

International Update

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**** For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au**

International

1. UN/CEFACT adopts three policy recommendations for trade facilitation

The OECD estimates that countries could reduce trade cost by about 5% only by simplifying trade documents, automating trade, and customs processes. The revision of two Recommendations and the adoption of a new one by the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) in April this year will offer countries around the globe with additional tools to attain this objective.

One of the very first templates replacing paper documents by a concise electronic message is the UN/Layout Key. The revision of the UNECE Recommendation No. 1, which contains this template, provides further guidance on electronic equivalences to paper documents.

National Single Windows (NSW) are key to trading stakeholders for the ease of inputting all regulatory or commercial information at a single point for export or import transaction. However, the question of how could the NSWs interact between each other remained. UNECE Recommendation no. 36 now offers guidance and models on the exchange of trade data for both public and private sector operators in different countries.

A few weeks after the entry into force of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation (TFA) Agreement on 22 February 2017, countries are looking at means to measure how far they are from acting on removing cumbersome government regulations and delays. UNECE Recommendation No. 42 now offers countries a tool to assess their progress in trade and transport related measures.

These decisions were made at the 23rd Plenary session of the UN/CEFACT (3-4 April in Geneva), which gathered delegations from more than 20 UN Member States to review the work carried out by UN/CEFACT over the last year and discuss future challenges. They could not be timelier. "In difficult times for international trade, trade facilitation is the only area where countries agree that we need to do more", said UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach opening the Plenary.

The approved recommendations and standards will contribute to the effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and regional initiatives such as the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, programs on data collection and analysis, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Several UNECE Recommendations support the implementation of the WTO's TFA. The creation/strengthening of "single window" is supported by recommendations 33 to 36, which relate to single window repository, data simplification and standardization for international trade, Single Window operability and linked regulatory frameworks. Support for strengthening of trade facilitation institutional mechanisms can be found in Recommendation 4 on National Trade Facilitation Bodies and Recommendations 40-42 which address Consultation Approaches, Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation and Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms.

In addition, several new projects of UN CEFACT contribute to achieving the SDGs as they relate to the sustainable management of fisheries, gender, environmentally sensitive commodities and endangered species.

The Plenary also approved the establishment of two groups of experts to assist UN/CEFACT with standardization activities. The "Advisory Group" on the UN Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE) will support the maintenance and further development of this standard. A "Team of Specialists" on sustainable fisheries will support the implementation of the Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) and other international standards for sustainably fishery management.

Source: <https://www.unece.org/?id=45648>

2. DG Azevêdo: Global trade challenges are best tackled through the multilateral system

WTO Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo, spoke recently at an event in Geneva organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on the 'future of the WTO and the role of the G20 economies'.

Director-General Azevêdo said that the WTO should seek to bolster global economic cooperation in order to leave a strong and well-functioning trading system for future generations. 'But it is also our responsibility to ensure that we do more to spread the benefits of trade... to create jobs and support growth and development.' The Director-General emphasised that 'the global trading system is at a critical juncture yet again' and 'we must ensure that trade is a solution to the myriad of problems that leaders are wrestling with today.' He proposed that the role of the G20 is critical in providing the required support for the international community and the future of the global trading system.

For the full speech please visit the WTO website:

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spra_e/spra167_e.htm

3. Two Recent APEC Publications on Supporting MSMEs Trade Facilitation through Standardization Activities

APEC has recently produced two publications on **Supporting MSMEs Trade Facilitation through Standardisation Activities** (CTI 13 2015A). They are now available on the APEC database for your interest.

1. Guide to support Quality Infrastructure Incorporation into MSMEs:
http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=1836
2. Workshop Report: Supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Trade facilitation through Standardisation Activities: http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=1835

4. Consumer products dominate discussions at WTO standards and regulations committee

A total of 57 regulations were raised by WTO members, many dealing with consumer products such as food, alcoholic beverages, toys and cars, when they met as the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee on 29-30 March 2017.

Certification and testing

Of the 57 specific trade concerns raised at the latest meeting of the TBT Committee, 34 related to conformity assessment procedures applied by WTO members. These procedures are used by regulators to ensure that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled, such as certification, testing and inspection.

