, Guidance on social responsibility, by enabling organizations to contribute to sustainable development efforts by minimizing their impact on the environment, tackling human rights issues and contributing to society and the economy.

Australia is currently participating on the committee developing ISO 20400, ISO/PC 277 and hosted a meeting in Sydney in May 2016.

6. New framework helps communities adapt to ageing populations

The fact that we are living longer is a real and growing issue for many governments and community providers, placing increased demands on areas such as healthcare and safety. A new International Workshop Agreement aims to provide the foundation on which more solutions can be built.

According to a United Nations report on world population, the number of people aged 60 or over is expected to more than double by 2050, and more than triple by 2100. This brings pressure on governments and community service providers to prepare and adapt to ensure their health and well-being, and active participation in society.

Experts from government, public health, product manufacturers and health research were brought together in a workshop to discuss and develop a framework of the fundamental principles that should be addressed when providing community-based, integrated health and care services for aged societies.

This discussion resulted in a new ISO International Workshop Agreement – IWA 18:2016, Framework for integrated community-based life-long health and care services in aged societies – developed to help address the challenges posed by an ageing population, such as healthcare, well-being and combatting isolation.

IWA 18 gives guidance on the key principles identified as essential for future investment, and covers areas such as the medical needs of the elderly, personal care, daily living tasks, maintaining relationships and community involvement, and keeping safe.

As noted in the July international newsletter, as a result of this IWA, the ISO's Technical Management Board (TMB) in mid-June 2016 approved the establishment of a Strategic Advisory Group on Ageing societies based on a proposal from BSI (British Standards Institution) with the mandate to:

- To carry out a gap analysis of existing national, regional and international standards/guidance to identify where knowledge already exists in the areas highlighted from the analysis of the previously mentioned scenarios; and
- To identify priority areas for ISO standardization.

A final report to be provided to the June 2017 ISO TMB meeting.

For more information, please contact damian.fisher@standards.org.au

IEC

1. IEC General Meeting 2016 - Connecting Communities. Reinvent Standardization

The 80th IEC General Meeting to be held from 10 to 14 October 2016 in Frankfurt and is the annual event highlighting international standardization activities in the electrotechnical sector. This major international event brings together the working parties and decision makers of all the main players on the IEC, and gives them an opportunity to decide on current issues and the future directions and strategies of the IEC.

The German National Committee of the IEC is organizing the General Meeting for the seventh time. This is due, in no small part, to the large role Germany plays in the electrotechnical sector. Like its predecessors, the 80th IEC General Meeting 2016 will host numerous technical meetings designed to drive forward current standardization projects.

A key focus of the IEC General Meeting 2016 in Frankfurt will be the future of standardization, *Connecting Communities – Reinvent Standardization*. To support this focus the “Reinvention Laboratory” has been created to host related sessions from Monday to Thursday. Experts from inside and outside the IEC community will meet to discuss new opportunities and how to implement them in the future.

Ideas from the Reinvention Laboratory sessions will be presented and discussed at the IEC Open Council Session at the conclusion of the IEC GM.

For more information please visit www.iec2016.org

2. Cutting energy needs for operating and cooling data centres emerges as a priority for the future

Continuing global growth in the on-line sector and cloud services means a comparable and significant increase in the power use associated with those services. Major internet-based businesses such as Google, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft are pushing for more dedicated renewable energy to meet their specific needs, but systems efficiency can also make a major contribution to curbing energy use. Emerging standards have a key role to play.

Driven by the inexorable rise of web-based services in the digital age, data centres – effectively giant racks of servers and digital storage capacity – begin to place an increasingly significant load on national power systems. Clearly this demand will continue to show dramatic growth in the coming years. Industries such as the medical and healthcare sector are increasingly outsourcing data services, commercial transactions through web-based retailers and the financial services sector are soaring and consumer services such as streaming video are all contributing to spectacular growth in the number of data centres and their use.

US-based environmental NGO, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), found data centres alone consumed upwards of 91 TWh in the US in 2013. This figure is expected to increase by more than 50% by 2020 to roughly 140 TWh, the equivalent annual output of 50 power plants. Putting this into perspective, the US generated around 4100 TWh in 2013.

Standards have a key role to play in cooling system performance. For example, IEC 60335-2-40:2016 deals with the safety of electric heat pumps, including air-conditioners, and of dehumidifiers incorporating motor-compressors. It also applies to electric heat pumps, air conditioners and dehumidifiers containing flammable refrigerant. Similarly, IEC subcommittee (SC) 61D considers appliances for air-conditioning for household and similar purposes. It has the scope to prepare international safety standards dealing with electrical equipment used in commercial or light industrial applications, primarily for the purpose of conditioning air.

Ory Zik, from Lux Research has emphasized that the key role that emerging standards will play in benchmarking environmental performance: “We need to look at this more holistically and just apply data and calculate it [environmental impact] properly. I definitely see standards playing a key role”.

One measure that may support this goal is ISO/IEC 19395:2015, an International Standard for smart data centre resource monitoring and control, which was prepared by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 39: *Sustainability for and by Information Technology*.

Australia currently participate in the work of IEC/SC 61D and observe the work of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 39.

3. Facilitating rural electrification in developing countries

World energy consumption is expected to grow by 37% by 2040, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) energy markets forecast, which assumes the continuation of existing policies and measures and their implementation. According to the IEA, 1.2 billion people do not have access to electricity and more than 95% live in sub-Saharan Africa and developing Asia.

The Clean Energy Solutions Center, in partnership with the IEC and the United Nations Foundation’s Energy Access Practitioner Network, hosted a webinar, attended by more than 100 people, on the role of International Standards to facilitate rural electrification programmes in developing and newly industrialized countries.

The need for a systems approach to be taken in evaluating the status of standardization in low voltage direct current (LVDC) applications, as well as non-conventional distribution networks such as minigrids/microgrids was discussed.

A Strategic Evaluation Group (SEG 6) has been tasked with analysing the status of standardization, identifying where it is needed and evaluating the gaps and stakeholders in order to propose a strategy for the IEC. It addresses all microgrid types, including in large cities for disaster recovery, to prevent blackouts during peak consumption periods and for electricity access in rural areas.

IEC continues its important work with other international organizations towards achieving universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions across all emerging markets. It is involved in a number of partnerships, for example the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (UN SE4ALL) initiative and IEC International Standards support 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.