International Update

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

1. WTO issues 2019 editions of flagship statistical publications More>>

2. Provisional programme for 2019 WTO Public Forum now available More>>

3. Members address trade concerns, promote transparency in SPS Committee More>>

ISO items of interest for August 2019 are as follows:

1. New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Natural and engineered stones (TS/P 281) More>>

2. New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Machinery intenteded for use with foodstuffs (TS/P 282) More>>

3. International Standard for safety signs updated More>>

4. Top 5: Standards for accessible travel More>>

5. Tackling privacy information management head on: first International Standard just published More>>

IEC items of interest for August 2019 are as follows:

1. Making standards machine readable More>>

2. New Chair for a new IEC Technical Committee More>>

3. Ethical visionary to head forward-looking TC More>>

4. How to better manage obsolescence in the supply chain More>>

* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. WTO issues 2019 editions of flagship statistical publications

World Trade Statistical Review 2019 looks into the latest trends in global trade, with an in-depth analysis of trade in goods and services and the performance of the leading players. It also looks at the participation of developing economies and least-developed countries in world trade, the latest developments in regional trade agreements, trade in value-added terms and digital trade.

In an introduction to the publication, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo says: "At a time of great uncertainty for global trade, the role of trade statistics takes on a renewed significance. Governments need the latest data to take informed decisions and to determine the best direction of trade policy for the benefit of the people they represent. The WTO's data-gathering role plays a big part in meeting this need."

Learn more here.

2. Provisional programme for 2019 WTO Public Forum now available

This year's Public Forum, entitled "Trading Forward: Adapting to a Changing World", will feature 137 sessions focusing on how to adapt to a rapidly changing trading environment. The Forum, which will be held on 8-11 October, will also offer participants an opportunity to consider the increasing role for services in trade, the aspirations of youth for the future trading system and how the WTO should change to meet current and future challenges.

The 137 sessions in this year's Forum will be organized by WTO members, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academia, law firms and international organizations.

The Forum will include an opening debate on "Trading Forward: Adapting to a Changing World" and a high-level youth panel on "What Millennials & Gen Z want to see from global trade". It will also feature the launch of the WTO's World Trade Report 2019, which focuses on services, a photo exhibition on young people's expectations for world trade and "Meet the Author" sessions, where selected authors will present their latest books.

Registration: Please note that to attend the Forum, all participants, including session organizers, must complete an online application form no later than 16 September 2019.

Access the provisional program here.

3. Members address trade concerns, promote transparency in SPS Committee

In a meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures on 18-19 July 2019, WTO members discussed eight new specific trade concerns regarding food safety, animal and plant health and 16 previously raised concerns. Members elected Daniel Arboleda of Colombia as the new chair of the committee. At an earlier workshop, members also discussed ways to improve the transparency of import measures.

Members highlighted a range of measures regarding food safety and animal and plant health, with many exporting countries saying that import requirements are too stringent. This is especially detrimental to the export opportunities of farmers in developing countries, they said. Eight new specific trade concerns (STCs) and 16 previously raised concerns were addressed at the committee meeting and a large number of WTO members and observers contributed to the discussions.

To learn more about the new specific trade concerns, read the full story [here](#).

ISO

1. [New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Natural and engineered stones (TS/P 281)](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on "Natural and engineered stones" has been submitted by UNI (Italy).

The scope of the proposal is the following:

Definitions, requirements and test methods for natural stones relating to rough blocks, slabs, semi-finished and finished products intended for use in building and for monuments and for engineered stones with resin or cement binders or a combination of the two, intended for use in counter tops and vanities, floor and wall coverings, ancillary uses, for interior and exterior.

For more information or to comment on this proposal, please email us at sem@standards.org.au.

2. [New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Machinery intended for use with foodstuffs (TS/P 282)](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on "Machinery intended for use with foodstuffs" has been submitted by DIN (Germany).