According to the WTO's TBT Agreement, WTO members can assess conformity of products to ensure compliance with consumer safety, health and environmental requirements, but they need to do so in a way that does not unnecessarily restrict trade and without discriminating against other WTO members. Discussions of trade concerns in the Committee can help to avoid trade frictions escalating into disputes brought to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

In addition, members and observer organizations shared experiences on how they use conformity assessment procedures.

New specific trade concerns

WTO members raised nine new specific trade concerns (STCs) regarding labelling of food and alcoholic beverages, new energy vehicles, chemicals, cyber security, steel and IT equipment including; Brazil's exports of Maté to the European Union; Italy's labelling requirements for grains used to prepare pasta; Dominican Republic's requirements for importing steel rebar; EU requirements on radio equipment; Chinese law on cyber security.

TBT Committee work in 2016

During 2016, a total of 2,336 notifications related to standards and regulations were submitted by 79 WTO members — the highest number of notifications submitted in one year in the Committee's history. The majority of these notifications (76%) were submitted by developing countries and least developed countries. The Committee discussed 173 new and previously raised specific trade concerns. Among these, the Committee addressed its 500th specific trade concern, marking a milestone in the discussions about product regulations and standards.

The Committee held seven thematic sessions and launched a new stream of work on regulatory cooperation between WTO members, including discussions on energy efficiency and food labelling.

Thematic sessions

On 28 March, WTO members held "thematic sessions" on conformity assessment procedures as well as on good regulatory practices. These sessions, which are part of the Committee's 2016-2018 work plan, are a forum for members to exchange information and expertise on topics covered by the TBT Agreement.

The session on conformity assessment procedures featured presentations by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Standards Organization (ISO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). They stressed the importance of common international standards, guidelines and recommendations as the basis for conformity assessment procedures. They presented the role of conformity assessment in facilitating access to global markets while also acting as a risk assessment tool.

The ITC presented the results of a business survey on non-tariff measures and conformity assessment procedures, which showed that certification and testing were some of the main barriers facing exporters worldwide. The EU and Canada presented the bilateral protocol on the mutual acceptance of conformity assessment which is part of the Canada EU Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). Australia's presentation explored whether existing global conformity assessment systems were fit for purpose, given that conformity assessment activity has increased due to the complexity of global value chains.

The session on good regulatory practices featured presentations by Philippines, Canada, Korea and the EU. The presentations addressed various aspects of good regulatory practices such as a holistic government approach to ensuring the quality of regulations, and regulatory impact assessment. Korea shared information on its efforts to review and rationalize technical regulations in force. The EU and Canada presented their policy frameworks for implementing good regulatory practice: the EU Better Regulation Agenda and Canada's Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management. The Philippines outlined various national and regional initiatives (APEC and ASEAN) on good regulatory practice, and suggested that a capacity building facility be established in the TBT area that could help institutionalize good regulatory practice in developing countries.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/tbt_29mar17_e.htm

1. ISO Central Secretariat announces new Secretary-General

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is happy to announce that it has appointed Mr Sergio Mujica as its new Secretary-General, effective from July 2017.

For the last seven years Mr Mujica has been the Deputy Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), prior to which he spent 15 years working for the Government of Chile with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and as the Director-General of the Chilean National Customs Authority.

A Chilean national, he has a law degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and a master's degree in International Law from the American University in Washington D.C.

"On behalf of the ISO family, I would like to congratulate Mr Sergio Mujica on his appointment as ISO Secretary-General and I look forward to working with him in the future," said ISO President Dr Zhang Xioagang.

Mr Mujica takes over from Mr Kevin McKinley, who has been Acting Secretary-General of ISO since August 2015, after spending 12 years as Deputy Secretary-General.

"Mr McKinley has been with ISO since 2003. I would like to thank him for his dedication to the organization and, in particular, his strong and steady leadership during his time as Acting Secretary-General. We wish him all the best for the future," said Dr Zhang.

"ISO is now in a strong position, and delivering on promises in its Strategy 2016-2020. I wish Mr Mujica every success in helping to achieve the organization's strategic goal of 'ISO standards used everywhere'," said Mr McKinley.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/Ref2176.html>

2. Growing the services industry with ISO standards – ISO Workshop

The Standards Council of Canada hosted a workshop on April 28, 2017 on 'Growing the services industry with ISO standards' to find what's next for ISO in the field of service standardization.

The service sector is increasingly being recognized as an economic growth engine and a key employer in many countries. Through the ISO strategy for service standardization, ISO and its members are focusing their efforts on promotion and development of standardization in this important sector.

