

[New Proposals for International Standardisation for September 2018](#)

1. A New Field of Technical Activity – Sharing Economy [More>>](#)

[International and regional items of interest for September 2018 are as follows:](#)

1. Accelerating ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade [More>>](#)
2. Azevêdo urges Commonwealth to play full part in strengthening the multilateral system [More>>](#)
3. Samoa hosts Short Trade Policy Course for Pacific Island countries [More>>](#)
4. WTO announces winner of 2018 Essay Award for Young Economists [More>>](#)

[ISO items of interest for September ISO 2018 are as follows:](#)

1. Establishment of Technical Committee ISO/PC 320 [More>>](#)
2. Establishment of Technical Committee ISO/TC 321 [More>>](#)
3. Reducing carbon footprint made easier with new International Standard [More>>](#)
4. ISO 50001 for energy management gets a boost [More>>](#)
5. Raising the bar on sustainable consumption [More>>](#)
6. New International Standard for determining infant formula ingredients just published [More>>](#)
7. New International Standard for traditional Chinese medicine just published [More>>](#)
8. FDA plans to use ISO 13485 for medical devices regulation [More>>](#)
9. Invitation to an international workshop on Screening of GMOs in cotton and textiles [More>>](#)

[IEC items of interest for September 2018 are as follows:](#)

1. IP ratings for waterproof phones [More>>](#)
2. Key role of certification showcased at international marine energy event [More>>](#)
3. The IEC and cyber security [More>>](#)
4. Car or computer on wheels? [More>>](#)

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

New Proposals

1. A New Field of Technical Activity – Circular Economy

ISO has received a New Field of Technical Activity Proposal from the Japanese National Standards Body (JISC) to **Form a new Technical Committee in the field of Sharing Economy**.

The scope of the new committee is proposed to be:

Standardization in the field of sharing economy.

Excluded: Technical aspects of information security or risk management guidelines already covered by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC27 and ISO/TC 262, respectively.

The proposed work programme for the field of activity consists of five components in the following order of priority:

1. Standard for terminology
2. Standard for operation and management of sharing economy platform
3. Guidance for implementation

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders for this proposal. For more information on the proposal, or to make a submission, please contact Brett Lovett, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager at brett.lovett@standards.org.au by Friday 2 November 2018.

International

1. [Accelerating ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade](#)

An [Issues Paper](#) released today by Standards Australia will help facilitate digital trade across Australia and ASEAN Member States.

Based on extensive consultation throughout the region, the Issues Paper outlines the key opportunities and challenges for digital economic growth. It fits within the broader ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative announced during the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit held in March 2018.

This initiative aims to understand and identify opportunities for digital trade between ASEAN Member States and Australia. It has been highlighted that the harmonisation of international standards will be a key cornerstone for the initiative.

“Digital trade presents a new wave of market opportunities. It has the potential to enhance all aspects of the global economy, from agriculture to manufacturing, telecommunications, and service-based industries,” said Adrian O’Connell, Standards Australia Deputy CEO and General Manager - International.

“All eleven of the economies involved have something to gain from this collaboration. Ultimately, we are working to support growth in the region and prepare for future challenges.”

The Issues Paper was developed following an ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Survey and Focus Group Sessions in Australia and across all ten ASEAN Member States.

Next steps include a [Digital Trade Standards Workshop](#) which will be held on 16-17 October 2018 in Sydney to agree on recommendations to progress this initiative. A possible long term work program has the potential to forge even closer economic ties between ASEAN and Australia in the future.

Source: <https://www.standards.org.au/news/accelerating-asean-australia-digital-trade>

2. [Azevêdo urges Commonwealth to play full part in strengthening the multilateral system](#)

Speaking at a meeting of WTO Commonwealth members held at the WTO on 11 September, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said the support provided by Commonwealth members for the multilateral trading system is hugely important. “Bringing together countries of all sizes, from all continents, this group has a powerful voice,” he said, “and I am sure that you will continue to be a strong and positive voice” in maintaining and strengthening the rules and structures in place today. This is what he said:

Good morning. And thank you for inviting me to join you today.

We all know how significant trade is to Commonwealth members.

It acts as a source of growth and development, with Commonwealth countries exporting over 3 trillion dollars' worth of goods and services each year.

And it is a major source of employment.

To take a few examples:

- *Australia and India trade accounts for 16% of jobs.*
- *South Africa, Canada and the UK it's around 20%.*
- *New Zealand it's 28%.*
- *And of course in the small, open, trade-dependent economies of the Commonwealth the figure is often even higher.*

Given all of that, it's no surprise that Commonwealth members are very vocal in the trade debate.

I saw this myself at the Commonwealth Business Forum in London in April this year, which was held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

And I heard a strong message of support for the multilateral system.

In fact the leaders' communique reaffirmed the commitment of Commonwealth members to "free trade in a transparent, inclusive, fair, and open rules-based multilateral trading system" – and one which "takes into account the special requirements of LDCs and SVEs."

This support is hugely important – particularly in the current circumstances.

The challenges facing the trading system are of grave concern. This situation calls for our attention, and more importantly, our action.

Trade tensions are on the rise.

WTO data shows a big increase in new trade restrictive measures applied over the last six months. The value of trade covered by these measures is almost double that of the previous period. This is extremely serious. Whether or not you call it a trade war, certainly the first shots have been fired.

Continued escalation risks a major economic impact. The predominant effect here would be disruption. It threatens jobs and growth in all countries. In fact, we may already be seeing some early effects. Delayed investment decisions are a good example.

However, I want to stress that, faced with these headwinds, the WTO continues to do its job.

WTO rules, as well as our processes of monitoring and review, are helping to avoid the situation becoming even worse. Members are using the WTO as a forum for issues to be aired and discussed. And members are bringing their concerns over new trade-restrictive measures to the DSB.

