

[International and regional items of interest for October 2019 are as follows:](#)

1. Facilitators consult members on latest fisheries subsidies proposals [More>>](#)
2. WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services [More>>](#)
3. WTO lowers trade forecast as tensions unsettle global economy [More>>](#)

[ISO items of interest for October 2019 are as follows:](#)

1. Proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on surfaces with biocidal and antimicrobial properties [More>>](#)
2. Four trends will impact ISO's future strategy [More>>](#)

[IEC items of interest for October 2019 are as follows:](#)

1. IEC and Sustainable Development Goals [More>>](#)
2. Getting the packaging right: International Guide just updated [More>>](#)

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

International

1. [Facilitators consult members on latest fisheries subsidies proposals](#)

In an informal session of the Trade Negotiations Committee dedicated to fisheries subsidies, facilitators held consultations open to all WTO members on 10-11 October, as part of a week-long cluster of meetings to move the talks on fisheries subsidies forward. During the facilitator-led consultations, delegations reviewed three new submissions from members and also discussed prevailing issues ahead of the end-2019 target to conclude the negotiations.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services](#)

WTO services negotiators debated market access issues relating to environmental services based on a new communication tabled by Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Switzerland at an informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session held on 30 September 2019. The proposal highlights the role of environmental services in helping governments address climate change and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [WTO lowers trade forecast as tensions unsettle global economy](#)

Escalating trade tensions and a slowing global economy have led WTO economists to sharply downgrade their forecasts for trade growth in 2019 and 2020. World merchandise trade volumes are now expected to rise by only 1.2% in 2019, substantially slower than the 2.6% growth forecast in April. The projected increase in 2020 is now 2.7%, down from 3.0% previously. The economists caution that downside risks remain high and that the 2020 projection depends on a return to more normal trade relations.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on surfaces with biocidal and antimicrobial properties](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on 'surfaces with biocidal and antimicrobial properties' has been submitted by AFNOR, the National Standards Body of France. Australian

stakeholders are invited to share their view on the proposal with Standards Australia to help inform the Australian position.

This proposed committee would manage standardization of test methods used to assess the biocidal performance and efficacy of any surfaces with antimicrobial activities, including their compatibility with different families of disinfectants and cleaning agents.

Areas of interest include medical and veterinary applications, aerospace, agriculture, food hygiene and other industrial fields, institutional and domestic applications.

For more information about the proposal or to share your view, please email Mark Bowden, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, at mark.bowden@standards.org.au.

2. [Four trends will impact ISO's future strategy](#)

Economic and trade uncertainty, changing societal expectations, the impacts of climate change, and digital transformation were the main disruptive forces highlighted at ISO's General Assembly that will affect the organization moving forward.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [IEC and Sustainable Development Goals](#)

IEC International Standards and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems contribute to 16 of the 17 UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). They provide the foundation that allows all countries and industries to adopt or build sustainable technologies and apply best-practice, and they form the basis for innovation as well as quality and risk management. This [new brochure](#) provides a detailed overview of IEC work relating to SDGs.

2. [Getting the packaging right: International Guide just updated](#)

Packaging has come a very long way since its humble beginnings of gourds and clay pots. These days, the world of packaging is much more complex, needing to be safe and sustainable whilst appealing and functional. An International Guide has just been revised to help organizations ensure their packaging meets growing consumer needs.

ISO/IEC Guide 41, *Packaging – Recommendations for addressing consumer needs* provides guidance to product designers, manufacturers, regulators, and others involved in decision making regarding packaging – including standards developers.

Learn more [here](#).