

## International Update

International and regional items of interest for January 2018 are as follows:

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1. WTO New initiatives on electronic commerce, investment facilitation and MSMEs [More>>](#)
2. CEN publishes the first product standard for bio-based materials [More>>](#)
3. Australia initiates WTO complaint targeting Canadian restrictions on sale of wine [More>>](#)
4. Azevêdo: MSMEs are now at the heart of the trade debate [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for January 2018 are as follows:

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1. A New Field of Technical Activity – Occupational Health and Safety Management [More>>](#)
2. ISO Newsletter highlights water and sanitation for UN Decade of Action [More>>](#)
3. John Walter begins term as new ISO President [More>>](#)
4. Fresh changes in the pipeline – Standards for water supply and wastewater systems [More>>](#)
5. Cocoa fever – the food of the gods gets a quality check [More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for January 2018 are as follows:

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1. IEC TS 63033 Drive Monitoring System enables drivers to see all around their vehicles [More>>](#)
2. IEC IEEE KATS Challenge – Future Challenges in Standardisation [More>>](#)
3. New Delhi, India to host Smart Grid Week in March 2018 [More>>](#)

**\*\* For further information about any article please email: [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au)**

## International

### 1. WTO New initiatives on electronic commerce, investment facilitation and MSMEs

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Three proponent groups announced new initiatives to advance talks at the WTO on the issues of electronic commerce, investment facilitation and micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs). The announcements were made on 13 December during the final day of the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires.

The proponent groups, each representing many WTO members, and encompassing participants from developed, developing and least-developed countries, unveiled their plans to move forward with discussions in the three areas.

Seventy-one members said they would initiate exploratory work towards future WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce, with participation open to all WTO members. Proponents said a first meeting will be held in the first quarter of 2018. Together, the group accounts for around 77 per cent of global trade.

The Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce is available [here](#).

On investment facilitation, 70 WTO members, recognizing the links between investment, trade and development, announced plans to pursue structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation. The proponents, who account for around 73 per cent of trade and 66 per cent of inward foreign direct investment (FDI), agreed to meet early in 2018 to discuss how to organize outreach activities and structured discussions on this topic. Signatories also encouraged all WTO members to actively participate in this work.

The Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development is available [here](#).

On MSMEs, 87 WTO members accounting for around 78 per cent of world exports issued a joint statement declaring their intention to create, multilaterally, an Informal Working Group on MSMEs at the WTO that would be open to all members.

The discussion would address obstacles related to foreign trade operations that represent a significant burden for MSMEs interested in participating in international trade.

The Joint Ministerial Statement: Declaration on the Establishment of a WTO Informal Work Programme for MSMEs is available [here](#).

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/minis\\_13dec17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/minis_13dec17_e.htm)

### 2. CEN publishes the first product standard for bio-based materials

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The last decades have seen an increased interest in bio-based products due to their benefits in view of the depletion of fossil resources and climate change. Moreover, bio-based products may provide additional product functionalities. This has triggered a wave of innovation with the development of knowledge and technologies allowing new transformation processes and product development.

Acknowledging the need for common standards for bio-based products, the European Commission mandated the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in 2011 to develop standards for bio-surfactants and bio-solvents in relation to bio-based product aspects.

The first product standard for bio-based materials – EN 16766:2017 '*Bio-based solvents - Requirements and test*' was published on 1 November 2017. The standard was developed by CEN/TC 411 'Bio-based products' within a working group convened by the European Solvents Industry Group.

The purpose of this document is to define how the criteria of performance, health, safety and environment can be determined (measured and calculated) for the bio-based solvents placed on the market. Furthermore, 'bio-based specifics' such as biological content and biodegradability are covered. As such, the standard intends to strengthen the reputation of 'bio-based solvents' and to increase customer confidence.

Each national standard body members of CEN (34 countries) now has 6 months to implement the standard at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement.

The European Commission, who financially supported the development, strongly motivates public procurers and industry to use this standard and its referenced test methods for biological content, consumer information and sustainability.

Australians can become involved in CEN CENELEC committees too. To find out more contact International Engagement Officer, Lucy Chalmers at [lucy.chalmers@standards.org.au](mailto:lucy.chalmers@standards.org.au)

Source: <https://www.cencenelec.eu/news/articles/Pages/AR-2017-009.aspx>

### 3. Australia initiates WTO complaint targeting Canadian restrictions on sale of wine

Australia has requested WTO consultations with Canada regarding measures maintained by the Canadian government and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia concerning the sale of wine. The request was circulated to WTO members on 16 January.

