

International Update

International items of interest for May 2016 are as follows:

1. Leaders of National Standards Bodies in the region meet in Bali, Indonesia [More>>](#)
2. Strong support from APEC Ministers for the WTO [More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for May 2016 are as follows:

1. New Field of Technical Activity – Organizational Governance [More>>](#)
2. New Field of Technical Activity - Pharmaceutical preparation machinery [More>>](#)
3. New work item proposal – Chain of custody [More>>](#)
4. Social Media Guidelines for ISO and ISO/IEC committees [More>>](#)
5. Vape and vapour products make their debut in international standardization [More>>](#)
6. Comparing prices to get easier with new standard in development [More>>](#)
7. Workshop on 'Drip irrigation' [More>>](#)

IEC items of interest for May 2016 are as follows:

1. The IEC and the Sustainable Development Goals [More>>](#)
2. The revolution in medical wearables and implants driven by nanotechnology [More>>](#)
3. IEC adopts new standard for electronic access control systems [More>>](#)

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

International

1. Leaders of National Standards Bodies in the region meet in Bali, Indonesia

The 39th meeting of the Pacific Area Standards Conference (PASC) was hosted recently by Indonesia. PASC brings together national standards bodies from the Asia-Pacific region. Representatives from ISO, IEC, ITU and specialist regional bodies also attend.

Australia has trade agreements and growing economic ties with many of the PASC member countries. The PASC meeting is an important forum for addressing common standards and conformance challenges across the region and promoting standards harmonisation.

The PASC members were introduced to the new Director of the ISO Regional Office in Singapore, Alan Morrell. Australia has strongly advocated for ISO to adopt a regional engagement strategy and very much welcomes the appointment of Alan, who has a wealth of knowledge in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting also held a special session to gather feedback from the region for the next IEC MasterPlan.

The official PASC meeting was preceded by a workshop with the theme *How to engage Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in standardisation activities*. There were many interesting presentations on how standards and conformity assessment schemes can benefit MSMEs and ideas for promoting standardisation to MSMEs.

The PASC Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on final day with a focus on the PASC strategic plan and action items arising from the PASC 39 AGM.

The Australian delegation also made good use of the opportunity and met with a range of national standards bodies who also attended the PASC meeting.

2. Strong support from APEC Ministers for the WTO

At a meeting of APEC trade ministers in Arequipa, Peru (17-18 May), Director-General Roberto Azevêdo welcomed ministers' engagement and their determination that the WTO should keep delivering negotiated outcomes. During their session on 'supporting the multilateral trading system', APEC ministers recognized the significant outcomes agreed at the WTO's 2015 Ministerial Conference in Nairobi and expressed their desire to deliver further results in the years to come – including at the WTO's next Ministerial Conference (MC11), which will be held in 2017.

Minister Silva from Peru noted that "Ministers highly commend the meaningful outcomes achieved at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (MC10), held in Nairobi, Kenya. In this regard, they express their firm commitment to continue working towards strengthening a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO.

APEC ministers also gave their strong support for the implementation of Bali and Nairobi outcomes, including the entry into force as soon as possible of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement on which APEC has played a key role. It was noted in the statement that "the entry into force of the TFA by the end of 2016 would significantly contribute to the increase of global trade".

During the meeting ministers discussed how to deliver the remaining issues of the Doha Round and how other issues of common interest might be explored. Micro, small and medium enterprises, e-commerce and the relationship between trade and investment all featured in the discussion.

According to the statement, APEC trade ministers "further urge the WTO to continue its work in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth through various initiatives to increase the participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in regional and global markets".

ISO

1. New Field of Technical Activity – Organizational Governance

BSI, the national standards body in the United Kingdom, has submitted a formal proposal to ISO for a new field of technical activity on organizational governance. The scope of the proposal is the following: Standardization of organizational governance, including aspects of accountability, direction and control - which may include principles of governance, anti-bribery, conflict of interest, due diligence, whistleblowing, compliance, remuneration structures and external reporting, amongst others.

This proposal is for a new technical committee in the field of organizational governance. For the purposes of this proposal, governance may be defined as a "system by which the whole organization is directed, controlled and held accountable to achieve its core purpose over the long term". The portfolio of work would be applicable to all types and sizes of organizations, whether large or small, public or private, listed or unlisted, not-for-profit or for-profit, etc.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal with the aim to lead the ISO work if approved. For more information or to make a submission please contact jessica.curtis@standards.org.au by 15th July 2016.