Around 30 disputes have been launched this year. This is already the highest annual total for 16 years – and it's only September.

This is positive as it shows faith in the system. But at the same time, it is putting more strain on a dispute settlement system which is already under threat.

Let me address this point now.

The blockage in appointments to the Appellate Body is one of the key challenges before us today.

Despite much effort over recent months, we are no closer to a solution. This poses a grave systemic risk which could affect all areas of our work. And we need real commitment from all sides to solve this impasse.

I want to underline the systemic importance of the DSB. It is a fundamental pillar not just of the WTO, but of global economic governance. And it is highly effective.

Many disputes are resolved before they reach the litigation stage, but when they do proceed to that stage compliance with rulings is very high, at around 90%. So about 10% of disputes are pending implementation, and the parties are working on it, but the vast majority have already found a satisfactory solution.

So we must maintain this vital pillar and keep working to resolve the AB issue.

Ultimately I think that this issue, and all of the trade tensions that we see today, will not be solved through technical mechanisms and procedures. The crisis in global trade is political. It requires a political solution. And we need to have a political conversation about the WTO.

This brings me to the conversation about WTO reform.

The very fact that many members are seeking such a conversation is very positive. It shows that leaders are increasingly engaged in WTO issues. Instead of tearing the system up, they seem to want to strengthen and improve it. And already ideas are being brought forward.

For example:

- *In July, President Trump and President Juncker committed to work to reform the WTO.*
- *There is the EU-China joint working group on WTO reform.*
- *There is also the trilateral initiative from the US, EU and Japan – covering transparency, and a range of other issues.*
- *Canada has called a ministerial meeting on these issues in October.*
APresident Macron has raised WTO reform as an issue for the G20 – and recently announced that he may convene a meeting on this in November.
- *And others have raised it as well. It has been a common refrain in my exchanges with leaders over recent months.*

No doubt there are a wide range of views on both the need for reform, and what such a reform could look like.

But, the important thing is that the system remains strong – and, if possible, becomes even stronger.

This is actually what we have been working on, together, in recent times. And we have made real progress.

The fact that WTO members have struck a series of agreements in a variety of formats over recent years shows a degree of flexibility and a desire to improve the system.

I hope that we will be able to build on this – not least as it could prove the key to resolving some of the underlying issues that are fuelling the trade tensions that we are seeing today.

So what is the role of the Commonwealth here?

I would point to three specific actions.

First, don't be knocked off course – keep working here in Geneva.

We have a range of issues on the table which are very dear to many members, and that need to see progress. This includes issues such as agriculture, food security, development and fisheries subsidies. We need to keep working hard on all of these fronts, discussing ideas, and putting forward proposals.

No doubt many members will also continue working on other areas. And much of that work is evolving fast.

So that's the first element I'd mention – stay on course.

The **second** is to redouble your efforts to resolve the impasse regarding the Appellate Body. As I have already explained – this is the most pressing challenge before us today. It demands the urgent attention of anyone who cares about the future of the trading system.

The **third** action I want to mention is to get involved in the broader debate.

This is a crucial moment in the way that the international community thinks about trade and the trading system. The outcome of this debate could shape the system for a generation.

In my view we need to hear a stronger narrative that is pro-trade and pro-cooperation, in order to counter the more negative messages which we often hear.

Of course we need trade to work better. We need it to be more inclusive. But we can only achieve this by working together – and by maintaining and strengthening the rules and structures that are in place today. So let's be clear and let's be loud about the value that the system provides.

The trading system has halved tariffs since 1995, it cuts red tape and it increases certainty and stability. These are the elements that businesses need to thrive and create jobs. Without the trading system, tariffs, bureaucracy and uncertainty would be through the roof.

Imagine for a moment going back to the world before the multilateral trading system.

Returning to those tariff levels would see trade flows fall by 60%. That would mean a bigger hit to GDP than we saw after the 2008 crisis – the biggest crisis we've seen for 80 years.

Every objective assessment of the system that I have seen shows that its importance is beyond doubt.

So I am calling on everyone who believes in trade as a force for good to speak up.

And I hope that the Commonwealth will play its full part.

Bringing together countries of all sizes, from all continents, this group has a powerful voice. And I am sure that you will continue to be a strong and positive voice in this debate.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spra_e/spra233_e.htm

3. [Samoa hosts Short Trade Policy Course for Pacific Island countries](#)

Government and private sector representatives from the six Pacific Island countries that are members of the WTO are attending the first full Short Trade Policy Course for Pacific Island countries, which is taking place in Apia from 10 to 21 September 2018.

The WTO course aims to provide participants with a good understanding of the objectives, functioning, structure and basic principles of the WTO and to enhance awareness of the regional economic perspectives of trade policy and development. It also provides a platform for Pacific countries to interact and discuss trade issues of interest to the region.

Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, Samoa's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, officially opened the workshop. Minister Lautafi encouraged all participants to seize the opportunity to learn more about the WTO's multilateral trading rules and to improve their awareness of trade policy. "It is important that we fully understand WTO disciplines and principles so that we can effectively engage in policy discussions and formulation that will benefit and contribute to the development of our small economies," he said.

Minister Lautafi underscored the need to understand developments in international trade and the role of the WTO as the global trade rules body and how these rules have an impact on regional efforts under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Blue Pacific narrative and the Roadmap on Sustainable Fisheries.

Dr Luanga Mukela Faustin, Counsellor and Head of the Asia and Pacific Desk of the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, reaffirmed the WTO's recognition of the specific needs of Pacific countries, which is why this course has been specially designed. Mrs Mere Falemaka, Permanent Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum to the WTO in Geneva, stressed the importance of this capacity-building activity for the region, particularly as issues of Pacific interest such as fisheries subsidies are being negotiated at the WTO currently. The course will help participants in assisting their governments on WTO issues and in advancing to higher-level WTO courses.