Australia claims that a range of distribution, licensing and sales measures such as product mark-ups, market access and listing policies, as well as duties and taxes on wine applied at the federal and provincial level, appear to discriminate against imported wine, in violation of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994.

Further information is available in document [WT/DS537/1](#)

#### **What is a request for consultations?**

The request for consultations formally initiates a dispute in the WTO. Consultations give the parties an opportunity to discuss the matter and to find a satisfactory solution without proceeding further with litigation. After 60 days, if consultations have failed to resolve the dispute, the complainant may request adjudication by a panel.

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news18\\_e/ds537rfc\\_16jan18\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news18_e/ds537rfc_16jan18_e.htm)

### 4. Azevêdo: MSMEs are now at the heart of the trade debate

Speaking at the invitation of the Friends of MSMEs at a meeting on 30 January, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said that the launch of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) was one of the highlights of the Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires.

*"It is hugely impressive," he said, "that the group has now reached 88 members – drawn from all regions of the globe and all levels of development." He urged the group to remain open and inclusive, adding: "This work has come a long way in a very short space of time. Let's see how far it can go."*

He delivered the following speech:

*Good morning.*

*I am pleased to join you today. I wanted to be here briefly to congratulate you all for what you've achieved so far on this important issue.*

*The launch of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs was one of the highlights of MC11. And it was only possible due to the hard work done by all of you — so thank you once again.*

*I would also like to note the excellent work done by Chile as the coordinator of the Group, and especially Ambassador Casanueva for the great energy and leadership that he has shown.*

*I think that the MC11 outcome on MSMEs is very important.*

*It sends a clear message to the wider trade community.*

*It demonstrates that a large and very diverse group of WTO members are willing to advance this work. And it shows that members are using the WTO as a platform to discuss issues that are of pressing interest for their economies and citizens.*

*So I hope that you will be able to translate all this energy into an action-oriented process that can deliver meaningful steps for MSMEs.*

*To achieve this, how the Group structures itself and moves forward in the months ahead is critical.*

*I welcome the focus that you are putting on this at today's meeting. I will be interested to hear how you plan to take this initiative forward.*

*In my view the essential point is that this work should seek to bolster our efforts at the multilateral level. We should seek to ensure that this initiative is helpful and supportive of the wider system. And I applaud the ambition of achieving a multilateral outcome on MSMEs by MC12.*

*To do this — and to be genuinely inclusive and supportive of the multilateral system — we need to see this ambition reflected in the process from day one.*

*For example, I think that your discussions should already be taking into account other perspectives — including of those members that are not at the table.*

*This will help with bringing more and more members into the conversation as you move forward. So please retain the principles of openness, inclusivity and transparency that have guided your work so far - and continue reaching out to others.*

*It is hugely impressive that the group has now reached 88 members — drawn from all regions of the globe and all levels of development.*

*And your efforts here are capturing the imagination of many.*

*I was in Davos last week and I lost count of the number of business leaders who raised this work with me. It was being very widely discussed — together with the initiatives on e-commerce and investment facilitation. In addition, many ministers raised this work during the Swiss-organised informal ministerial gathering on Friday.*

*There is great interest — and so I hope that you can use the momentum that you have today.*

*I want to support this work. And, as with any initiative from members, the Secretariat and I are at your disposal to help in any way we can.*

*Of course there are other elements of our work this year which may help to raise awareness of MSME issues.*

*For example, we will continue to engage with stakeholders through the Trade Dialogues programme that we support with the ICC and B20.*

*In addition, the Enabling e-commerce initiative that we support with the Electronic World Trade Platform and the World Economic Forum will provide a chance to discuss MSME issues as they connect to e-commerce.*

*And finally the WTO-ICC Small Business Champions programme will continue raising the profile of MSMEs — showcasing projects which provide them with practical support.*

*This initiative has sparked a lot of interest. We've already announced projects for MSMEs that are being delivered by Google and Mercado Libre. And there are more to come.*

*With all of this work in mind, I think that MSMEs are now at the heart of the trade debate — and that is where they belong.*

*So, congratulations, once again.*

*This work has come a long way in a very short space of time. Let's see how far it can go.*

*Thank you.*

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/spra\\_e/spra210\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spra_e/spra210_e.htm)

## ISO

### 1. A New Field of Technical Activity – Occupational Health and Safety Management

ISO has received a New Field of Technical Activity Proposal from the British National Standards Body (BSI) to **Form a new Technical Committee to maintain ISO 45001** (this standard has not yet been published).

