

[International and regional items of interest for November 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. WTO maps out trade issues related to COVID-19 vaccine rollout
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2. Least developed countries hit hard by trade downturn triggered by COVID-19 pandemic
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3. WTO's achievements and challenges addressed at 25th anniversary event
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[ISO items of interest for November 2020 are as follows:](#)

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[IEC items of interest for November 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. Spotlight on the IEC Advisory Committee on Safety
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2. IEC publishes revised standard on the safety of household appliances
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International

1. [WTO maps out trade issues related to COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#)

The WTO Secretariat published on 20 November, two graphics identifying some of the key trade issues arising at the various stages of the development and delivery of a vaccine against the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective is to help foster dialogue on the role that trade policy can play in distributing safe, efficient and high-quality vaccines promptly across the world.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Least developed countries hit hard by trade downturn triggered by COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Least developed countries (LDCs) have been hit hard by the downturn in global trade triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, with LDC merchandise exports declining by 16 per cent during the first half of 2020, WTO members were told at a meeting of the WTO's Sub-Committee on LDCs held on 11 November.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [WTO's achievements and challenges addressed at 25th anniversary event](#)

Senior government officials and representatives from the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organizations met virtually on 19 November to exchange views on the achievements and challenges facing the WTO as it marks its 25th anniversary.

Speakers underlined the continued relevance of the rules-based trading system as demonstrated by the key role of trade in contributing to the COVID-19 pandemic response but said reform of the WTO must be made a priority in order to make the organization "fit for purpose" for trade in the 21st century.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Invitation to virtual workshop on ‘Sustainable and Human-Centred Societies Enabled with Cyber Physical Systems’](#)

JISC, the standards body for Japan, invites interested stakeholders to attend an international workshop (IWA 39) on ‘The Gap Analysis for Standardization on Sustainable and Human-centered Societies Enabled with Cyber Physical Systems’.

The first IWA 39 meetings will be held virtually over two days:

- 10 February 2021 12:00-15:00 UTC / Zoom
- 11 February 2021 12:00-15:00 UTC / Zoom

If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

2. [Ecological Restoration: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Ecological Restoration has been submitted by SAC, the ISO member body for China. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position.

The scope of this committee will include standardisation of all types and all sizes of ecological restoration projects, including their management, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

To provide feedback or learn more about the proposal, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

3. [Consumer Product Safety Management: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Consumer Product Safety Management has been submitted by SAC, the ISO member body for China. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position.

The scope of this committee will include standardisation in the field of consumer product safety management to develop terminology, requirements, principles, framework, guidance, testing methods and supporting tools to support activities such as:

- Risk evaluation
- Safety early-warning and traceability
- Intelligent regulatory technology
- Safety control for emerging consumer products
- Safety management of consumer products for specific population groups

To provide feedback or learn more about the proposal, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

4. [G20: Call to action on International Standards](#)

Organizers of the Riyadh International Standards Summit held on 4 November 2020 issued a call to action for the recognition, support and adoption of international standards. This is the first ever summit on standardization held within G20-related activities.

The Riyadh International Standards Summit, attended by Standards Australia, was jointly organized by Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) together with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The Riyadh International Standards Summit concluded with the [call to action](#) for “each country to recognize, support, and adopt international standards to accelerate digital transformation in all sectors of the economy to help overcome global crises, such as COVID-19, and contribute towards the achievement of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)”.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [Spotlight on the IEC Advisory Committee on Safety](#)

IEC International Standards play a major role in ensuring that electrical processes work efficiently and safely. They help a wide range of industries, spreading from lighting to transportation, to produce safe products, and services.

ACOS, the IEC [Advisory Committee on Safety](#), provides overall guidance to IEC Technical Committees and subcommittees on questions of safety, and a forum in which to discuss complex issues between technical committees.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [IEC publishes revised standard on the safety of household appliances](#)

Household appliances have developed into an immense industry. According to [Statista](#), global sales of domestic appliances amounted to more than €200 billion in 2019. This is unsurprising given the many household appliances used each day.

As the number of these household appliances multiplies and their complexity increases, the IEC has regularly updated the general safety requirements: [IEC 60335-1](#), Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Part I: General Requirements. It has now published the latest updates in its sixth edition of the standard.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Breaking silos with the Digital Factory framework](#)

The Digital Factory framework is based on an existing standard, [IEC 61360-2](#). It defines a common data dictionary (IEC CDD) for providing classifications and metadata definitions that describe products in an unambiguous way to support procurement of electrotechnical products.

Companies use the definitions to provide contextually rich specifications that enable interested customers to understand the characteristics of a product. The Digital Factory framework simply applies this approach to system engineering workflows. It uses dictionaries to describe data in a way that is understandable anywhere in the world. The fact that it is an international standard means that enterprises around the world can develop interoperable software more easily and use data collaboratively.

Learn more [here](#).