The training course is being held at the Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Centre.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news18_e/tra_10sep18_e.htm

4. [WTO announces winner of 2018 Essay Award for Young Economists](#)

The winner of the 2018 WTO Essay Award for Young Economists is Alonso de Gortari of Harvard University. His paper, "Disentangling Global Value Chains", was ranked first by the Selection Panel.

The Selection Panel also gave an honourable mention as runner-up to Yuan Mei of the University of Chicago for his work entitled "Regulatory Protection and the Role of International Cooperation".

The prize winners were announced at the annual meeting of the European Trade Study Group, the largest conference specializing in international trade, which took place on 13 September 2018 in Warsaw, Poland.

Winning essay

Alonso de Gortari's paper highlights a new feature of global value chains (GVCs), namely that they employ specialized inputs tailored to the destination of the final product. For example, regarding Mexico's car exports, "the U.S. accounts for a colossal 74% of the foreign inputs embedded in Mexican vehicles sold to U.S. consumers but for only 18% of the inputs of those sold to German consumers." Similarly, the share of German inputs is much higher in cars exported to Germany than in those exported to the United States.

The paper shows that members of GVCs are substantially more integrated with one another than traditional measures have shown, with the implication that the traditional study of GVCs substantially under-estimates the cost of GVCs being disrupted.

Since GVCs are a very significant feature of international trade, the Selection Panel took the view that the calculation of their welfare effects, including losses inflicted by the disruption of GVCs, is extremely important. While much work remains to be done, both in terms of the collection of appropriate data and the calculation of the effects, this paper is a very useful start and may launch an “industry” of research.

Alonso de Gortari is a Mexican national. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 2018. He is currently a IES post-doctoral fellow in Princeton University. He will be joining Dartmouth College as Assistant Professor in 2019.

Honourable mention

Yuan Mei's paper studies the effects of product standards regulation on trade and welfare. The key finding is that standards can affect fixed as well as marginal costs of production. Therefore, these standards affect the number of firms and variety of products. This means standards regulation creates opportunities for inefficient policy making on a unilateral basis.

The paper considers various approaches to handling the regulatory inefficiencies that arise when there is a lack of coherence in policy making, and identifies conditions where the national treatment rule (the principle of giving others the same treatment as one's own nationals) can achieve efficiency in regulations and where it cannot. The paper shows that while the gains from national treatment are relatively small, the potential gains from international cooperation in standards regulation can be very large.

In the view of the Selection Panel, the paper provides a useful reminder that while, for most non-tariff barriers (NTBs), it is possible to quantify the tariff rate that reduces trade by the same amount (the so called "tariff equivalent"), this is not an accurate measurement because how the NTB impacts the economy is of a different nature. The example of standards highlighted in the paper emphasizes this point.

Yuan Mei is a Chinese national. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 2018. He is currently assistant Professor of Economics at Singapore Management University.

Selection Panel

The Selection Panel for 2018 comprised Avinash Dixit (Emeritus Professor of Economics, Princeton University), Robert Koopman (Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO), Robert Staiger (Professor of Economics, Dartmouth University) and Alberto Trejos (Professor of Economics, INCAE Business School). Roberta Piermartini (ERSD, WTO) coordinated the work of the Selection Panel.

ISO

1. [Establishment of Technical Committee ISO/PC 320](#)

The ISO Technical Management Board (ISO TMB) adopted Resolution 80/2018, establishing the following Project Committee: ISO/PC 320 – Tableware, Giftware, Jewellery, Luminaries — Glass Clarity — Classification and Test Method.

The new Project Committee will have the following provisional title and scope:

Title: Tableware, giftware, jewellery, luminaries — Glass clarity — Classification and test method

Scope: Standardization in the field of tableware, giftware, jewellery, luminaries — Glass clarity — Classification and test method

Australia has nominated to be an Observer Member ISO/PC 320. If you are interested in engaging in this project committee or finding out more about this line of work, please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team at sem@standards.org.au.

2. [Establishment of Technical Committee ISO/TC 321](#)

The ISO Technical Management Board (ISO TMB) adopted Resolution 80/2018, establishing the following Project Committee: ISO/PC 321 – Transaction Assurance in E-Commerce.

The new Technical Committee will have the following provisional title and scope:

Title: Transaction assurance in E-commerce

Scope: Standardization in the field of “transaction assurance and upstream/downstream directly related processes in e-commerce”, including the following:

- The assurance of transaction process in e-commerce (including easier access to e-platforms and e-stores);
- The protection of online consumer rights including both prevention of online disputes and resolution process;
- The interoperability and admissibility of commodity quality inspection result in cross-border e-commerce.
- The assurance of e-commerce delivery to the final consumer.

Excluded:

- Management system standards already covered by ISO/TC 176;
- Authenticity, integrity and trust for products and documents standards already covered by ISO/TC 292/WG4;

- Guidelines on consumer warranties and guarantees standards already covered by ISO/PC 303;
- Meta-standards of information interchange standards already covered by ISO/TC 154;
- Cross-border trade of second-hand goods standards already covered by ISO/PC 245;
- Brand evaluation standards already covered by ISO/TC 289;
- Online reputation standards already covered by ISO/TC 290;
- Financial services standards already covered by ISO/TC 68;
- Identity management standards already covered by ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 27/WG 5;
- Meta-standards of data management and interchange already covered by ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 32;
- Biometrics standards already covered by ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC 37.

Since the payment and security of the transaction are very important in e-commerce, the proposed new technical committee will cooperate with ISO/TC 68 (Financial services), ISO/IEC/JTC1/SC 27 (IT Security techniques) and other TC via a liaison membership. If request for developing new standards for e-commerce in those TCs arose, the proposed new TC would work with them to develop the needed standards.”

Australia has nominated to be an Observer Member ISO/TC 321. If you are interested in engaging in this project committee or finding out more about this line of work, please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team at sem@standards.org.au.