The scope of the new committee is proposed to be *Standardization in the field of occupational health and safety management to enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its OH&S performance.*

Further work has been proposed for the committee as follows (in order of priority)

1. (Maintenance of) ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety management systems – requirements with guidance for use
2. ISO 45001 Handbook – Implementation guidance for small businesses
3. Guidance on the management of psychosocial risks in the workplace
4. OH&S management system performance indicators/reporting
5. Occupational health and safety management - Accident and incident investigation

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders for this proposal. For more information on the proposal, or to make a submission, please contact the relevant Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Catherine Dunkerley, [catherine.dunkerley@standards.org.au](mailto:catherine.dunkerley@standards.org.au) by Friday, 9 February 2018.

### 2. ISO Newsletter highlights water and sanitation for UN Decade of Action

Water connects every aspect of life. Today, one in ten people lack access to safe water and about 2.3 billion people live without adequate sanitation, with disastrous social and economic consequences. Yet access to water and sanitation can turn problems into potential, unlocking education, work opportunities and improved health for all.

ISO has just released its January/February 2018 issue of the ISO Newsletter, *ISOfocus*. Coinciding with the start of the United Nations International Decade for Action – “Water for Sustainable Development” (2018-2028), it aims to raise awareness of the critical state of water resources around the world and inspire more action to tackle it.

This *ISOfocus* issue provides updates on developments in the water sector and is a vital source of up-to-date information about the water and wastewater industry. With its focus on driving performance in urban water services for rapidly growing cities, it undoubtedly speaks to the most pressing issue of our time.

ISO President John Walter writes in his introductory remark: “As I embark on my new role as ISO President, I know that International Standards are an integral part of achieving every one of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 6 ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which we address directly in this issue of *ISOfocus*.”

The January/February 2018 issue shares the stories of the sector’s thought-leading and top-achieving researchers, activists and standards experts. It also looks at the latest and most innovative standards for water quality and its management worldwide. What we unpack in this issue is the contribution of ISO standards to solving many of today’s water-related challenges, including access to decent sanitation services, from toilets and sewage systems to solid waste management and safe disposal of human waste.

This edition of *ISOfocus* also features an exclusive interview with the Deputy Director on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at the Gates Foundation. Taking stock of the world’s sanitation crisis, Doulaye

Koné comments: “We take our flush toilets for granted, yet according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 800 000 people, many of them young children, die every year because of inadequate sanitation. This is tragic on its own, but the consequences are far-reaching.”

Doulaye, who is also the Chair of project committee ISO/PC 305, gives his views on the importance of ISO standards in the global marketplace and the benefits of the future ISO 30500 for non-sewered sanitation systems.

“The solutions available today are expensive, so we need economies of scale to bring down the costs. That’s also where International Standards can help by setting specifications for products that meet the needs of a large population.”

Find out how ISO standards can help solve the global water and sanitation crisis, and ensure better health for billions of people worldwide, by reading the latest *ISOfocus*.

### 3. John Walter begins term as new ISO President

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The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is pleased to announce that their Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Walter, began his two-year term as ISO President on January 1, 2018.

The appointment was announced at the 40<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly meeting held in Beijing, China in September 2017.

“I am delighted and honoured to have been elected to this important international role and look forward to promoting the value and importance of standards, particularly as they support innovation and international trade,” said Mr. Walter.

Since 2014, Mr. Walter has served as ISO Vice-President (Policy). In this position, he played a key role in overseeing governance and policy at ISO and provided a strong Canadian voice for standardization internationally.

“I congratulate Mr. Walter on his election to this international role,” said the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. “I have no doubt that his experience and knowledge of global standards will contribute to advancing quality and safety in this country and around the world.”

Mr Walter will continue to uphold his role as SCC’s CEO while he assumes the additional responsibility at ISO. He has served as President-elect in 2017 and will continue his two-year term until the end of 2019.

For more about Standards Council of Canada and John Walter, visit: <https://www.scc.ca/en/news-events/news/2016/scc-ceo-john-walter-elected-president-iso>

### 4. Fresh changes in the pipeline – Standards for water supply and wastewater systems

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Ageing wastewater systems are under threat from growing populations, urbanization, pollution and climate change, not to mention human behaviour. However, despite these challenges and fears for health and safety, the new ISO 24516 series is playing a key role in turning what many consider a burden into a valuable resource.