2. New Field of Technical Activity - Pharmaceutical preparation machinery

China (SAC) submitted a formal proposal to ISO for a new field of technical activity on pharmaceutical preparation machinery. The scope of the proposal is the following: *Standardization of pharmaceutical preparation machinery, including terminology, classification, requirements and test methods.*

It is proposed that the new committee if formed will focus on developing standards on terms and definitions of preparation machinery, classification, requirements (including material requirements, cleaning and disinfection requirements, safety requirements and quality requirements) and test methods.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal with the aim to lead the ISO work if approved. For more information or to make a submission please contact Daniel.Chidgey@standards.org.au or Bronwyn.walker@standards.org.au by 15th July 2016.

3. New work item proposal – Chain of custody

NEN, the national standards body in the Netherlands, has submitted a formal proposal to ISO for a project committee to write a new Standard on Chain of Custody – Transparency and traceability – Generic requirements for supply chain actors. The overall scope of work is standardization in the field of chain of custody (CoC) terminology and requirements for all products with specified characteristics.

The objective is to increase transparency and facilitate market access, especially for smaller companies and developing countries. This standard differs from existing ISO initiatives by defining the requirements and traceability levels independently of sectors, raw materials, products, and issues addressed. It lays down a set of generic requirements to ensure that products with specified characteristics sold or shipped by a supply chain actor (SCA), can be physically and/or administratively connected to a corresponding amount of input material with the same specified characteristics. It does not intend to set requirements on the input or output material or limitations to specific product characteristics such as sustainability, safety or source. It does however provide guidance for describing characteristics.

The proliferation of traceability systems and definitions is causing unnecessary confusion, complexity, and costs for players in different supply chains. This results in a barrier to market access, especially for smaller companies and developing countries. The proposed generic Chain of Custody (CoC) standard allows modular use of various related, already-existing standards or internal systems. Being based on

currently available best-practices, the standard will define supply chain models and the respective traceability levels. It allows organisations to better address the increasing market demand for transparency and simplifies market access by using a uniform language and criteria throughout the supply chain.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal with the aim to lead the ISO work if approved. For more information or to make a submission please contact varant.meguerditchian@standards.org.au by 8th July 2016.

4. Social Media Guidelines for ISO and ISO/IEC committees

Social media provides a valuable opportunity to reach out, engage and connect with people. ISO and IEC's guidelines aim to empower and help those involved in standardization in their journey with Twitter, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, blogs, discussion forums and other similar tools. These guidelines have recently been updated.

The major changes introduced to the new edition include:

- The addition of a new section "What can you share" which gives more detailed guidelines about what committees can say about their ISO work
- New profile photos to be used in committee social media accounts

The guidelines can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.iso.org/sites/bin/iso_social-media_guidelines.pdf

5. Vape and vapour products make their debut in international standardization

Vape and vapour products represent a technical and economic novelty. The electronic cigarette devices and their consumables called e-liquids are recognized as a genuinely disruptive innovation, having reached mass markets in many countries in just a few years. The use of electronic cigarettes has rapidly become popular around the world, especially in North America and Europe.

The vaping industry is at the heart of a new economic sector that spans the manufacturing, production and retailing of both devices and e-liquids. A new field of technical activity dedicated to vape and vapour products aims to address the emerging standardization needs in that sector. To this end, a new ISO subcommittee, ISO/TC 126, Tobacco and tobacco products, SC 3, Vape and vapour products, has been created and will hold its first meeting in the week of 24 October 2016 in Osaka, Japan.

Australia is not currently participating on this new subcommittee.

6. Comparing prices to get easier with new standard in development

Consumers are increasingly using price as a factor when making purchase decisions. But with an explosion in product choices – a survey of an Australian supermarket, for example, showed it had 55 000 items – as well as greater variations in product sizes and packaging, comparing similar products based on price is a complicated, time-consuming task.

Unit pricing is a simple solution that allows consumers to quickly assess the value of products when compared with similar ones packaged in a different manner. Research has shown that, where it exists, consumers are likely to use it in making their choices, but it is not always widespread and laws and units vary widely around the world.

It is for this reason that ISO experts have recently come together to form a committee aimed at developing a standard to make unit pricing work effectively.

ISO project committee ISO/PC 294, Guidance on unit pricing, led by Australia, has now started work on an International Standard that will establish guidelines and principles of unit pricing such as visibility, accuracy, consistency and uniformity.

Committee Chair John Furbank explained that the new standard will make comparing products easier for consumers and give retailers a competitive edge.

“The standard will provide the potential to save consumers millions of dollars worldwide, and benefit retailers by adding to customer satisfaction and thus loyalty.”

The standard is likely to be published sometime in late 2017.

7. Workshop on ‘Drip irrigation’

ISO will hold an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) meeting on Drip irrigation in August 2016 in Sweden.

The benefits of drip irrigation are increasingly acknowledged and can be used to meet worldwide challenges such as population growth, water scarcity, food security and rising prices, land degradation and the changing environment.

In response to limited water, land and energy resources available today, drip irrigation can save large amounts of water (in some cases over 50% of water can be saved with the use of drip irrigation), and increase yields. It also requires less labour and energy for operation.

