

International and regional items of interest for December 2019 are as follows:

1. WTO highlights prominent role of trade in helping deal with natural disasters
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2. WTO members agree to extend e-commerce, non-violation moratoriums
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3. Report shows trade restrictions by WTO members at historically high levels
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ISO items of interest for December 2019 are as follows:

1. ISO AT COP 25: International Standards are key to carbon transitions
[More>>](#)
2. Building resilient cities with new international standard
[More>>](#)
3. Drone market set to take off with new ISO standard
[More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for December 2019 are as follows:

1. Smart cities Chair outlines IEC ambitions
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2. New standard to measure energy efficiency of servers
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3. Proposal for IEC Project committee on Operation of electrical installations
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* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [WTO highlights prominent role of trade in helping deal with natural disasters](#)

The fourth Symposium on Natural Disasters and Trade held at the WTO on 29 November 2019 highlighted ways of helping economies respond to and recover from natural disasters and build resilience against future events. Well-functioning and open markets were cited as crucial. The role of WTO agreements and decisions in helping members take the necessary measures featured prominently in the discussions.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO members agree to extend e-commerce, non-violation moratoriums](#)

WTO members agreed to extend two existing moratoriums related to customs duties on electronic transmissions and the initiation of “non-violation” complaints under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). They also approved the WTO’s budget for 2020.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Report shows trade restrictions by WTO members at historically high levels](#)

The WTO Director-General’s annual overview of trade-related developments showed that trade restrictions by WTO members continue at historically high levels. Between mid-October 2018 and mid-October 2019, the trade coverage of import-restrictive measures implemented by members was estimated at USD 747 billion. This is the highest trade coverage recorded since October 2012 and represents an increase of 27% compared to the figure recorded in the previous annual overview (USD 588 billion). The report notes that new trade restrictions and increasing trade tensions added to the uncertainty surrounding international trade and the world economy.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [ISO AT COP 25: International Standards are key to carbon transitions](#)

International Standards help countries meet climate change commitments and move towards carbon neutrality, according to leading sustainability experts who spoke at an ISO-organised side event “Carbon Neutral Transitions and Standards as a ‘Measure, Reduce, Compensate’ Toolkit” held on 4 December 2019 within the framework of COP 25 in Madrid, Spain.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Building resilient cities with new international standard](#)

A smart city is a resilient city, able to handle all the challenges of a changing world while keeping essential functions running. But how can a city know its level of resilience? A new International Standard has just been published by ISO to help.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Drone market set to take off with new ISO standard](#)

Estimated to grow from USD 4 billion to USD 40 billion in the next five years, the global commercial drone market has skyrocketed in recent years and shows no signs of abating. Yet, where the pace of technology outruns regulations, International Standards are essential to ensure a minimum level of safety and quality. A new ISO standard has just been published to keep everyone in the industry on the same plane.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [IEC Smart cities Chair outlines IEC ambitions](#)

Smart cities can benefit from the widespread use of data and technology. However, in order to leverage the benefit of new technologies, standards are needed. Not only do they allow for the provision of competitively priced and effective products and services, but they also provide clear descriptions of best practice and enable common approaches to tackling common challenges.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [New standard to measure energy efficiency of servers](#)

Large server networks are big consumers of electricity. Ways of making data centres more energy efficient and less power hungry are an important step in the fight to lower our global carbon emissions. IEC has developed a new metric which enables data centre managers to measure and compare the energy efficiency and the sustainability of data servers.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Proposal for IEC Project committee on Operation of electrical installations](#)

A proposal to establish a new IEC project committee on "Operation of electrical installations" has been submitted by DKE (German NC). The scope of the proposal is as follows:

Standardization in the field of broad (general) principles of operation of electrical installations. These operating instructions are intended to ensure that all operation of and work activity on, with, or near electrical installations can be carried out safely. These are electrical installations operating at voltage levels from and including extra-low voltage up to and including high voltage. These electrical installations are designed for the generation, transmission, conversion, distribution and use of electrical power. Some of these electrical installations are permanent and fixed, such as a distribution installation in a factory or office complex, others are temporary, such as on construction sites and others are mobile or capable of being moved either whilst energized or whilst not energized nor charged.

Standards Australia is keen to hear from stakeholders as to whether this committee should be formed with this scope of work. And if it is approved whether Australia should be involved.

If you are interested in providing comments, please do so by 20 January to SEM@standards.org.au