3. Reducing carbon footprint made easier with new International Standard

We are all suffocating in the heat of global warming, as the recent European heatwave lays testament to – and it may soon become the norm. A study showed that if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as they do, by 2100 74 % of the world’s population will be exposed to deadly heatwaves. The only solution is to reduce our carbon footprint, but first we need to measure it. An internationally agreed ISO standard for quantifying the carbon footprint of products has just been published.

According to the Global Footprint Network, an international non-profit research organization offering insights and metrics to advance sustainability, we are falling into ecological debt, and if we keep consuming the earth’s resources at the current rate, we will soon need the equivalent of 1.7 earths to survive.

Rising greenhouse gas emissions – mostly caused by our rabid consumption – have resulted in the climate chaos and consequent food and water supply disruption we see now. But much can be done to reverse this, by reducing our carbon footprint.

ISO 14067:2018, Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification, has just been published as an International Standard, providing globally agreed principles, requirements and guidelines for the quantification and reporting of the carbon footprint of a product (CFP). It will give organizations of all kinds a means to calculate the carbon footprint of their products and provide a better understanding of ways in which they can reduce it.

ISO 14067:2018 replaces technical specification ISO/TS 14067:2013, which was upgraded to International Standard status after the market signalled a need for a more in-depth document.

Daniele Pernigotti, Convenor of the working group that developed the standard, said measuring the CFP is considered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a key way of contributing to the achievement of international climate action goals.

“It allows organizations to more accurately see where the main impacts on their carbon footprint are generated related to the production of their products, and thus take appropriate actions to reduce it,” he said.

“For example, if it is related to raw materials, they can investigate using others, or if it is related to transport, they can look at improvements to their logistics model or investigate suppliers or distributors closer to home.”

Key changes from the technical specification include greater focus on quantification, moving other topics such as communication to standards in the ISO 14000 environmental management family; greater clarity on a range of aspects such as calculating the use of electricity; and the introduction of specific guidance for agricultural and forestry products.

ISO 14067 is part of the ISO 14060 family of standards for quantifying, monitoring, reporting and validating greenhouse gas emissions to support a low-carbon economy.

The standard was developed by working group WG 8 of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 207, Environmental management, subcommittee SC 7, Greenhouse gas management and related activities, the secretariat of which is held jointly by SCC, ISO’s member for Canada, and SAC, ISO’s member for China. Australia is a Participating Member of ISO/TC 207 with National Mirror Committee, EV-021 *Environmental Labelling and Sustainable Development*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2317.html>

4. [ISO 50001 for energy management gets a boost](#)

Reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency are at the forefront of the global climate change agenda. ISO 50001, the flagship International Standard for improving energy performance, has just been updated.

Energy consumption is on the rise, despite the fact that it contributes to nearly 60 % of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, more than one billion people still lack access to electricity and many more rely on harmful, polluting energy sources. It is no surprise, then, that addressing energy efficiency and climate change challenges make up a key part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

ISO 50001:2018, Energy management systems – Requirements with guidance for use, transformed the energy performance of organizations worldwide when it was first published in 2011, giving them a strategic tool to use their energy more efficiently and effectively. It provides a framework for

managing energy performance and addressing energy costs, while helping companies reduce their environmental impact to meet emissions reduction targets.

ISO 50001 has just been revised, making it even more effective to tackle the world's energy challenges. Roland Risser, Chair of the ISO technical committee that developed the standard, said the new version features updated terms and definitions and greater clarification of certain energy performance concepts.

“There is a stronger emphasis on the role of top management as well, as it is important to instilling an organizational culture change,” he explained. “It is also now aligned with ISO's requirements for management system standards, making it easier to integrate into an organization's existing management systems.”

ISO 50001 has become increasingly important since its release seven years ago. A total of 20 216 certificates to ISO 50001 were issued by the end of 2016, according to the ISO Survey, which reveals that certifications to the standard increased by 69 % during that year. ISO 50001:2018 was developed by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 301, Energy management and energy savings, whose secretariat is held jointly by ANSI, ISO's member for the USA, and SAC, ISO's member for China. Australia is a Participating Member of ISO/TC 301, with National Mirror Committee, EN-001 *Energy Auditing*.

5. [Raising the bar on sustainable consumption](#)

Companies are in the business of selling products and consumers of those products want the best possible value for money, but this puts a strain on already depleted natural resources and supply chain transparency. How does ISO 20400 help change the way we produce and consume goods and resources, and pave the way to meeting sustainable consumption?

The world is in bad need of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations (UN) blueprint for a more prosperous and resilient world. There can be few among us who are not aware of the sometimes immeasurable and potentially catastrophic damage to the environment caused by carbon dioxide emissions, pollution from coal-fired power stations, the plastic waste clogging our oceans and killing marine animals, deforestation, the melting Arctic ice, climate change, urbanization – the list goes on.

These problems are economic as well as environmental and pose a huge threat to our future well-being. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2018, despite an improved economic background, with recent signs of “encouraging” global growth, there is no room for complacency. The report raises concerns in particular about the economic impact of the new technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the lack of progress in protecting the environment.

Economic Models

This point was reinforced by Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). She warned in Davos, in January this year, that the prevailing economic model is failing the global workforce, despite the commitment of a number of corporate CEOs to the SDGs and the Paris climate agreement.

Goal 12 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. In the UN's words: "Achieving Goal 12 requires a strong national framework for sustainable consumption and production that is integrated into national and sectoral plans, sustainable business practices and consumer behaviour, together with adherence to international norms on the management of hazardous chemicals and wastes."

Paul Polman, the CEO of Unilever, a global consumer goods company that puts sustainability at the core of its activity, said in a report in The Guardian that the SDGs offer the "greatest economic opportunity of a lifetime" and must become central to core business goals and investment decisions. He says Unilever's "sustainable living" brands (which it defines as those that have integrated sustainability into their purpose and products) are growing "30 % faster than the rest of the company".