The alarm goes off and, as we roll out of bed, the daily routine kicks in – flush the toilet, take a shower, maybe run a bath, fill the kettle for the vital morning cuppa, perhaps turn on the washing machine and unload the dishwasher from the night before.

Most of us don't give any of this a second thought until a blockage or a faulty part means having to search for the plunger or call in a plumber. We certainly don't spend much time – in fact, probably none first thing in the morning – thinking about what happens to the water that is flushed into the sewage system or that drains away from the white goods in our kitchens. When we turn on the tap for the kettle, unless the water is a strange colour or smells, we take it for granted that the quality is good and it is safe to drink.

But what happens to this wastewater and other “waste” products such as the fat that we poured down the sink after last night's dinner? Last summer, the media reported on a massive block of fat, nicknamed the “fatberg”, that was found blocking a London sewer. *The Guardian* newspaper said it was the size of 11 double-decker buses and stretched the length of two football pitches. As well as fat and grease, it contained nappies and baby wipes that had been flushed down lavatories. This was indeed a monster, but similar fatbergs, although smaller, are found around the world in all wastewater transport systems.

### **Feeling the strain**

The fatberg example is just one of many horror stories emerging that indicate our wastewater systems are coming under increasing strain, not only from human behaviour but also pollution, extreme weather events such as flooding, intense agricultural practices, ageing sewers and the demands of a growing population worldwide. And, of course, plastics, among other non-disintegrating, non-biodegradable materials used in sanitary and other products, are often flushed after use because they tend to be used in bathrooms.

The facts and figures on plastic pollution are stark. According to a report, *Towards the Circular Economy: Accelerating the scale-up across global supply chains*, published by the World Economic Forum (in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company), in the United States, “plastic waste sent to landfill tripled to 11.3 million tonnes in 2008 from just 3.4 million tonnes in 1980, whereas total waste shrank by 16 % in the same period. Plastics and their applications have proliferated faster than recovery systems have adapted”.

It is little surprise, therefore, that Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations' roadmap to create a better world future by 2030, is: “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all”. Guidelines and standards on best practice, quality and safety in this field have never been more important and the ISO 24516 plays a key role in helping to meet these challenges. There are four parts to ISO 24516, with two standards already published on drinking water distribution networks and wastewater collection networks; and two under development on waterworks and wastewater treatment plants.

### **Need for good governance**

Bruno Tisserand, the Chair of ISO/TC 224, the technical committee relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems, applauds the fact that Goal 6 is pushing the problems into the front row. He says: “Innovations are key, but efficient operations are crucial and depend on good governance. I think that ISO can play a role to promote good practices in water services governance.”

He explains that the first three standards, published in 2007, were addressing the overall principles and good practices of water and wastewater service operations. “They were built for any kind of situation, either an existing high-level service or an area with no service at all.” The last published standards will help to “build an asset management strategy, as well as the necessary tools and decision-making process to keep the infrastructures efficient for the long term at the most affordable cost”.

As Research Program Director for Cities at Veolia, a multinational company that designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions, Tisserand is keenly aware of the pressures on wastewater systems from growing urbanization. Bigger cities, he says, are more sensitive to the two main



impacts of climate change: not enough water (water scarcity and droughts); and too much water (flooding). During 2017's hurricane season in the United States, for example, wastewater treatment centres in Florida and Texas were overwhelmed. After Hurricane Irma, Bloomberg reported that 500 000 gallons of wastewater flooded St Petersburg and Orlando, with another six million gallons flowing out to the coast of Key Biscayne.

Tisserand points out that more and more people are living close to the sea, often in regions where freshwater is scarce. "This is already an additional challenge in a lot of countries where the rising sea level is becoming a major problem," he says. "The saltwater intrusion in sewer pipes makes wastewater treatment more complicated."

Veolia takes an "open-innovation" approach to find solutions for such problems, for instance, by supporting start-ups in areas where water supply is limited. In Mexico, one such start-up is working on a technological solution to recover wasted water, generating benefits for the local municipality as well as Veolia.