The scope of the proposal is the following:

Standardization of individual machine types and their accessories used in the foodstuffs supply chain, as well as processing systems and complete production lines consisting of these machines. All these machines process various raw materials and ingredients into intermediate food products and/or ready-to-eat food. The standards to be created in this TC deal with specific and typical aspects of machines used in the food industry. These aspects include – but are not limited to – health and safety at work for operators (safety of food machinery) and consumer health and safety (food safety). Standards of this TC also focus on hygienic design principles. Excluded are the fields covered by ISO/TC 23 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry), ISO/TC 283 (Occupational health and safety management) and ISO/TC 293 (Feed machinery).

For more information or to comment on this proposal, please email us at sem@standards.org.au.

3. International Standard for safety signs updated

Safety signs are essential for preventing accidents and injury. Symbols that are internationally agreed and globally used in safety signs ensure clarity and consistency, regardless of language, culture or setting. The ISO 7010 standard that is a reference for safety signs has just been updated to incorporate new safety signs that are in use around the world.

Examples of safety signs documented in the standard include everything from warnings around deep water, electricity or barbed wire to instructions such as 'do not walk or stand here', or to not use lifts in the event of a fire.

ISO 7010 was developed by ISO subcommittee ISO/TC 145/SC 2, Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours, the secretariat of which is held by DIN, ISO's member for Germany. Australia is not currently a member of ISO/TC 145/SC 2.

Learn more here.

4. Top 5: Standards for accessible travel

Holiday time is upon many of us! And while all of us hope for stress-free travels, it's especially important to remove unnecessary barriers for the 1 billion people in the world who live with some kind of disability. Which is why ISO believes in accessibility for everyone, everywhere, including tourist facilities. Below are a few ISO standards that can help.

1. First stop: the tourist office – ISO 14785
2. Accessibility at every step of the journey – ISO 21902
3. Beaches for all – ISO 13009
4. Tourism for all the senses – ISO 17049
5. Accessibility in all standards – ISO/IEC Guide 71

Read the full article here.

5. Tackling privacy information management head on: first International Standard just published

We are more connected than ever, bringing with it the joys, and risks, of our digital world. Cybersecurity is a growing concern, with attacks against business almost doubling over the last few years and is an increasingly significant threat to global stability.

Unsurprisingly, laws and regulations are rapidly being put in place to reduce these risks and protect our digital privacy. How can organizations keep on top of these requirements and protect themselves at the same time? The world's first International Standard to help organizations manage privacy information and meet regulatory requirements has just been published.

Protecting our digital privacy is a significant business concern. According to IBM2) the average cost of a data breach is USD 3.6 million, and legal obligations are increasingly stringent. As we get more connected, governments all over the world are introducing various privacy regulations, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which organizations must adhere to.

The new ISO standards will help businesses meet such requirements, whatever jurisdiction they work in.

ISO/IEC 27701, Security techniques — Extension to ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002 for privacy information management — Requirements and guidelines, specifies the requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving a privacy-specific information security management system. In other words, a management system for protecting personal data (PIMS).

The standard was developed by Working Group 5 of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

Read the full article here.

IEC

1. Making standards machine readable

More than 100 IEC Standards can now be processed by computers. An indispensable step as the interactions between human beings and machines intensify.

Talking to machines

In our increasingly digitalized world, new aspects of language are however required to communicate with a totally different type of interlocutor which is not a human being. Machines, or computers, depending on how you want to call them, have their own language which is getting increasingly complex as artificial intelligence technology moves forward.

Increased automatization

Human machine interfaces (HMIs) are one of the means by which humans communicate with computers in a growingly automatized environment. An HMI is "a display screen, either as part of an intelligent electronic device (IED) or as a stand-alone device, presenting relevant data in a logical format, with which the user interacts. An HMI typically presents windows, icons, menus and pointers, and may also include a keypad to enable user access and interaction."