The last straw?

There has been progress in other areas too. McDonald's, the American fast-food company with an outlet on a street near you, has announced plans to reduce single-use plastic straws in the UK – the BBC says the UK alone uses 8.5 million a year – and is considering using paper straws instead. Also in the UK, the JD Wetherspoon chain of pubs stopped using plastic straws at the beginning of the year.

But how do small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with a keen eye on the bottom line protect profits as well as the planet? How can they integrate the goals, and SDG 12 in particular, into sustainability strategies that offer value both to the companies themselves as well as citizens? Standards have a clear role to play in this process, and ISO 20400 is the worldwide guidance standard that has been developed for sustainable procurement; the standard is aligned with ISO 26000, which offers 450 recommendations related to the SDGs, addressing seven core areas of social responsibility: organizational governance; human rights; labour practices; environment; fair operating practices; consumer issues; and community involvement and development.

Benefits for SMEs

One person who has first-hand experience of this is Jacques Schramm, the founder and CEO of A2 Consulting, an SME with a staff of about one hundred operating mostly in France, which specializes in the transformation of organizations. Schramm has been involved in the chairmanship of the ISO project for four years – what he describes as "a big effort for a rather small organization". He believes it helps A2 Consulting in terms of reputation in the French market and facilitates client acquisition.

Schramm says: "We are quite active in promoting the new standard in the French market and have constructed a French ISO 20400 barometer to measure annually how much large public and private organizations know about it, how much they apply its guidelines, and what its corporate social responsibility impacts are on society."

He goes on to explain that ISO 20400 is aligned with ISO 26000 as well as with SDG 12. For this reason, the standard was given full support and participation in the working group from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an organization in charge of promoting worldwide responsible consumption and production within the UN.

Benefits of ISO 20400

ISO 20400, Sustainable procurement – Guidance, serves as a sector-specific application of ISO 26000 on social responsibility, defining the principles of ethical behaviour throughout the supply chain. The standard:

- Ensures supply chain security (i.e. product recall or supplier failure)
- Prevents financial, environmental and reputational risks
- Fosters investor and customer confidence
- Promotes employee well-being
- Contributes to opening new markets for products and services

Transforming risks

Schramm points out that ISO 20400 is considered by UNEP as a valuable tool for large purchasing organizations. It helps them to establish an appropriate purchasing policy that includes the aims of SDG 12, as much as their business and context allows them to make this a priority. He says: “Addressing it very well could mean transforming a risk into an opportunity through purchase redesign, life-cycle analysis, waste recycling and business model transformation. Some advanced organizations have therefore considered this issue as central to their strategy.” Words to cheer Paul Polman.

One direct benefit for A2 Consulting in the implementation of ISO 20400, Schramm says, has been important progress in defining sustainable procurement criteria that helped it reach a ranking of 79/100, “considered by EcoVadis Business Sustainability Ratings to be the rating of a leader in our service business”. This internal process also facilitates new client acquisition and helps not only in recruiting new talent in the markets but also in “keeping them longer in the company once they are hired”.

The SDGs follow on from and build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2001. The UN has called the MDGs “the most successful anti-poverty movement in history”. However, some argue that engagement on achieving the SDGs has been slower and a report in The Guardian last year said that, one year on from the adoption of the SDGs, most businesses were not engaging, despite experts pointing to the economic opportunities.

Effective promotion

To be truly beneficial, ISO 20400 has to be implemented across the world and integrated into increasingly complex organizations globally. Effective promotion of the standard, particularly in terms of country context, is the best way to meet this challenge.

Schramm explains: “In France, thanks to the ‘barometer initiative’, we will first develop explanations on ‘why’ organizations should use ISO 20400, including new trends such as taking investors’ requirements into account. We also have to work on the ‘how’ and tools facilitating the implementation of the standard; for example, on more advanced guidelines such as priority setting, or also on assessment approaches, tools and service providers which, all together, provide recognition and trust.”

International collaboration and shared experiences from countries worldwide are also key to promoting the standard. Shaun McCarthy has a keen understanding of the benefits of such collaboration. He is Chair of the Supply Chain School, which is a collaboration between clients, contractors and first-tier suppliers who have a mutual interest in building the skills of their supply chain. The school supplies those who register with best-in-class knowledge on sustainability, off-site construction and management techniques “to help you lead and embed change”.

McCarthy is also the Director of Action Sustainability, a small consultancy specializing in sustainable procurement, which led the UK and Australian delegations in developing ISO 20400. Like Jacques Schramm, he claims that his clients report significant benefits, such as “reduced costs, winning more work, improved shareholder confidence, better customer relations and reduced risk”.

Practical support

Action Sustainability provides practical support and guidance and can validate an organization’s sustainable procurement processes and back the development of action plans using the ISO 20400 guidance as the strategic framework.

Most organizations around the world deliver the bulk of what they do through their supply chains. McCarthy believes it is, therefore, impossible to meet SDG 12, or many other SDGs, without the contribution of the supply chain. “ISO 20400 provides a framework to achieve this,” he says.

What’s more, ISO 20400 also gives organizations a structure for establishing sustainable procurement. In the short term, McCarthy says, organizations lack clear goals and the ability to translate their policies into a language their supply chains can respond to. “They also fail to prioritize them in a way that is meaningful for the supply chain,” but ISO 20400 provides the “golden thread” to link to their organizational objectives.

High-quality guidance

To ensure competence and to keep the supply chain competitive, McCarthy says, in the longer term, it will be necessary to develop the capacity of the supply chain. Failure to invest in this will reduce competition and drive prices up – sustainability should not cost more but bad procurement does. “ISO 20400 provides high-quality guidance in this area,” he says.

