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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. IEC General Meeting 2022

The Australian National Committee (AUNC) of IEC attended the 86th IEC General Meeting from 31 October to 4 November 2022 in San Francisco.

The IEC GM had a focus on the importance of standardisation for supporting global commerce and removing barriers to trade. Delegates also had the opportunity to learn more about the IEC Global Impact Fund, which launched earlier this year, and how it will help to solve specific environmental, social and governance challenges using international standards and conformity assessment.

One of the highlights of the 2022 IEC GM was an International Roundtable on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with speakers looking at how IEC Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems are helping to meet the SDGs and the role and responsibility of corporations in addressing the goals.

The AUNC was an active participant at the IEC GM with Dr Ian Oppermann, President of the AUNC, as one of the speakers at the Market Strategy Board (MSB) seminar on 'Harnessing the power of international standards for a fully digital world'. Also, Kareen Riley-Takos, General Manager of Operations at Standards Australia, moderated the International Roundtable of the UN SDGs and shared Australia's Learning and Development Strategy at the Academy and Capacity Building session. And Mike Wood, Chair of IEC/TC 106 led a workshop on 5G for the IEC Young Professionals.

The IEC General Meeting in 2023 will be hosted by the Egyptian National Committee in Sharm-el Sheik.

2. Australia continues its representation on the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB)

During the IEC General Meeting earlier this month, Clare Hobern, Senior Manager, International Engagement at Standards Australia, and Manager of the AUNC, was confirmed as one of the new elected members of the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB).

Clare Hobern's appointment is an opportunity to continue with Australia's representation at this key governance group as Kareen Riley-Takos', General Manager of Operations at Standards Australia, concludes her three-year term on the SMB in December 2022.

Ms Hobern will commence her three-year term in January 2023 alongside Mr Mike Wood, Chair of IEC/TC 106, and member of the AUNC, as an alternate.

Mr Domingo Ávila from Mexico and Ms Bettina Funk from Sweden have also been elected as members of the SMB for a three-year term of office.

3. New Chair for the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB)

Vimal Mahendru has been elected Chair of the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) for a three-year term, starting in 2023. He will also become an ex officio Vice-President of the IEC for the duration of his term.

Mr. Mahendru is taking over from Ralph Sporer, who has served two three-year terms. During Mr. Sporer's tenure, the SMB has focused on digital transformation and undertaken work with ISO to develop so-called SMART standards.

Mr. Mahendru says he will build on the achievements of Mr. Sporer's tenure. He has also committed to addressing emerging opportunities, strengthening existing partnerships and working to bring the global community together.

Vimal Mahendru is also the IEC special envoy for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Chair of the Systems Committee for Low Voltage Direct Current (SyC LVDC), as well as member of the IEC Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

Mr Mahendru is the recipient of the 2022 Lord Kelvin Award, the highest honour in the global electrotechnology industry, for his crucial role in standardization work aimed at extending electricity access to unserved rural areas.

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

ISO Technical Update

1. Proposal for Standard covering requirements for steel drums used for the transport of natural uranium ore chemical concentrates

The transportation of radioactive material working group of ISO/TC 85/SC 5 is currently considering a proposal to develop a standard for requirements for steel drums used for the transport of natural uranium ore chemical concentrates. After consultation with Australian stakeholders, Standards Australia lodged a negative vote on the initial proposal noting that the view of Australian stakeholders was that there was not a market need for such a Standard. The proposal none the less passed the necessary approvals and has gone onto its next stage, where it will be determined if the project is officially included on the subcommittee's work programme.

Standards Australia is consulting further with affected stakeholders in Australia as to whether they are in favour or against this proposal proceeding.

If you are interested in understanding more about this proposal, please contact intsect@standards.org.au **by 30 November 2022** to discuss further.

2. Management consultancy: New Field of Technical Activity

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on *Management consultancy* 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 13 December 2022**).

The proposed Technical Committee will benefit the development of the management consulting industry by:

- Providing a classification of management consulting
- Matching services providers and clients more effectively
- Helping clients define their own needs, and evaluate service quality and results
- Providing support from "advising" to "implementation"
- Shortening problem-solving periods
- Increasing productivity and ROI
- Providing innovation, global thinking, and professional competitiveness

The scope of the proposed new technical committee is standardisation in the field of management consultancy.

Excluded: Technical aspects already covered by ISO/TC 225 (Market, opinion and social research) and ISO/TC 260 (Human resource management).

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

3. Dust and dust storms: New Field of Technical Activity

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on *Dust and dust storms* has been submitted by INSO (Iran). Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 17 January 2023**).

The scope of the proposed new technical committee is Standardisation in the field of natural dust and dust storm on an urban scale and in industrial towns, excluded artificial/manufacture's dust.

Standardisation and development of international standards includes terminology, specifications, constituents and sizes of dust, features of dust storms and prevention of the creation of dust or reducing the risks of natural dust in the areas of Healthcare, safe water, agriculture, transportation etc.

