

International and regional items of interest for May 2019 are as follows:

1. WTO Report sheds light on impact of digital technologies on global value chains [More>>](#)
2. International AI summit passes key resolutions [More>>](#)
3. 31st ASEAN-Australia Forum Co-Chairs' Statement [More>>](#)
4. Applications open for WTO Workshop on public health, global trade and intellectual property [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for May 2019 are as follows:

1. New International Standard for measuring the performance of cities going “smart” [More>>](#)
2. New standard helps SMEs get ahead with ISO 14001 [More>>](#)
3. Raising new ISO standards for saving the planet [More>>](#)
4. ISO solutions for a safe and healthy future at work [More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for May 2019 are as follows:

1. New technical committee ensures the safety of Personal e-Transporters [More>>](#)
2. Standards work critical to safe medical care [More>>](#)
3. IEC Young Professionals Programme: Applications Now Open [More>>](#)

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International

1. [WTO Report sheds light on impact of digital technologies on global value chains](#)

Global value chains (GVCs) have regained momentum in recent years, leading to the creation of new jobs and increased prosperity, especially in developing economies, according to a new report co-published by the WTO and five other institutions. New digital technologies, such as robotics and big data, are reshaping GVCs and creating new opportunities for the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises but policymakers will need to ensure the benefits are shared widely.

The report looks at the impact of GVCs on labour markets, finding that trade has not been a significant contributor to declines in manufacturing jobs in advanced economies and that it has enhanced employment and income in developing economies. It also points to job gains in the services sector in both developed and developing economies as production processes have evolved under GVCs. The report nevertheless recognizes that the structural changes in economies can vary considerably across regions and individuals with different skill levels, particularly in developed countries. It therefore highlights the need for governments to implement adjustment policies to make sure economic gains are spread more evenly.

The report examines the impact of technological progress on GVCs, finding that digital technologies can help to increase the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in GVCs by bridging distances and reducing trade costs.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [International AI summit passes key resolutions](#)

The digital transformation is fuelling the 4th industrial revolution and redefining how businesses and industries work. Transformative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data are enabling the transformation across industries.

The IEC and ISO joint technical committee on artificial intelligence, [\(ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42\)](#), was established in 2017, to develop international standards for areas including foundational AI standards, Big Data, AI trustworthiness, use cases, applications, governance implications of AI, computational approaches of AI, ethical and societal concerns.

During its recent 3rd plenary meeting in Dublin, first plenary in Europe, hosted by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), a number of projects were advanced and 28 resolutions were taken.

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

Learn more [here](#).

3. [31st ASEAN-Australia Forum Co-Chairs' Statement](#)

The 31st ASEAN-Australia Forum was held in Putrajaya on 2-3 May 2019, with the participation of representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Forum was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram bin Yaakob, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and Richard Maude, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia. Australia thanked Malaysia for its work as the new Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations for 2018-2021 and expressed its support for Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" in 2019.

Item 13 of the Co-Chairs statement highlighted the welcome progress on the [ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative](#), which will provide a framework to support the development adoption and use of international digital trade standards.

Learn more [here](#).

4. [Applications open for WTO Workshop on public health, global trade and intellectual property](#)

The WTO, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), will hold its 6th annual Workshop on Trade and Public Health in Geneva from 11 to 15 November 2019. The deadline to submit applications is 14 June 2019.

The workshop will take a holistic approach to the interlinkages between trade and public health, building on similar [workshops](#) and activities organized by the WTO Secretariat since 2005. The event will follow the approach developed in the WHO-WIPO-WTO trilateral study, "[Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections Between Public Health, Intellectual Property and Trade](#)".

The [programme](#) this year covers: public health determinants; the intellectual property system; pricing and procurement policies; competition policy and rules; tariffs, quotas and licensing; health services; and regulatory issues, including approval, quality control and effectiveness of medicines, the protection of clinical trial data under the Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement and health-related measures in the framework of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) committees.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [New International Standard for measuring the performance of cities going "smart"](#)

City living is on the rise, having gone from 751 million of the world's population in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018. What's more, it's expected to reach 6.7 billion in 2050. How can cities adapt and prepare to ensure they provide adequate resources and a sustainable future? They can't improve what they can't measure. The latest in the ISO series of standards for smart cities aims to help.

The ISO 37100 range of International Standards helps communities adopt strategies to become more sustainable and resilient. The newest in the series and just published, ISO 37122, *Sustainable cities and communities – Indicators for smart cities*, gives cities a set of indicators for measuring their performance across a number of areas, allowing them to draw comparative lessons from other cities around the world and find innovative solutions to the challenges they face.

Australia is an observer member of ISO/TC 268 *Sustainable cities and communities*.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [New standard helps SMEs get ahead with ISO 14001](#)

Implementing an environmental management system (EMS) based on ISO 14001 might seem like a big task, but that doesn't mean it is just for the bigger players in the market. Breaking it down into phases is the key. A newly revised guidance document just published helps businesses of all shapes and sizes put an EMS in place in the way that suits them – and reap the benefits every step of the way.