### **Finding a solution**

Although advances have been made in many areas, especially in technological progress, many water services are struggling to cope with modern pressures. Duncan Ellison, former Executive Director of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association, and from ISO/TC 224, says there are two solutions: "Convincing manufacturers to identify only those products whose physical and chemical properties are similar to toilet paper in respect to the product's physical disintegration and biodegradation within wastewater transport and treatment systems; and convincing consumers, regardless of product labelling, that the only materials that should be flushed are the three Ps: toilet Paper, Pee and Poop."

He says that testing done by wastewater utilities has found that many products marked flushable do not disintegrate physically in the hydraulic and mechanical environments of wastewater transport systems and do not biodegrade in wastewater treatment environments. "Hence," he says, "they tend to accumulate in the transport system or pass through the treatment system to be discharged in the receiving bodies of water into which treated wastewater is discharged."

There is good news, however. Ellison says that ISO/TC 224's working group WG 12 is now seeking to establish the hydraulic, mechanical and environmental conditions to help guide manufacturers in designing products that will not contribute to clogging of screens and plugging of pumps, or to discharging non-biodegraded fibres into the aquatic environment. If this is successful, he says, "it will help eliminate, in the future, products being misidentified as being flushable". He adds that, on a more general basis, "all the ISO/TC 224 standards are tackling issues of water and wastewater services to improve their management and efficiency".

Africa is one region that has had to deal with the issues of a fast-growing population and rapid urbanization and their impact on wastewater systems. Sylvain Usher, Executive Director of the African Water Association, another active participant in ISO/TC 224, says one big challenge is the adaptation of new innovative technologies related to wastewater treatment that fit Africa's environment as well as the involvement of new private entrepreneurs in on-site sanitation systems management.

### **Raising awareness**

Another challenge, he says, is "raising awareness of financiers to understand that wastewater and faecal sludge can even be a financial resource". This last point is echoed in the World Water Development Report, published by the UN in March 2017, which says that wastewater from homes, industry and agriculture should be seen as a valuable resource to help meet the needs of a growing global population. Richard O'Connor, the report's Editor-in-Chief, says wastewater contains nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrates that can be turned into fertilizer. Moreover, treated sludge could be turned into biogas that could power wastewater treatment plants.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of all, though, is lifting what Usher calls the “psychological barriers” to wastewater recycling and reuse in Africa. In the meantime, he says, “we need a wider and in-depth development of engineering related to on-site sanitation. And ISO standards are helping in that way”, particularly in guidance to local authorities.

Tisserand, who is also President of EurEau, the organization that is the voice of Europe’s drinking water and wastewater service operators, sums up: “We all know we need to find a solution to provide both water and wastewater services at the same time if we don’t want to face major epidemical diseases like we had two centuries ago in Europe.” However, he is upbeat about the future: “We helped to describe what to do – and how to do it. Now, let’s do it!

Standards Australia is a Participating Member of ISO/TC 224 with National Mirror Committee WS-041 *Service Activities – water supply and wastewater systems*.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2260.html>

## 5. Cocoa fever – the food of the gods gets a quality check

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It is one of the world’s favourite ingredients, yet no two cocoa beans are the same. ISO’s International Standard for cocoa quality has recently been updated.

We all know that chocolate is good for heart and soul, but did you know that it all starts with the humble cocoa bean? Largely cultivated by some 14 million hard-working cocoa workers in countries around the equator, on typically smallholder farms, cocoa is difficult to grow and most farms experience low yields.

Yet with the developed world’s taste for the sweet stuff never ceasing to increase, ensuring that the quality of the cocoa bean is internationally agreed has never been more important.

ISO 2451, *Cocoa beans – Specification and quality requirements*, does just that, by specifying the requirements, classification, sampling, test methods, packing and marking of cocoa beans, with additional recommendations related to storage and disinfestation. It covers everything from size and colour, to moisture content, preparation and classification of the beans.

The new standard was developed by ISO’s technical committee for cocoa, ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, subcommittee SC 18, *Cocoa*, whose secretariat is jointly held by GSA, ISO’s member for Ghana, and NEN, ISO’s member for the Netherlands.