The regional workshop brought together stakeholders to address the challenges, gaps and opportunities for standardization in the services sector, with a particular focus on conformity assessment issues. The event was interactive and driven by internal debate.

3. Release of the 2017 editions of the ISO/IEC Directives Parts 1 and Consolidated ISO Supplement

The 13th Edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, and the 8th Edition of the Consolidated ISO Supplement are now available in English (the French editions will follow, as soon as available). You can access the files in HTML, PDF, E-Pub, and Word formats. Links to the PDF documents are given below.

[ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1](#)

[ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Consolidated ISO Supplement](#)

These new editions are applicable as from 1 May 2017.

To see the exact changes since the last edition of the Directives Part 1 and Consolidated ISO Supplement, please refer to the version available in track changes below: [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Consolidated ISO Supplement \(Track changes\)](#)

For a summary of the most important changes, see also the [February 2016 edition of the TMB Communiqué](#)

For any questions, contact the TMB secretariat: tmb@iso.org.

4. Proposal for a new field of technical activity on 'Excellence in Service'

A new work item proposal on 'Excellence in Service' has been proposed by Germany. The German Institute of Standardisation has proposed that a new committee be formed with the title of 'Excellence in Service'. The scope of work proposed for the new committee is as follows:

This standardization project wants to develop documents on the guidance for the creation of outstanding customer experiences through the provision of excellent services to achieve customer delight. It does not focus on providing basic customer service which organizations should already have in place. These documents apply to all organizations delivering services, such as commercial organizations, public services and not-for-profit organizations.

The initial work programme proposed consists of:

1. Basic Standard
2. Standard for the design of services and customer experience
3. Standard for measurement and evaluation
4. Standard for implementation and transformation

The committee would address topics of customer experience, excellent services and the role of services in globalisation. Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders for this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact Karen Batt, karen.batt@standards.org.au by Friday 14 July, 2017.

5. Moving ahead with ISO 45001 for safety and health at work

Today is World Day for Safety and Health at Work and the ideal time to consider a new International Standard due out early next year – ISO 45001 – ISO's first standard for occupational health and safety management systems.

Latest estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO) show that more than 6 300 people die each day (that's over 2.3 million a year) as a result of work-related activities, and in total over 300 million accidents occur on the job annually. The burden to employers and employees alike is immense, resulting in losses to the wider economy from early retirements, staff absence and rising insurance premiums.

The ILO's awareness-raising campaign, held annually on 28 April, is intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.

How ISO 45001 can help

This new voluntary standard currently under development will help organizations around the world improve their health and safety performance by creating a secure work environment where injuries and illness are prevented and lives are saved.

ISO 45001, Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use, will provide the requirements for implementing a management system and framework that reduces the risk of harm and ill health to employees.

The standard is being developed by a committee of occupational health and safety experts and will follow in the footsteps of ISO's other management systems approaches, such as ISO 14001 (environment) and ISO 9001 (quality). It will take into account other International Standards in this area including OHSAS 18001, the International Labour Organization's ILO-OSH Guidelines, various national standards and the ILO's international labour standards and conventions.

Who is it for?

ISO 45001 is intended for use by any organization, regardless of its size or the nature of its work, and can be integrated into other health and safety programmes such as worker wellness and well-being.

When will it be available?

The second Draft International Standard (DIS) of ISO 45001 will be published on 19 May 2017 and the ballot period will end 13 July 2017. This voting stage enables ISO members involved in its development to vote on the current draft before moving closer to publication (expected February 2018). Anyone interested in commenting on the second draft can do so through their national ISO member.

For further information on ISO 45001 and what stage it has reached in its development, see our page on occupational health and safety.

Source: <https://www.iso.org/news/Ref2180.html>

6. The 39th COPOLCO Plenary Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in May

The 39th COPOLCO plenary and related events took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15-18 May at the kind invitation of DSM and the Malaysian Association of Standards Users. The annual workshop was dedicated to the theme *Road Safety by Design*.

According to the World Health Organization, over 3000 people die on the world's roads every day. Millions more are injured or disabled annually. The United Nations Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 calls for halving road deaths by 2020. Road safety and safe mobility are addressed in Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 11 respectively.