Action Sustainability’s mission is to “create sustainable business through action”. McCarthy adds that we need to measure what our suppliers actually deliver and not just bombard them with meaningless questionnaires. The guidance on performance measurement from ISO 20400 is a great help for organizations trying to achieve this, he says. With the help of the procurement standard, it is clear that small organizations can make a big impact, which gives us all hope for a more sustainable future.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2322.html>

6. [New International Standard for determining infant formula ingredients just published](#)

Infant formula is perhaps one of the most highly regulated foodstuffs in the world, so checking the exact composition is a rigorous affair. ISO is developing a series of standards for verifying many of the ingredients, to demonstrate the product is safe for consumption and contains what it says on the tin. The latest one, ISO 21422 | IDF 242 for the determination of chloride content, has just been published.

Serving one of our most vulnerable population groups, the manufacture of infant formula must adhere to tough regulations before it can arrive on supermarket shelves. Nutritional labelling is

heavily regulated, often requiring conformation to the Codex Alimentarius, or Food Code, the international reference for food supplements.

Codex Alimentarius is the Joint Food Standards Programme established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It develops harmonized international food standards that protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade.

ISO, in cooperation with a number of international industry bodies, is developing a series of International Standards on validated methods of analysis for infant formula, designed to verify these components and thus demonstrate compliance to Codex standards.

What's more, most of these standards have been adopted by Codex Alimentarius as reference and dispute resolution methods. One such standard is the recently published ISO 21422 | IDF 242, Milk, milk products, infant formula and adult nutritionals – Determination of chloride – Potentiometric titration method, which specifies a method for determining chloride in infant formula, milk and milk products.

Published jointly by ISO and the International Dairy Federation (IDF), ISO 21422 | IDF 242 is the result of close collaboration between ISO, the IDF and the independent standards developing organization AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

The experts involved in its creation include those from industry, regulatory bodies, commercial laboratories and academia, demonstrating a truly harmonized standard that can be used to meet labelling regulations all over the world.

Other standards in the series, currently in development, include:

- ISO 21424 | IDF 243, Milk, milk products, infant formula and adult nutritionals – Determination of minerals and trace elements – Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) method; and
- ISO 15151 | IDF 229, Milk, milk products, infant formula and adult nutritionals – Determination of minerals and trace elements – Inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) method

ISO also has a wide range of other International Standards for verifying the contents of infant formula, including those for fatty acid composition (ISO 16958 | IDF 231); total iodine (ISO 20647 | IDF 234); vitamins A and E (ISO 20633); vitamin B12 (ISO 20634); vitamin C (ISO 20635); vitamin D (ISO 20636); myo-inositol (ISO 20637); nucleotides (ISO 20638); and pantothenic acid (ISO 20639).

ISO 21422 | IDF 242 was developed by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 34, Food products, subcommittee SC 5, Milk and milk products, and is published jointly by ISO and the IDF, and separately by AOAC INTERNATIONAL. Australia is a Participating Member of ISO/TC 34, with National Mirror Committee, FT-024 *Food Products*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2320.html>

7. New International Standard for traditional Chinese medicine just published

Moxibustion is a form of acupuncture that has been used in traditional Chinese medicine by doctors and therapists for thousands of years, and its usage is increasing worldwide. To ensure the safety and quality of the instrument that is used, a new International Standard has just been published.

Osteoarthritis, digestive complaints, asthma and soft tissue injuries are just some of the wide array of medical complaints that can be helped by moxibustion, a form of heat therapy targeting acupuncture points in the body.

Traditionally using the 'moxa' plant, modern moxibustion can involve using an infrared moxibustion-like instrument that simulates the heating effect and infrared spectrum of burning the plant to irradiate the body at these points.

With the rising number of different infrared radiation devices now available on the market, distinguishing between them to ensure their safety and effectiveness is more important than ever.

ISO 20493, Traditional Chinese medicine – Infrared moxibustion-like instrument, aims to do just that, by setting minimum safety and quality requirements for manufacturers and regulators alike.

Dr David Graham, Chair of the technical committee that developed the standard, said: "The infrared moxibustion-like instrument used in traditional Chinese medicine uses specific wavelengths to treat various diseases, so for these to be effective, and to regulate the market, we decided to develop an International Standard.

"ISO 20493 defines the scope and technical requirements needed to ensure safety and quality, providing a basis on which regulations can be made, and ultimately facilitating international trade as well."

ISO 20493:2018 was developed by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 249, Traditional Chinese medicine, whose secretariat is held by SAC, ISO's member for China. Australia is a Participating Member of ISO/TC 249 with National Mirror Committee, HE-031 *Traditional Chinese Medicine*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2319.html>

8. FDA plans to use ISO 13485 for medical devices regulation

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the government department that regulates the medical devices sector, announced its intention to use ISO 13485 as the basis for its quality system legislation.

ISO 13485, Medical devices — Quality management systems — Requirements for regulatory purposes, is the International Standard for quality management systems for the medical devices sector. Published in 2016, it is designed to work with other management systems in a way that is efficient and transparent. The standard, which is now in its third edition, received strong support from the FDA, in line with its drive for global convergence of medical device regulatory processes.

The announcement by the FDA that it will use ISO 13485 in replacing its current quality system regulation, is an important next step in the recognition this standard has already gained globally.

ISO/TC 210 warmly welcomes the FDA's planned adoption. This ISO technical committee, responsible for the quality management and corresponding general aspects for medical devices, is run by ANSI, ISO's member in the United States.

Wil Vargas of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), and Secretary of ISO/TC 210, said "this announcement will take global harmonization of regulatory requirements in the medical devices sector to a next level". The committee Chair, Peter Linders, added that "this bold step by the FDA seems logical, considering the role of ISO 13485 as the foundation for the Medical Devices Single Audit Program (MDSAP), currently operated by Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan and the USA". Australia is a Participating Member on ISO/TC 210, with National Mirror Committee HE-028, *Quality Management and Corresponding General Aspects for Medical Devices*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2318.html>

9. [Invitation to an international workshop on Screening of GMOs in cotton and textiles](#)

The National Standards Body from the Netherlands has issued an invitation for stakeholders to participate in an international workshop on screening of GMOs in cotton and textiles on 16 and 17 January in India. Ahead of the workshop, two preparatory meetings (online) will be organised in September and November.

