

International and regional items of interest for October 2020 are as follows:

1. Trade shows signs of rebound from COVID-19, recovery still uncertain
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2. New WTO publication addresses common questions about trade and the environment
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3. WTO launches new import licensing platform
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ISO items of interest for October 2020 are as follows:

1. Ecological Restoration: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity
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2. Consumer Product Safety Management: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity
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3. Invitation to an International Workshop on: Guideline of Emergency Medical Facility
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4. Cold Chain Logistics: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity
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IEC items of interest for October 2020 are as follows:

1. Robotics: Proposal for a new Technical Committee
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2. Pandemic disrupting global energy markets and systems
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3. The need for a global standard on e-waste
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* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [Trade shows signs of rebound from COVID-19, recovery still uncertain](#)

World trade shows signs of bouncing back from a deep, COVID-19 induced slump, but World Trade Organisation economists caution that any recovery could be disrupted by the ongoing pandemic effects.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [New WTO publication addresses common questions about trade and the environment](#)

The WTO launched a new publication to answer commonly raised questions about trade and the environment at a virtual event on 16 October. “Short Answers to Big Questions on the WTO and the Environment” explores trade’s impact on the planet, the policies that governments enact to protect it and the role of the WTO regarding environmental issues.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [WTO launches new import licensing platform](#)

Four years of work by the WTO Secretariat bore fruit with the launch on 9 October 2020 of the new import licensing database. The new platform gathers together import licensing information, analysis and reporting and streamlines notification procedures for WTO members. At a meeting of the Committee on Import Licensing, members commended the work done by WTO staff to provide a one-stop shop for members and interested parties seeking to access information on import licensing procedures.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [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.

2. [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.

3. [Invitation to an international workshop on: Guideline of Emergency Medical Facility](#)

Stakeholders are invited to attend an international workshop on the Guideline of Emergency Medical Facility. The workshops will be held online on 20 January 2021, 15 March 2021 and 30 April 2021.

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

4. Cold Chain Logistics: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Cold Chain Logistics has been submitted by JISC, the ISO member body for Japan. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position. The proposal focuses on standardisation in the field of cold chain logistics. The scope will include but is not limited to:

- Terms and conditions for carriage/storage service of refrigerated goods, physical handling of refrigerated goods (acceptance, loading, transshipment, storage, sorting, transportation and delivery)
- Maintenance and control methods of temperature-controlled facilities, quality control methods throughout the cold chain (e.g. temperature monitoring and control, prevention of damage, loss and delay)
- Hygiene management during carriage/storage service to prevent contamination of goods
- Facilitation of logistical efficiency
- Manpower management, staff education and training, safety management for staff and workplaces
- Safety and reliability of carriage/storage services
- Information management and data processing such as customer management and cargo/parcel tracking, as well as terminology

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

IEC

1. [Robotics: Proposal for a new Technical Committee](#)

China has submitted a proposal to establish a new Technical Committee on Robotics for electricity generation, transmission and distribution systems. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position.

The scope includes:

- Standardisation of robotics applied in power systems i.e. power plants, substations, transmission and distribution lines, etc.
- Robot systems used in power systems shall include those travelling on rails, on ground (via unmanned ground vehicles), in the air (just like unmanned aerial vehicles-based inspection robots), under water/liquid (via unmanned underwater vehicles), and on or inside equipment etc.
- Standardisation of edge computing as well as diagnosis and analysis of information acquired by robot systems.

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

2. [Pandemic disrupting global energy markets and systems](#)

The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic is set to transform economies globally in the medium and long term as its adverse consequences spread to more domains. Beyond the oil market, which was immediately negatively affected by this worldwide health crisis, the entire electrotechnology domain is likely to be comprehensively reshaped, beginning with electrical energy production, distribution and use. IEC work is set to have a major impact on the way the entire sector evolves.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [The need for a global standard on e-waste](#)

According to the global e-waste monitor 2020, in 2019, the world generated a striking 53,6 Mt of electrical and electronic waste, an average of 7,3 kg per capita. The global generation of e-waste grew by 9,2 Mt since 2014 and is projected to grow to 74,7 Mt by 2030 – almost doubling in only 16 years.

Learn more [here](#).