By hosting this event in Kuala Lumpur this year COPOLCO hope to create a sense of urgency to address this global problem. International experts shared the current tools and solutions available to reduce loss of lives and contribute to improving the quality of life for millions of people.

The topics, themes and discussions were carefully selected and planned to compel various stakeholders to participate. Industry and regulators were particularly welcomed to encourage the implementation of relevant standards and regulations to address this important issue. Technologies like ESC (electronic stability control), speed management and collision avoidance should be installed by default in all types of road vehicles. Standards for recalls and corrective actions of unsafe vehicles should be thoroughly implemented and roads designed with the needs of people and efficient mobility in mind.

The COPOLCO meetings were successful and well represented by the Australian delegation. Visit: <https://www.iso.org/copolco.html> for any further information on the ISO's Committee on Consumer Policy.

7. Update on ISO Meetings being held in the USA

ANSI, the U.S. member of ISO, continues to monitor developments on U.S. Government Executive Orders regarding entry to the U.S. for certain nationals.

Currently, an Executive Order has been issued that imposes a "temporary pause" on the entry of nationals into the U.S. from six countries - Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya and Yemen - subject to categorical exceptions and case-by-case waivers. However, these travel restrictions have been blocked by two U.S. Courts and are currently not in effect. It is not known how long these restrictions will be blocked.

ANSI advises that individuals from these six countries who are intending to travel to the United States to attend ISO meetings seek appropriate guidance from an immigration attorney as well as from their national governments and national standard organizations before traveling.

For more details, contact ANSI via their website:
https://www.ansi.org/contact_us/contact_us?menuid=14

If you have questions for ISO CS, please contact Pamela Tarif, head of membership at: tarif@iso.org

IEC

1. Low Voltage Direct Current Conference Sustainable Electricity Access – Kenya

The IEC are hosting an open international conference in Nairobi, Kenya 22-23 May to discuss the potential opportunities that low voltage direct current (LVDC) can bring to the 1.2 billion people in the world with no access to electricity and the 2.7 billion people with limited access. The objectives of this conference are congruent with the United Nations Framework on Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 7, which addresses the issue, “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Stakeholders engaged or interested in electricity access and low voltage direct current (LVDC): Technical experts, government representatives, funding agencies, investors, insurance companies, power utilities, equipment manufacturers and NGOs.

WHY YOU NEED TO ATTEND?

LVDC is an important tool to expand real, reliable access to electricity. This is your opportunity to input your local needs and requirements; hear about economic opportunities linked to LVDC; contribute to the development of key performance and risk assessment indicators that will allow regulators and systems administrators to benchmark LVDC solutions from different vendors and fund and insure LVDC infrastructure.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

You will learn what is driving the development of LVDC and what it will take to safely and broadly roll-out this technology; the important role LVDC will play in universal energy access and economic development; use-cases from other countries.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.lvdconference.com/>

2. Expanded scope for Systems Committee on Active Assisted Living

To deal with Active Assisted Living (AAL) issues, the IEC has established a Systems Committee, IEC SyC AAL. This SyC has the role of promoting safety, security, privacy and cross-vendor interoperability in the use of AAL systems and services, and of fostering standardization which boosts their usability and accessibility. Its role and scope are constantly being expanded.

Working across domains

The IEC Systems Committee (SyC) concept covers different domains rather than a single one. The SyC AAL, for instance, brings together a multitude of technology experts from different areas, such as medical devices, consumer electronics, Internet of Things, computer systems and networks. These experts, who may come from a number of IEC Technical Committees (TCs), from other standards development organizations (SDOs) and from industry consortia such as Continua and other organizations like AALiance 2, work to address transversal standardization and broader system-wide issues.

Users come first!

IEC SyC AAL has been established to address concepts, products, services and systems combining technologies and social environment with the aim of improving the quality of AAL users' lives. The AAL user is any person, of any age, who uses and/or benefits from AAL devices, systems or services.

The multiplicity of AAL technologies that the industry is developing, the large number of standards on the market today and the currently fragmented standardization landscape are challenges for the IEC in developing international and interoperable standards from which the AAL user can benefit.

The objective is that AAL users should, to the greatest extent possible, live a meaningful, active and independent life, be fit and in good health and be socially connected.

Set to deal with emerging trends

The systems approach is being used to address AAL issues because they cut across many fields of technology.