The aim of the project is to develop an ISO protocol to screen specific (processed) cotton samples (for instance, seed, leaves, seed cotton, lint, yarn, fabric and garment; both dyed and natural) for the potential presence of known GMOs (both authorised, as well as non-authorised). This protocol would be published as an [International Workshop Agreement](#) is the outcome of open workshops of stakeholders on particular topics and can sometimes be a precursor to specific standards development.

This protocol would help to create clarity in the sector with regard to what can and cannot be tested for GMO presence in cotton and textiles.

For further information please contact international.participation@standards.org.au

IEC

1. [IP ratings for waterproof phones](#)

It is reported that up to 20% of all phone damage occurs as a result of immersion or contact with a liquid. That is why manufacturers claim their devices are waterproof, but what do the IP ratings they advertise actually mean?

The ratings are beneficial to both manufacturers and consumers. They are based on International Standards that enable manufacturers to offer a level of protection that is clearly defined and tested. For consumers, this protection provides a verifiable assurance.

Smartphones are tested against IEC 60529, which rates their dust and water resistance using the IP (Ingress Protection) Rating code. The standard is prepared by Technical Committee (TC) 70.

IP 67 vs. IP 68

Two of the current, top-of-the-range flagship phones are rated as splash, water, and dust resistant to IP 67 and IP 68 respectively. The first digit following the IP shows the phone's resistance to dust and the second to water.

They both get sixes, which is the top score, indicating no ingress of dust.

When it comes to water resistance, the scale runs from zero (no protection) to nine (high-pressure hot water from different angles). Both the flagship phones are water resistant, but there is a significant difference between achieving a seven or an eight rating.

Second characteristic numeral	Degree of protection	
	Brief description	Definition
0	Non-protected	–
1	Protected against vertically falling water drops	Vertically falling drops shall have no harmful effects
2	Protected against vertically falling water drops when enclosure tilted up to 15°	Vertically falling drops shall have no harmful effects when the enclosure is tilted at any angle up to 15° on either side of the vertical
3	Protected against spraying water	Water sprayed at an angle up to 60° on either side of the vertical shall have no harmful effects
4	Protected against splashing water	Water splashed against the enclosure from any direction shall have no harmful effects
5	Protected against water jets	Water projected in jets against the enclosure from any direction shall have no harmful effects
6	Protected against powerful water jets	Water projected in powerful jets against the enclosure from any direction shall have no harmful effects
7	Protected against the effects of temporary immersion in water	Ingress of water in quantities causing harmful effects shall not be possible when the enclosure is temporarily immersed in water under standardized conditions of pressure and time
8	Protected against the effects of continuous immersion in water	Ingress of water in quantities causing harmful effects shall not be possible when the enclosure is continuously immersed in water under conditions which shall be agreed between manufacturer and user but which are more severe than for numeral 7
9	Protected against high pressure and temperature water jets	Water projected at high pressure and high temperature against the enclosure from any direction shall not have harmful effects

Standards and conformity assessment

The IEC provides International Standards and conformity assessment for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. IEC conformity assessment verifies that Standards are properly applied in real-world technical systems to guarantee safety and quality, in this way adding value to products and services.

This may mean using different kinds of conformity assessment—ranging from corporate self-assessment to relying on supplier’s declarations to independent, third-party assessment and testing—whichever are most appropriate according to the different levels of risk.

Australia is not a member of IEC/TC 70. To express your interest in changing Australia’s participation level, please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team at sem@standards.org.au

Source: <https://blog.iec.ch/2018/09/ip-ratings-for-waterproof-phones/>

2. [Key role of certification showcased at international marine energy event](#)

International experts have met in Chinese Taipei to boost the burgeoning marine energy industry by laying the foundations for a global network of testing and certification bodies.

The 5th International WaTERS Wave and Tidal Energy Research Sites workshop was held in Keelung, Chinese Taipei on 6-7 September. Representatives from international open-water test sites attended the event, with the aim of establishing a global network focused on collaborative opportunities for test centres, in support of the developing ocean energy industry.

Workshop goals

- Sharing updates from the last 18 months on progress/challenges from facilities worldwide
- Identifying common test site challenges and opportunities
- Providing a forum to discuss key R&D topics
- Defining actions to forge relationships and knowledge transfer between test sites
- Reducing project risk and attracting investment through certification

Dutch participant, Peter Scheijgrond, runs the Interreg 2 Seas MET-Certified project based at the Dutch Marine Energy Centre, Netherlands. He is also an active member of the Marine Energy, Operational Management Committee (ME OMC) of IECRE, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Renewable Energy Applications.

“IECRE certifies marine energy equipment to IEC International Standards, which cover key aspects such as design, safety, survivability, performance, electrical power quality and more. It offers third party assessment services which are accepted by members worldwide.

“This is really key when you think that a conformity statement could be issued for a wave energy device on the design verification by a certification body in the UK, when the test report was issued by a Japanese RE test laboratory (RETL), which the client may later use for a project in North

America”, said Scheijgrond, highlighting some of the benefits of IECRE certification during the workshop.

IECRE has recently expanded third party verification of tidal energy devices through the establishment of a new mechanism, which will allow applications from RETLs that cover the power performance assessment of electricity producing tidal energy converters within IEC Technical Specification (TS) 62600-200. The TS gives requirements for site and test conditions, measurement procedures and their exploitation to obtain the power curves.

Benefits of IECRE for RETLs

Certification of marine energy projects helps reduce project uncertainty and risk, leading to more commercial and bankable marine energy projects.

