

International Update

International items of interest for June & July 2016 are as follows:

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ISO items of interest for June & July 2016 are as follows:

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IEC items of interest for June & July 2016 are as follows:

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International

1. WTO working paper on standards and regulations

The WTO TBT Agreement obliges governments to use international standards as a basis for regulation, yet leaves a degree of flexibility with respect to the choice of standard, and the manner of its use.

This interplay between obligation and flexibility has given rise to tension in various fora of the WTO, including in committee work, negotiations and dispute settlement. This paper brings together these three distinct strands of WTO work to illustrate core aspects of the international standards debate at the WTO.

The WTO working paper briefly outlines the nature of the discipline in the TBT Agreement itself. Next, it describes where and how the discussion arises in the WTO. And, finally, it explores some implications of governance of international standard setting. The paper proposes that greater regulatory alignment could be achieved through a renewed focus on the procedures of setting international standards (the how), and greater emphasis on robust technical/scientific underpinnings of such standards (the what).

The paper is available at: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/ersd201306_e.pdf

2. Standards can help promote trade in energy efficient products

At the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee meeting on 14-16 June 2016, WTO members discussed how complying with standards can promote trade in energy efficient products and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, they acknowledged the need for increased global cooperation on regulations for energy efficiency.

WTO members discussed their regulations for energy efficient products, which are imposed to save energy and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These standards — covering products such as household appliances, TVs and cars — set out minimum energy performance standards, provide ways of testing for energy efficiency performance, and regulate energy management systems.

Members heard presentations from the private sector, and from international and regional organisations. Regulators shared their experiences concerning national schemes, including Japan's "Top-Runner" Program and the United States' Energy Star Program.

One key point emphasised by WTO members was the need to harmonise national requirements with international standards whenever possible, as companies may find it difficult to export their products if required to comply with multiple standards to achieve an 'energy efficient' label. They underlined that aligning standards and regulations helps lower the cost of energy efficient products, making them more attractive for consumers and saving energy. It was also acknowledged that there is scope to make the energy labelling schemes less confusing.

Members also aired trade concerns about 56 trade measures, (including ten new ones), on areas ranging from food, medicines and cosmetics to toys, telecoms and tyres.

3. Standards Australia leads APEC project on the silver economy

The reality of an increasing ageing population is placing an additional burden on APEC member economies' domestic infrastructure and will lead to significant impacts for regional economic development in the future.

In order to prepare APEC Member Economies for this multifaceted societal challenge, an APEC SCSC and PASC sponsored project will:

- Examine how standards and innovation can support APEC's silver economy;

- Generate a dialogue to share information, know-how and experiences to deepen regional collaboration to address the challenges member economies face; and
- Deliver a Silver Economy Standards and Innovation Framework to assist APEC in coordinating efforts to identify and capitalise on the increasing demand for innovative products and services to support our ageing populations.

Standards Australia is leading this project over the next year with support from other APEC economies, with a project steering group commencing in coming weeks.

For more information please contact damian.fisher@standards.org.au by 29th July 2016.

ISO

1. New Work Item Proposal – Prams and strollers

France (AFNOR , the national standards body in France), has submitted a New Work Item Proposal to ISO on wheeled child conveyances. The scope of the proposal is the following:
Standardization deliverable in the field of wheeled child conveyances designed for the carriage of one or more children. It covers safety requirements and test methods.

This proposal is to initially form a project committee but there is an opportunity for stakeholders to consider the expansion of the scope of the committee to a full ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC) on 'Child care articles'.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact alison.scotland@standards.org.au by 16th September 2016.

2. New Field of Technical Activity – Remanufacturing technology

China (SAC the national standards body of China) has submitted a formal proposal to ISO for a new field of technical activity on remanufacturing technology. The scope of the proposal is the following:
Standardization and coordination of remanufacturing technology, including remanufacturing terminology standards and generic technology standards for remanufacturing processes, such as dismantling, cleaning, inspection, coating preparation, forming processing and assembly.

It is proposed that the new committee, if formed, will focus on developing standards on terminology, guides of technology, labeling for remanufacturing products, general technical requirements and general technical specification for remanufacturing products. It will also develop standards on dismantling, cleaning, inspection, coating preparation, machining and assembly for remanufacturing technology.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact Daniel.Chidgey@standards.org.au by 16th September 2016.

3. Global services: ISO standards as solutions

The power and potential of standards in the services sector was the theme of a new global ISO campaign that took place from 13-17 June to raise awareness of the importance of standards for driving economic growth and improving the quality of services.

Services are the largest component of most economies, according to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the demand for standards to ensure a high level of service is increasing accordingly. A service can be defined as an activity taking place between a supplier and a customer that is generally intangible (for example, tourism, finance, utilities, etc.). Services are a growing force in the world economy. According to US sources, the sector was responsible for 90% of all jobs created in 2015 and is projected to account for about 79 % of total employment by 2018.