IEC is working on standards for communication with HMIs at the electric grid level, among other things. Power grids are modernizing which allows them to operate in a more efficient and effective manner; HMIs are typically "the face" of this process. The HMI application plays a key role in the visualization and control of substation automation systems or the monitoring of the real time status of a solar or wind farm, for example.

IEC Technical Committee 57 issues the IEC 61850 series of publications, which includes some of the core international standards used for integrating digital communication processes into the existing grid. A new standard in the works is IEC 61850-6-2 which aims to specify a description language for extensions for human interfaces.

Read the full article here.

2. New Chair for a new IEC Technical Committee

Xiaodong Wu has been nominated Chair of IEC Technical Committee 125 until the end of July 2025.

IEC decided to set up the new TC in May 2019, to prepare standards in the areas of safety and reliability of personal e-transporters. The TC will also be expected to standardize docking stations, recharging and recycling of personal e-transporters.

Personal e-transporters such as e-bikes or e-scooters have become ubiquitous in many cities around the world. IEC is taking the lead in standardizing the safety requirements for these transport devices. E-scooters, in particular, have provoked multiple accidents, mainly due to misuse or lack of regulation. Making sure that all the parts constituting an e-bike or an e-scooter work together safely and perform efficiently is essential to ensure the public's safety. Their ease of use will also be increased if docking stations are standardized as well as recharging processes. Last but not least, standardizing recycling procedures will benefit the environment.

Xiaodong Wu is the vice-president of the Shanghai Electrical Apparatus Research Institute and has more than 25 years of experience in research and engineering in the field of information engineering and automation. He has been involved in the IEC since 2011 as a member of different working groups on smart grid user interfaces. Since November 2018 he has been a member of the IEC Systems Committee (SyC) on smart manufacturing.

He has published many scientific papers, the latest being "Management efficiency analysis of the power grid with the load characteristics of electric vehicle exchange power".

He has received a wide number of awards, the latest being The golden prize of Shanghai excellent invention, awarded in 2018.

Read the full article here.

3. Ethical visionary to head forward-looking TC

Most of the world's audio-video devices rely on the standardization work of IEC Technical Committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment. Ulrike Haltrich has been nominated Chair of TC 100 until the end of October 2025.

One of the most prolific IEC TCs, IEC TC 100 publishes more than 500 standards which shape the audio, video and multimedia landscape. The TC is organized in 20 different technical areas (TAs), dealing with topics such a colour measurement and management (TA 2) or multimedia systems and equipment for cars (TA 17).

Before leading the IEC System Committee AAL (active assisted living), Ulrike Haltrich was Secretary of TA 16, which prepares IEC International Standards for active assisted living (AAL) technologies. These can be defined as systems and devices which support the well-being, health, care and independent living of disabled or elederly people. Among other things, she oversaw the work of TA 16 on accessibility and user interfaces.

Read the full article here.

4. How to better manage obsolescence in the supply chain

IEC Technical Committee 56: Dependability, recently published a second edition of IEC 62402. The standard establishes requirements for obsolescence management applicable to any company or organization.

Throughout industry, obsolescence refers to the difficulty of obtaining supplies, spares or support by different companies in the supply chain. It is very different from the consumer understanding of obsolescence which most often involves the notion of "inbuilt" or "planned obsolescence".

It implies that a product was intentionally designed not to last for a long time. This form of obsolescence has been much criticized for encouraging over consumption, at a time when environmental concerns about waste management are reaching new highs.

"The previous edition of IEC 62402 was more of a guide referring only to the obsolescence of electrical and electronic products and systems. It did not clearly specify requirements for obsolescence management.

This second edition has a much broader scope than the previous standard and can be used in any industry," explains TC 56 expert Graham Goring, who heads the maintenance team responsible for updating the standard.

Australia is a Participating Member on IEC TC 56 with National Mirror Committee QR-005 *Dependability.*

Read the full article here.