This ISO international workshop is to be held in Stockholm, in parallel to the World Water Week, at the premises of SSI – the Swedish Standards Institute. It is planned to take 2 ½ days between August 31 and September 2, 2016, by the end of which, a basic consensus in the subject of drip irrigation can be reached and published as an ISO International Workshop Agreement.

For more information please contact either daniel.chidgey@standards.org.au or tim.wheeler@standards.org.au

[An IWA is an ISO document produced through workshop meeting(s) and not through the technical committee process. Any interested party can propose an IWA and can participate in developing one. An ISO member body will be assigned to organize and run the workshop meeting(s) resulting in the IWA. Market players and other stakeholders directly participate in IWA and do not have to go through a national delegation. An IWA can be produced on any subject.]

1. The IEC and the Sustainable Development Goals

Energy, and especially electricity, is the golden thread that impacts most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond that, the development of every nation and economy.

The United Nations has recognized Energy as a cornerstone for economic development, facilitating poverty and hunger reduction efforts, improving education, women's empowerment and healthcare.

The work of the IEC directly impacts 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The IEC provides the technical foundation for the whole energy chain and all equipment that is driven by electricity.

IEC has developed a brochure which provides a summary, goal-by-goal, of how IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems are making a difference.

The brochure can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.iec.ch/about/brochures/pdf/about_iec/iec_and_sdgs_lr_en.pdf

2. The revolution in medical wearables and implants driven by nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is revolutionizing the way medical conditions are monitored, diagnosed and treated.

Various revolutionary devices made possible through nanotechnology are being developed or are already in use. For example medical contact lenses which proactively monitor the blood glucose levels of your tears and transfer that information to a doctor's mobile device, or an intelligent management system for asthma, lower back issues or a smart health patch which keeps tabs on a patient's vitals.

Nanotechnology involves manipulating materials on an atomic or molecular scale, especially to build microscopic devices, such as medical wearables, which can be worn on or in the body. The diverse parts comprising this technology include microchips, biosensors, special coatings for tiny devices and very small scale batteries. Medical wearables are increasingly smart. Gathered information can be conveyed for external analysis. The aim is to provide patients with tailored treatments if required.

A report by research company MarketsandMarkets entitled Nanotechnology in Medical Devices Market shows great potential. It states that the global nanotechnology for medical devices was valued at around USD 5 billion in 2014 and is expected to reach USD 8.5 billion by 2019.

Like any new industry, and even more so for health-related products, manufacturers of such wearables will need to ensure users that their products are safe, reliable and function correctly. The work of a number of IEC Technical Committees (TCs) contributes to achieving this, while enabling the industry to evolve and innovate.

The safety of patients using medical devices (internal/external wearables) is paramount, whether the devices are powered by battery or the mains. Several IEC TCs prepare International Standards for the different parts that make up these devices.

- IEC TC 62: Electrical equipment in medical practice, covers electrical equipment, electrical systems and software used in healthcare and their effects on patients, operators, other persons and the environment.
- IEC TC 113: Nanotechnology standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems, comprises the terminology, measurement and characterization and performance assessment of substances, such as luminescent nanoparticles, used for diagnosing diseases or certain coatings for implanted devices, as well as new materials for nano-enabled batteries.

It is currently working on specific tests for graphene, a highly versatile substance, which could eventually be used for a wide variety of applications, including electronics thanks to its

remarkable properties. In the case of medical wearables, it could be used for thin, flexible electrodes. The TC is drawing on its global expertise to find out how to measure conductivity, for example, between two electrodes on a graphene layer.

Australia is an active participant on the work of the committee on nanotechnology, IEC/TC 113 and observes the work of the committee on electrical equipment in medical practice, IEC/TC 62.

3. IEC adopts new standard for electronic access control systems

ONVIF announced in late April that its newest access control specification has been adopted by the IEC as its new standard for electronic access control systems, positioning the ONVIF specification as the global access control standard in countries, projects and industries all over the world.

“The IEC’s adoption of the ONVIF specification for access control is a real validation of ONVIF’s strength and scope,” said Per Björkdahl, ONVIF Steering Committee Chair. “It also reflects multi-industry, multi-discipline collaboration for increased interoperability, whose importance is growing every day.”

The IEC 60839-11 System and components requirements standard for Alarm and Electronic Security Systems will adopt the specification that ONVIF developed for Access Control monitoring, based on web services. Slated for release in late April, IEC 60839-11 specifies minimum functionality, performance and testing methods for electronic access control systems and components used for physical access. The standard applies to electronic access control systems and components that are used in security applications for the granting of access and includes requirements for logging, identification and control of information.

Australia is an active participant on the work of the committee developing these standards, IEC/TC 79.