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

4. Opportunity to review ISO 20245 Cross-border trade of second-hand goods

ISO 20245 Cross-border trade of second-hand goods, 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 7 February 2023**).

ISO 20245 establishes minimum screening criteria for second-hand goods that are traded, sold, offered for sale, donated or exchanged between countries. It is intended to help protect health, safety and the environment in which second-hand goods interact, when used by consumers.

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.

5. Non-sewered sanitation systems: Revision proposed

A proposal has been submitted by ANSI / ASN (US) for the revision of ISO 30500 *Non-sewered sanitation systems — Prefabricated integrated treatment units — General safety and performance requirements for design and testing*. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 27 January 2023**).

The purpose of this standard is to specify general safety and performance requirements for design and testing as well as sustainability considerations for non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS). A NSSS is a prefabricated integrated treatment unit, comprising frontend (toilet facility) and backend (treatment facility) components that

a) collect, convey, and fully treat the specific input within the system, to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid, liquid, and gaseous output, and

b) is not connected to a networked sewer or networked drainage system.

The standard contains criteria for the safety, functionality, usability, reliability, and maintainability of the system, as well as its compatibility with environmental protection goals.

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

IEC Technical Update

1. Oil and gas industry must become more sustainable too

Every industry on the planet is being impacted by climate change and pressured to move towards a more sustainable business model. The oil and gas sector is no exception.

The adoption by the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may have been the trigger that encouraged the oil and gas sector to put more efforts in transforming the industry and leading it towards greater sustainability.

Standardization work by IEC TC 31, Equipment for explosive atmospheres, and the IECEx, IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, provide a global comprehensive solution to address many of the risks found in Ex environments. Their work is ongoing, as new risks arise and as new solutions are found.

Together IEC TC 31 and IECEx can help advance the objectives of the oil and gas industry in meeting the SDGs. Fire- and explosion-proof equipment, a skilled and experienced workforce certainly contribute to a safer work environment and a safer environment.

Read more here.

2. The importance of accessible learning

Online learning tools are one of the ways of meeting SDG 4 and IEC Standards help to make them accessible.

Distance learning has the potential to provide a real lifeline to children in remote areas. Yet, according to a Brooking report, less than 25% of low-income countries provide remote learning opportunities and, of these, the majority are using TV and radio. Many children in remote areas have no access to computers or the internet at all. One way around this is through TV and radio, which have proven a useful vehicle for distance education, in Africa for instance.

IEC Technical Committee 100 prepares standards for video, audio and multimedia systems and equipment, including radio and TV. The IEC 60107 Standards specify requirements for broadcast television receivers.

Furthermore, 5G connectivity – with its ultra-low latency and high bandwidth characteristics - is enabling teachers to make use of mixed reality applications such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) across all areas of the education spectrum.

The joint subcommittee formed between the IEC and ISO, SC 24, standardizes interfaces for information technology-based applications relating to computer graphics and virtual reality.

Australia is an O-member of TC 100 and a P-member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 24.

Read more here.

3. The benefits of AI in combatting climate change

Artificial intelligence affects every industry and has revolutionized critical fields like medicine. For example, AI is used to observe the vital signs of patients receiving critical care and alert clinicians if certain risk factors increase.

Another area where AI has enabled scientists to make considerable progress is in the study and analysis of climate change.

AI can help to anticipate natural disasters and their impact. In addition to forecasting, the technology can show ways to adapt infrastructure to minimize the impact of natural disasters. It can also analyse historical data and predict future trends, allowing the building of early warning systems.

Additionally, AI could play an important role in making us aware of our carbon footprint. It can help to calculate the individual impact and make recommendations on how to improve it.

The IEC and ISO are working on standards to address these technologies through their joint committee, SC 42: Artificial Intelligence. A Technical Report has been put together to address the various use cases. These include how to forecast consumption in smart grids or home energy management systems.

Australia is a P-member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42.

Read more here.

4. Proposal for a new Project Committee (PC) on Performance of cold storage equipment for medical use

A proposal to establish a new Project Committee (PC) on Performance of cold storage equipment for medical use has been submitted by the Chinese NC. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position (feedback is requested **by 31 December 2022**).

The establishment of the Project Committee can contribute to the following:

1) Ensure the effectiveness and quality of bio-medical products such as reagents, solutions, vaccines, biological samples, and so on, to protect health of the public.

2) Reduce resource waste in the medical practice, to prevent economic loss and progress delay.

3) Incorporate energy-saving measures in high energy-consuming medical grade cold storage equipment and reduce CO_2 emissions.

The scope of the proposed new project committee is standardisation in the field of cold storage equipment for storing reagents, medicines, vaccines, biological specimen, etc in medical practice and medical research, including: terminology, classification; reliability; performance requirements, testing methods; in-service maintenance and monitoring, inspection; energy efficiency.

Note: Safety aspects could be addressed in joint efforts between the new PC, TC66 and other related committees.

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