

International and regional items of interest for July 2020 are as follows:

1. Trade falls steeply in first half of 2020
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2. Members discuss reflecting impact of COVID-19 in WTO-led Aid for Trade initiative
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ISO items of interest for July 2020 are as follows:

1. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Reference Materials
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2. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Laboratory Design
[More>>](#)
3. Australia's Active Role in Psychological Health and Safety Standard
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IEC items of interest for July 2020 are as follows:

1. Digital transformation in manufacturing and standardisation
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2. A new standard ensures city services continue should disaster strike
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* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [Trade falls steeply in first half of 2020](#)

World trade fell sharply in the first half of the year, as the COVID-19 pandemic upended the global economy. However, rapid government responses helped temper the contraction, and WTO economists now believe that while trade volumes will register a steep decline in 2020, they are unlikely to reach the worst-case scenario projected in April.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Members discuss reflecting impact of COVID-19 in WTO-led Aid for Trade initiative](#)

At a meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development on 7 July dedicated to Aid for Trade, WTO members agreed to discuss how to reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their future work. They also agreed to extend the current biennial Aid for Trade work programme into 2022 when the next Global Review will also be held.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Reference Materials](#)

ISO member bodies are invited to review and vote on a proposal for a new ISO Technical Committee on reference materials

This proposal centres on standardisation in the competent production and use of reference materials, including the concepts, terms and definitions related to reference materials.

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

2. [Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Laboratory Design](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on laboratory design has been submitted by China (SAC). ISO member bodies are invited to review and vote on the proposal.

This proposal focuses on standardisation in the field of laboratory design including site selection, design of internal layout of space and services with the objective to provide functional, safe, energy efficient and sustainable laboratories, whilst also taking into account environmental impact, the practical division of experimental and support areas and layouts plus model selection of laboratory furniture.

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

3. [Australia's Active Role in Psychological Health and Safety Standard](#)

Many are familiar with the occupational health and safety standard ISO 45001. This scope of work is soon to be expanded with the development underway of a new standard, ISO 45003, *Occupational health and safety management – Psychological health and safety in the workplace – Guidance*. Once published, ISO 45003 will provide guidelines on psychological health and safety at work, including managing psychosocial risks.

This international standard is soon to be in the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage of development, with publication forecast for 2021. The Australian mirror committee, SF-001, is ensuring that the Australian voice is heard and strongly represented throughout ISO 45003's development.

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

IEC

1. [Digital transformation in manufacturing and standardisation](#)

Global manufacturing has been greatly impacted from the breakout of the COVID 19 pandemic. Some manufacturers have even been confronted with a crisis of survival. The pandemic forced traditional manufacturing to change its developing vision from “passive transformation” to “active transformation”. Digital transformation is the benefit brought by new and emerging technologies, which will change the way we work and live – for the better.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [A new standard ensures city services continue should disaster strike](#)

The IEC has recently published IEC 63152 to serve as a best practice tool for city planners. Given the increased frequency of natural disasters and the destruction they cause, this standard proposes guidelines to sustain a variety of city services following a disruption.

Learn more [here](#).