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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. [The "New Normal" of Standards Development](#)

With virtual and hybrid meetings here to stay, TMB and SMB are committed to developing guidance for technical committees on the "new normal" of standards development. With new challenges like meeting time rotations impacting our contributors, this initiative is a key focus for Standards Australia. We will be participating on a joint SMB and TMB task force to progress this guidance in a coordinated approach and are holding a joint [ISO/IEC consultation session](#) to gather feedback from Australian contributors.

2. [Critical Minerals: New Area of Standardisation](#)

Standards Australia submitted a proposal for a new standardization area on critical minerals. As a result, an ISO Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) was established for a period of 12 months to undertake an analysis of existing and potential standardisation work in the area of critical minerals. The scope is from the point of initial extraction (mining and production of raw materials) and processing steps through to pre-cursor materials. A final report and recommendations will be delivered in June 2022.

3. [IEC Governance Review and New Strategic Plan](#)

The IEC is undergoing a review of its governance structures, with amendments to the IEC Statutes and Rules of Procedure expected to be voted on by IEC members at the General Meeting in October 2021. Kareen Riley-Takos, GM Operations of Standards Australia and SMB member, is participating on the Governance Review Task Force. Further, the IEC is beginning the process of developing its next Strategic Plan. Australian National Committee President, Ian Oppermann, is participating on the Strategic Plan Task Force via his membership of the IEC Council Board.

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

ISO Technical Update

1. [Opportunity to review ISO/IEC Guide 17:2016 Guide for writing standards taking into account the needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises](#)

ISO/IEC Guide 17, *Guide for writing standards taking into account the needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises*, is undergoing a systematic review to ensure it remains up to date. Standards Australia is seeking input from Australian stakeholders on whether the standard should be revised, reconfirmed, or withdrawn (feedback is requested **by 25 May 2021**).

ISO/IEC Guide 17 provides direction to writers of standards on the needs of micro, small and medium- sized enterprises (SMEs) to avoid the exclusion of SMEs from the market and the distortion of fair competition.

Standards Australia will consider all feedback received from stakeholders when forming Australia's position on the systematic review. If you are interested in providing feedback please send an email to intsect@standards.org.au for more information.

2. [Deoxidizers and desiccants: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Deoxidizers and desiccants 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 4 June 2021**).

The scope of the proposal is focused on Standardization in the field of deoxidizers and desiccants, including terminology, categories, specifications, control and management of production processes, and testing methods of the quality and safety indexes. Requirements of the outer package of products covered by ISO/TC122 is excluded from the proposal.

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

3. [Online Game Term: New Work Item Proposal](#)

A proposal for a new work item within the scope of an existing committee has been submitted to ISO. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 24 June 2021**).

This proposal specifies the definition of terms used in game research and development, operation, management, copyright, eSports, derivative production and sales.

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

IEC Technical Update

1. [Measuring 5G safety levels](#)

The latest generation of mobile network technology, 5G, opens up exciting new possibilities for a range of technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT) and augmented and virtual reality (AR and VR). It offers greater capacity, as well as much faster download speeds than 4G and 3G networks.

The technology is also very different. 5G uses a new beam steering technology that connects users through smaller, more directional radio signals from the base station, rather than a wider signal that is sent to all mobiles. 4G and 3G networks have antennas that send the radio signal out in all directions. It is a wide beam and a wide signal that is always there, whether you have one device or 1000 devices.

Australian TC 106 Chair Mike Wood recently joined IEC Young Professionals working in 5G and IoT for an [IEC Academy](#) webinar about global 5G EMF safety testing standards. It included live demonstrations of EMF measurement.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [IECEX has a new single logo](#)

[IECEX](#), the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, has a new single logo trademark design.

Approved by the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), the logo is available on the [IECEX website](#) in different sizes and formats, along with a user guide, and should now be implemented, where appropriate, online and in IECEX printed materials.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Standardizing Quantum Technologies](#)

A [Joint Symposium on Standards for Quantum Technologies](#) was organized at the end of March to bring together stakeholders from the major standards development organizations (SDOs) that are dealing both with quantum and other mainstream areas, which would be affected by commercial adoption of quantum technologies. It was important to have a structured discussion on where standards would be useful - if at all - in quantum.

Participants explored what form the possible standards would take and how we could work together to avoid some of the usual pitfalls when different SDOs diverge, for example by harmonizing quantum terminology. The meeting was extremely interesting and general audience feedback was excellent. We will therefore be organizing a follow-up joint symposium later in the year to continue the discussion.

One of our hopes is that we can pave the way for IEC, ISO, ITU and other SDOs to come together to collaborate on a roadmap for the standardization of quantum technologies.

Learn more [here](#).