MacMillan Prentice, Co-Secretary of ISO/TC 34/SC 18, says ISO 2451 was updated to harmonize the language, requirements and grading of cocoa bean quality across the cocoa world and to reduce the amount of time and effort needed to effectively test for such quality. “*It was developed by a broad group of stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector and governments, with the objective that it will help to further facilitate international trade.*”

ISO/TC 34/SC 18, in cooperation with technical committee CEN/TC 415, *Sustainable and traceable cocoa*, of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), is also responsible for the development of the series ISO 34101, *Sustainable and traceable cocoa*, which consists of four parts on sustainability management systems, performance, traceability and certification schemes.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2255.html>

## IEC

### 1. IEC TS 63033 Drive Monitoring System enables drivers to see all around their vehicles

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The IEC is providing carmakers with a toolkit to fit new vehicles with video technology that could eliminate blind spots in a variety of different traffic situations. The new Technical Specification, IEC TS 63033-1, will enable drivers to see all around their vehicles, from different perspectives.

Blind spots are one of the top causes of road accidents. Research by the European Road Safety Observatory blames obstructions to vision for nearly one in five accidents at junctions.

Until now it has been difficult for drivers to process multiple fields of view quickly. The intelligent wrap-around view monitor described in IEC TS 63033, *Car multimedia systems and equipment – Drive monitoring system*, enables drivers to spot obstacles, even on blind junctions, dynamically and automatically.

The drive monitoring system uses “free eye point” technology to create a composite 360° image from external cameras. It ensures the correct positioning of a vehicle in relation to its surroundings by creating an optimal display based on input image from a rear-view monitor for parking assistance, a blind corner monitor and a bird’s-eye view monitor.

Leading international experts in IEC Technical Committee (TC) 100/Technical Area (TA) 17 for multimedia systems and equipment for cars developed IEC TS 63033-1 to help drivers achieve a better understanding of their immediate environment.

*"We believe that this important Technical Specification could play a significant part in reducing road accidents,"* said Junichi Yoshio, the Technical Area Manager leading the team that developed the Specification. *"IEC TS 63033 will enhance assistance of drive monitoring in a number of critical situations, including parking, turning corners and driving in heavy traffic."*

Part 1 of the TS provides the model for generating the surround image of the drive monitoring system. Part 2 describes the information sets that are provided by the drive monitoring system, which include recording methods for generating the actual visual images; and Part 3 specifies the measurement methods of surround images for the drive monitoring system.

#### **About IEC TC 100/TA 17**

The work of Technical Area 17 addresses aspects of audio, video and multimedia systems, and equipment used by car drivers and/or passengers. These include:

- Requirements for systems and equipment for infotainment of driving and event monitoring and recording, driving assistance and other multimedia applications in the car.
- Standardization to address the identified requirements.
- User interfaces, interfaces and networks, protocols, data formats, criteria, evaluation methods and control mechanisms for above systems and equipment.

Source: <http://www.iec.ch/newslog/2018/nr0118.htm>

### 2. IEC IEEE KATS Challenge - Future Challenges in Standardization

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The IEC-IEEE-KATS Challenge is open to members and heads of faculty, lecturers, post-graduate students, teaching and research staff and engineers from industry around the world to submit papers on "Future Challenges in Standardization".

Registration was open from 30th November, and it is requested that all interested participants register online at <http://iecieeekats.com>. Publications of maximum 4000 words must be submitted by March 31st, 2018, and an awards ceremony will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in October 2018.

Winning publications will reach over half a million members of the IEC, the IEEE and KATS organizations as well as selected media and may be submitted to peer-reviewed publications following the award ceremony.

This global competition offers awards totalling US\$53,000.

For details information about the competition, visit: <https://www.iecieeekats.com/>  
For questions, please email Robert McLaren, IEC Young Professionals Programme Coordinator at, [rml@iec.ch](mailto:rml@iec.ch)

### 3. New Delhi, India to host Smart Grid Week in March 2018

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India Smart Grid Week (ISGW) 2018 will be held in New Delhi, 5-9 March 2018. The India Smart Grid Forum boasts over 2000 participants, 50 utilities, over 200 speakers from 51 countries and more than 200 international delegates.

The week will be opened by Mr Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, and Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The five day event program includes an opening day of master classes and a cultural tour of the Taj Mahal, followed by three days of conference and exhibitions and a closing day of technical and cultural tours of Delhi.

Supported by large numbers of national and international organisations, this year's event is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual ISGW which brings together India's leading electricity, gas and water utilities, policy makers, regulators, investors and leading world experts in smart energy and research. The Forum is supported by the IEEE and will be attended by both IEEE and IEC representatives.

The ISGW invites delegates from around the world to learn about smart energy, smart cities, grid modernization, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence and more. To find out more about the event and register, visit the website online at: <http://www.isgw.in/>