Open water test facilities for tidal and wave energy convertors and labs for controlled testing have a critical role to play in the implementation of the IECRE ME OMC system. Collectively referred to as RETLs, these facilities can perform accredited tests to assess the performance, power quality, acoustics and loads in marine energy convertors according to technical specifications published by IEC Technical Committee (TC) 114 for marine energy.

More about the workshop and international conference sessions

Participants from renewable energy testing laboratories from nine countries including in Asia, Europe, the UK and the US attended the workshop, which is supported by Ocean Energy Systems (OES).

It was held ahead of the 4th Asian Wave and Tidal Energy Conference. The conference is a platform for engineers, researchers and experts to keep abreast of latest developments in ocean energy, covering wave energy, tidal energy, ocean thermal energy, ocean current energy and offshore wind energy.

Australia is not a member of IEC/TC 114. To express your interest in changing Australia’s participation level, please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team at sem@standards.org.au

Source: <https://blog.iec.ch/2018/08/protecting-data-with-quantum-cryptography/>

3. [The IEC and Cyber Security](#)

The new IEC publication on cyber security is an executive introduction to strategy and best practices for decision-makers. Here is a quick overview of the management structure—IEC committees, working groups and systems—not covered in the new brochure.

IEC advocates a holistic approach to building cyber resilience, incorporating people, processes and technology and combining best practices with testing and certification. The collaboration of the IEC’s Standardization Management Board (SMB) and Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) reflects the

systems-based approach adopted by the organization's technical experts towards developing short, medium and long-term strategies.

The SMB has set up an Advisory Committee on Information security and data privacy (ACSEC). Its scope includes:

- Dealing with information security and data privacy matters which are not specific to a single IEC Technical Committee (TC);
- Coordinating activities related to information security and data privacy;
- Providing guidance to TCs and subcommittees (SCs) for the implementation of information security and data privacy in a general perspective and for specific sectors.

CAB manages and supervises all IEC conformity assessment (CA) activities and represents the IEC CA community. CAB also oversees the four IEC CA Systems but delegates their management and overall operational responsibility to the management body of each CA System.

CAB has set up a working group, CAB WG 17, to investigate the market need and time frame for CA services (global certification schemes) for products, services, personnel and integrated systems in the domain of cyber security. The working group collaborates with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on a project to create a Common Regulatory Objectives document focusing on cyber security.

The objective will be to describe a “world best practice process for a systems approach to conformity assessment for cyber security”, which will be a comprehensive but generic process that can be applied to any technical system.

In its analysis of and discussions with different sectors, CAB WG 17 found that there is a convergence towards two main series of Standards, IEC 62443 and the ISO/IEC 27000 family of Standards. The IEC 62443 series focuses on operational technology (OT), which is concerned with keeping cyber-physical systems operating as intended, while the ISO/IEC 27000 family of Standards focuses on information technology (IT), which is concerned about the flow and accuracy of data, data privacy, etc.

For a complete cyber security strategy both are needed, as well as some sector-specific Standards, including for example IEC 62645 for the nuclear industry or the IEC 62351 series of Standards for the electrical energy sector.

IECEE, the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components, has developed a testing and certification programme to address the expanding need for CA solutions related to cyber security in the industrial automation sector. The rules of procedure for the IECEE industrial cyber security programme have been approved by the Certification Management Committee.

The service provides a framework for assessments in accordance with the IEC 62443 series of International Standards on security for industrial automation and control systems. This will result in an IECEE certificate of conformity – industrial cyber security capability.

Source: <https://blog.iec.ch/2018/09/the-iec-and-cyber-security-management-structure/>

4. Car or computer on wheels?

Like many gadgets and devices today, a huge amount of technology goes into new cars. Whether you need it or not, technology assists you far more than ever before.

The latest vehicles are packed with radar sensors and a growing number of cameras that enable them to detect and react to changes in heat, light, sound, pressure, or a particular motion both inside and around the car, offering many new comfort and safety features.

It's all about a more convenient, efficient, safe driving experience

Vehicle designers and manufacturers no longer see the car as simply a means of getting people from A to B. It's about providing a more meaningful experience by facilitating modern life and consumer expectations to offer convenience, efficiency and of course safety.

Some new models offer wireless inductive charging stations for our indispensable smartphones, and intelligent seats with enhanced electric lumbar support systems that remember your exact body shape. This doubles up as a safety feature, so that the seat belt tension automatically adjusts to the individual.

Voice recognition options let you interact with the different software packages hands free, by simply asking your virtual personal assistant for directions to that new Japanese restaurant, or your next appointment.

But really, it's about driving safely

Vehicles are becoming increasingly complex with each new model. Behind the technology are standards, which ensure the interoperability of the software and hardware components they contain, at the same time as safety and reliability aspects.

All angles covered

In some new vehicles, literally all angles are covered thanks to 360 degree cameras, including four wide-angle ones, which see the entire area immediately around the vehicle. It is going to be very difficult to mess up your parking when you can choose a camera at the front, behind, to the sides and for all corners; there's even a bird's eye view!

No more blind spots

When an object (cyclist or vehicle) is detected in the blind spot, a light on the side mirror automatically lights up so that the driver is aware.

IEC has developed the Technical Specification used by car manufacturers which enables drivers to see all around their vehicles. Find out more

Here are some of the other driver assistance systems:

- Adaptive cruise control, for maintaining a safe pre-set distance to the vehicle ahead by automatically accelerating and braking.
- Active lane assist uses a camera to detect lane lines and the track that the car is following between them, to help the driver maintain lane discipline

- Pre-sense 360° safety system which detects collision hazards all around the car and initiates certain preventive measures including full brake use to seat adjustments and pre-tensioning of seat belts.
- A dream for many... park assist uses ultrasonic sensors located in the front and rear bumpers and on the sides, to automatically guide the car into parallel or perpendicular parking spaces.

Source: <https://blog.iec.ch/2018/09/car-or-computer-on-wheels/>