To do this, IEC SyC AAL has set itself the task of monitoring closely the following emerging trends:

- accessibility, user needs and user interface technologies
- Internet of Things and of People
- daily life autonomy and health support
- health informatics
- wearable smart devices
- disruptive technologies
- service robotics
- 5th generation Internet
- smart cities, including intelligent (smart) homes and smart office buildings
- security and personal data privacy
- Big Data and data analytics

Fast-growing AAL needs mean expanding role for SyC AAL

Increasingly, people of all ages are seeking wider and better access to technologies that allow them to live a more active and fulfilling life. These individuals may be elderly people who want to live independently and remain active longer, or those of any age who need to use or benefit from AAL devices, systems or services.

The proportion of elderly people in all societies is growing fast. In 2010, an estimated 524 million people were aged 65 or older, according to the US National Institute on Aging. By 2050, this number is expected to nearly triple, to about 1,5 billion.

Meanwhile, more and more individuals from other demographic groups are also seeking improved access to AAL products and services. The multitude of AAL technologies, products and services that can be used in the home and other environments, and the need to develop international and interoperable standards for these point to a very active agenda for the IEC SyC AAL in the future. The SyC AAL work is represented through four levels of assistance and five use case categories.

For More information please visit: <http://iecetech.org/issue/2017-03/Expanded-scope-for-SyC-AAL>

3. IEC Information Session at Standards Australia

Standards Australia is hosting an information event for IEC chairs, convenors, delegates, secretariats, and anyone who has an interest in the work of International Electrotechnical Commission.

Hear first-hand from IEC insiders on the answers to these questions and many more.

The event will commence at 1 pm with a light lunch, followed by an interactive session focusing on IEC technical committee work.

When/Where:

Friday 23 June 2017

Standards Australia

Level 10, 20 Bridge Street, Sydney

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Registration and lunch from 1:00 pm

RSVP

This is a complimentary event and places are limited.

To confirm your attendance, please register at <https://register.eventarc.com/38343/> by Monday 19 June.

Enquiries

Jonathan Avery

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(02) 9237 6185

4. New IEC TC Projects Dashboard

The IEC launched a new Standardization Project Management system in November 2016. By removing the dependencies on email exchange of documents, and by providing online access to current project status information, this system provides the IEC with greater levels of efficiency in the standards development process, as well as a solid foundation on top of which future innovative services will be delivered.

This new platform is intensively used by the Technical Department in IEC Central Office, as the backbone of the standards development process. As an example, in the International Standard development process, 195 individual steps are identified from the preliminary stage to the publication stage.

This new system also includes a Projects Dashboard, through which TC/SC/SyC Secretaries manage their projects. They can now submit working documents related to the standards development process using online submission forms. In this dashboard, there are several enhanced features such as:

- Clear indication of the expected actions and associated time limits;
- Identification of late projects for which an immediate action is required, by highlighting them in red;
- Each action has its own associated submission form, preventing issues with inappropriate form usage;
- Submission forms are prefilled with information retrieved from the database, thus saving time and avoiding typing errors;
- The system validates the data submitted, preventing inappropriate data entry;
- Online contextual help is available in the forms.

The launch of this new system was also used as an opportunity to revise and harmonize the layout of all cover pages. While IEC Central Office staff is fully using this new system, TCs/SCs/SyCs are brought online using a phased approach. Since November 2016, and as of 1st April 2017:

- 53 Secretaries out of 181 (29%) have been registered as 'early adopters' of the new system;
- 362 documents out of 1697 (21%) have been submitted by Secretaries via the Projects Dashboard.

The initial bugs have been resolved and some enhancements have already been carried out. A few issues still need to be addressed, particularly regarding specific projects which require a dedicated workflow. Once these issues are addressed, the full deployment of this tool to all TCs/SCs/SyCs will take place.

In a future phase, a fully integrated workflow will be developed for TC 1, and all types of documents would be submitted via the Projects Dashboard.

A full copy of the IEC SMB Newsletter is available at:

http://www.iec.ch/smbnewsletter/pdf/SMB_Newsletter_May2017.pdf?utm_source=IEC+Experts&utm_campaign=5a3323a6c1-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7460a40c79-5a3323a6c1-94061333](http://www.iec.ch/smbnewsletter/pdf/SMB_Newsletter_May2017.pdf?utm_source=IEC+Experts&utm_campaign=5a3323a6c1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7460a40c79-5a3323a6c1-94061333)