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If you have any comments or suggestions related to the updates below, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au.

ISO/IEC Governance and Leadership

Australia holds positions on several key international governance groups, including ISO's Technical Management Board (TMB) and IEC's Standardization Management Board (SMB), Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) and Council Board (CB). These positions give Australia a voice on the policy, operational and strategic direction of ISO and IEC. Recent developments include:

1. [Guidance on Effective Virtual and Hybrid Meetings](#)

A Joint ISO/TMB and IEC/SMB Task Force has recently finalised guidance for all committees on effective virtual and hybrid meetings. This document will be circulated by ISO and IEC to all standards bodies, committee chairs, and working group convenors **by early October**. Standards Australia actively contributed to the development of this document, and we encourage you to share any questions or feedback related to the guidance with us at intsect@standards.org.au.

2. [Recap from ISO Week 2021: The Future Has Begun](#)

ISO Week was hosted by the British Standards Institution (BSI) as a virtual event with the theme of *The Future Has Begun*. The ISO Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO) met on 16-17 September to discuss topics like digitalisation, engaging with the next generation and the role of standards in supporting regulation. The General Assembly (GA), made up of all ISO members, met from 22-24 September. In addition to governance updates and election results, members discussed topics like innovation, diversity and inclusion, and climate and governance. The GA approved the London Declaration, outlining the ISO community's climate commitment in support of the Paris Agreement and the broader UN Sustainable Development Goals. ISO Council and TMB also met alongside the GA meetings. An update from the TMB sessions will be provided in October's update.

3. [Upcoming IEC General Meeting 2021](#)

Preparations are underway for the 2021 IEC General Meeting, which is being hosted by Dubai as a hybrid meeting from 2-8 October. The programme includes workshops and meetings of all governance groups, and will culminate in the Council Statutory Session, where National Committees will vote on the adoption of the revised IEC Statutes and Rules of Procedure developed as part of the recent IEC Governance Review. Australia will also participate remotely in the IEC Young Professionals workshop.

ISO Technical Update

1. [Small hydropower plants \(SHP plants\): New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal for a new field of technical activity and committee on *Small hydropower plants (SHP plants)* has been submitted by SAC (China). Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 5 November 2021**).

The proposal provides guidelines for Standardisation in the field of site selection planning, design (i.e. pre-feasibility study and feasibility study), construction and management for SHP plants development up to 30 MW.

The scope of the proposed new committee will include standardisation of:

- Professional technical terms and definitions commonly used for SHP plants
- Technical requirements, methodology and procedure relating to site selection planning of SHP plants
- Technical requirements for the design (i.e. pre-feasibility study and feasibility study) of SHP plants, mainly including hydrology, geology, energy calculations, project layout, hydraulics, electromechanical equipment selection, construction planning, project cost estimates, economic appraisal, social and environmental assessments
- Construction of SHP plants mainly including civil works, hydro mechanical structures and installation of electromechanical equipment
- Project acceptance, renovation, operation and maintenance of SHP plants

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

2. [Heat Supply Network \(HSN\): New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal for a new field of technical activity and committee on *Heat Supply Network (HSN)* has been submitted by SAC (China). Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 24 November 2021**).

The proposal provides guidelines for Standardisation in the field of HSN including design, construction, integration, control and regulation based on heating supply pipeline system.

The proposal excludes Standardisation of heat sources and space heating systems covered by ISO/TC 11 Boilers and pressure vessels – STANDBY, ISO/TC 86 Refrigeration and air-conditioning, ISO/TC 163 Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment, ISO/TC 205 Building environment design, ISO/TC 267 Facility management, ISO/TC 268 Sustainable cities and communities, ISO/TC 301 Energy management and energy savings, and IEC SyC Smart Cities, IEC SyC Smart Energy.

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

IEC Technical Update

1. [IEC efforts to curb e-waste](#)

The ubiquity of electric and electronic products has resulted in growing volumes of e-waste. According to the latest [Global E-waste Monitor](#), 53,6 million tonnes of electrical and electronic waste was generated in 2019. At current rates, a projected 74,7 million tonnes of e-waste will be reached by 2030.

The cost of e-waste is high for the environment. If not properly disposed, e-waste releases toxic substances that can seep into the air, water and soil. As notes Christophe Garnier, Chair of [IEC TC 111](#) which develops horizontal environmental standards for electrical and electronic products, “E-waste is a global topic affecting not only the countries using the electrical and electronic equipment that generates the waste, but also, and very importantly, those countries that collect e-waste for end-of-life treatment.”

In May, the IEC agreed to move forward with a new project that addresses e-waste. Led by Dworak, this proposed horizontal standard aims to facilitate the systematic, sustainable management of e-waste. Among its objectives, it seeks to reduce the amount of e-waste sent for disposal through reuse and recovery, prevent the inappropriate disposal of e-waste and restrict operators who do not comply with the standard or comparable requirements from receiving e-waste shipments.

Australia is currently a non-member of IEC/TC 111.

Read more [here](#).

2. [Standards make it easier to read and access e-books](#)

In our increasingly connected, mobile world, many people own multiple devices, such as mobile phones tablets and laptops, which have become the new means for reading newspapers and books.

Digital rights management (DRM) enables publishers to control the amount of copying, pasting and printing of their e-books to protect the copyright. Depending on the DRM, it's possible to read the same e-book on different devices.

In addition to consortia, standards development organizations also publish standards and guidelines for EPUB accessibility. For instance, IEC and ISO develop international standards in their joint technical committee (JTC 1) for information and communication technologies. This covers many areas, including document description and processing languages in SC 34 which has published ISO/IEC 23761, Digital publishing — EPUB accessibility — Conformance and discoverability requirements for EPUB publications.

Australia is a non-member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 34.

Read more [here](#).