The environment is changing rapidly and businesses need to keep on top of what this means for them in order to survive – and thrive. An environmental management system (EMS) based on [ISO 14001](#) helps organizations effectively manage the risks and capitalize on the opportunities that our changing world brings. Implementing an EMS provides a number of benefits such as more efficient use of natural resources and energy, enhanced compliance with legal requirements and better relations with customers.

Improving environmental performance is made easier with formal systems in place. However, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often find EMS implementation difficult due to fewer staff and resources.

[ISO 14005](#), *Environmental management systems – Guidelines for a flexible approach to phased implementation*, provides SMEs with a means to overcome this by enabling them to meet the requirements of an EMS in a phased, flexible way that is adapted to their specific needs. It allows them to start benefitting from the very beginning while ultimately meeting the requirements of ISO 14001. The standard has just been revised to ensure it is up to date and continues to meet market needs.

Australia participates on the work of ISO/TC 207/SC 1 *Environment Management Systems*.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [Raising new ISO standards for saving the planet](#)

Floods, droughts, record-breaking temperatures – the evidence indicates that addressing climate change has become one of the world's most pressing issues, which is why the publication of two ISO standards will have a significant part to play in helping to reduce damaging greenhouse gases.

Tackling the effect of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on global warming and the subsequent impact on climate change is one of the defining, and intractable, challenges of our time. Despite concerted efforts, global warming remains above 1.5 °C and shows every sign of continuing to creep upwards.

Dealing with climate change requires coordinated action not only by nations around the world but also non-state actors such as cities as well as the private sector. This is where International Standards ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 can make a constructive input to finding a solution. ISO 14064-2 is used to quantify the amount of GHG emissions reductions or removal enhancements, while ISO 14064-3 serves to verify reports developed using 14064-2 and other project-level GHG quantification. The new ISO 14064-3 has been expanded to apply to product-level carbon footprint reports.

Australia is a participating member of ISO/TC 207/SC 7 *Greenhouse gas management and related activities*.

Learn more [here](#).

4. [ISO solutions for a safe and healthy future at work](#)

What does the future hold? This year on 28 April, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work draws attention to the future of work and reminds us of the importance of ISO solutions in combating work-related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

Health and safety at work likely isn't an issue that's top of mind on a daily basis. Yet, for millions of workers across the globe, their jobs can put them in some extremely high-risk environments where valuing safety can mean the difference between life and death.

To help organizations reduce work-related accidents, injuries and diseases, ISO developed the world's first International Standard for occupational health and safety

(OH&S). [ISO 45001](#), *Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use*, provides a framework to increase safety, reduce workplace risks and enhance health and well-being at work, enabling an organization to proactively improve its OH&S performance.

Australia is a participating member of ISO/TC 283 *Occupational health and safety management* and has published AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018, adopted identically from the international standard.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [New technical committee ensures the safety of Personal e-Transporters](#)

In nearly every city in the world, a new mode of transportation has emerged. Offering a convenient means for travelling short distances, electric scooters are increasingly popular with commuters.

They provide an innovative solution to travel distances considered too far to walk yet without requiring the hassle of public transportation or private vehicles. And, with the recent introduction of scooter sharing services, such as Bird and Lime, users can have an inexpensive and easy access to scooters.

But electric scooters are not without danger. According to the medical journal JAMA Network Open, more people were injured while riding standing electric scooters than by riding a bicycle or walking based on a study over a one-year period in two Los Angeles emergency departments. One e-scooter sharing service needed to recall certain scooters that malfunctioned and injured riders. And even more traumatic, the BBC reported that a passenger train in the Netherlands collided with an electric cart, used to transport school children, after the cart's brakes failed to function properly.

Given the increased prevalence of so-called personal e-transporters and their questionable safety record, the IEC has set up a new technical committee, [TC125](#), to provide standardization in the areas of safety and reliability, the protection against hazards, docking stations, recharging and recycling.

Australia is currently participating as an Observer member on this IEC Technical Committee.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Standards work critical to safe medical care](#)

International standards are critically important in the healthcare environment and cover a wide spectrum of devices, systems and domains. The IEC ensures they are kept up-to-date and improved when needed through the work of several TCs (technical committees), primarily [IEC TC 62 Electrical equipment in medical practice](#).

As electrical equipment and systems in medical practice use many components, TC 62 International Standards and those of its SCs also refer to and use international standards from many other IEC TCs and SCs. TC 62 is also a supplier to, other IEC and ISO (International Organization for Standardization) TCs.

Australia is currently participating as an observer member on IEC TC 62.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [IEC Young Professionals Programme: Applications Now Open](#)

Are you an emerging leader in the energy or electrotechnology industry? Do you want to represent Australia in international standards development?

The [IEC Young Professionals Programme 2019](#) is an opportunity for emerging leaders in electrotechnology to further develop their skills on an international stage.

In addition to the Standards Australia NEXTgen Contributors Program, we are also looking for applicants to participate in the IEC Young Professionals Programme. You can learn more about the program on the [IEC website](#).

The program includes an [Annual Workshop](#) which will be held in Shanghai, China on 21-23 October 2019, in parallel with the IEC 2019 General Meeting.

For further details and program dates please [see our website](#).