ISO's workshop held in mid-June on "Global services: ISO standards as solutions", brought together experts from standardization bodies, consumer organizations, international trade organizations and representatives in the services sector to share best practices, expectations and experiences. 150 experts from nearly 50 countries attended the workshop.

Services are becoming drivers of economic growth, but their rapid expansion carries many risks – lack of control, consumer exploitation, opacity, poor quality, inefficiency, questionable business practices and other obstacles to good service provision. This is why International Standards are needed. They ensure confidence while reducing heavy and costly regulation that could hamper growth.

More information is available at: <http://www.iso.org/sites/servicestandards>

4. Highlights from the June Technical Management Board (TMB) Meeting

The ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) met in February 2016. Highlights from the meeting included:

1. **2016-2017 focus on improving project management** - A key goal for the TMB is to improve standards development performance in terms of timeliness of standards development, and quality of the deliverables produced. The joint ISO/IEC workshop on project management organized in April 2016 was a first step in trying to identify challenges and brainstorm solutions in order to improve project management in ISO and the IEC.
2. A new improved process, which aims to better involve the TCs concerned, has been put in place for developing **ISO handbooks** and will be applied to all future handbook proposals as well as those currently under development.
3. Positive feedback was received from the **remote participation pilot** so the TMB has decided to allow remote participation for all ISO meetings and ISO committees, in order to encourage broader participation in standards development. ISO is now preparing guidelines for remote participation which will be allowed, provided that:
 - a. The committee secretary checks with the host prior to meeting,
 - b. The host agrees and can provide the necessary technology and support,
 - c. The same registration and accreditation rules apply to remote and physical participants,
 - d. The remote participation guidelines are provided to all participants in advance of the meeting
4. A new **Strategic Advisory Group on Ageing Societies** has been created to investigate how standards could help solve the challenges faced by ageing societies. The mandate of the SAG is to identify arising challenges and opportunities, carry out a gap analysis of existing national, regional and international standards/guidance to identify where knowledge already exists, and identify priority areas for ISO standardization based upon the outcome of the first two tasks.

Standards Australia is consulting with stakeholders regarding active participation in this new group on Ageing Societies and will shortly call for expressions of interest from Australian stakeholders to become involved and monitor this work. Standards Australia see this as a key emerging area of standardisation and are keen to ensure Australia is well represented at this forum. For more information please contact damian.fisher@standards.org.au by 29th July 2016.

5. ISO 50001 on energy management is under revision

Improving energy performance and reducing energy costs is one of the most important tasks that organisations throughout the world have to achieve. ISO 50001 on energy management can help organisations with this exercise.

Since its publication five years ago, ISO 50001 has gained much importance. In fact, nearly 7 000 organisations were already certified to the standard at the end of 2014.

ISO 50001, *Energy management systems – Requirements with guidance for use*, specifies requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system. The aim is to enable an organisation to follow a systematic approach in achieving continual improvement of energy performance, including energy efficiency, use and consumption.

After five years of existence, time has come to revise ISO 50001 to ensure it remains a useful tool for all types of businesses and organisations around the world.

Australia is currently participating on the committee developing ISO 50001, ISO/TC 242.

6. New Project Committee on Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems

A new project committee has been approved by ISO on Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems. The new Project Committee will have the following scope:

Standardization in the field of sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems

The Technical Management Board has requested that the new committee clarifies the 'intended areas of use' when it addresses its scope at its first meeting.

Australia is currently participating on the committee developing the new standards.

7. New Technical Committee on Foundry machinery

A new technical committee has been approved by ISO on foundry machinery. The new Technical Committee will have the following provisional scope:

Standardization of foundry machinery, including terminology, classification, specifications, test methods and quality requirements of sand preparation equipment, moulding equipment, core making equipment, die-casting equipment (die-casting machine, low pressure casting machine, centrifugal casting machine, gravity casting machine) and casting cleaning & grinding equipment etc

Australia is not currently participating on the committee.

IEC

1. Proposal for a new technical committee on the management of assets in power systems

The Japanese National Committee of IEC submitted a formal proposal to IEC to establish a new technical committee on the management of assets in power systems. The scope of the proposal is the following:

Standardization in the field of the management of assets in power networks, especially aged equipment.

Electricity networks in developed countries are facing a challenge for the first time of its history, managing large fleets of aging equipment. However, the network operators are left to determine by themselves how to manage the aged equipment, such as what/how to test, what measures can be taken for what types of equipment, etc.

Developing countries also wrestle with trying to identify best practices on asset management. There is a wide range of IEC standards for electricity networks but most of them are used for designs and tests for new equipment. No IEC standard exists on asset management of power networks, especially for aged equipment.

It is proposed that the new committee if formed will focus on developing standards on terminology; inspection and diagnosis methods and evaluations for major equipment; measurement and reporting of fault and equipment failure data; methods for lifetime estimation and reporting for major equipment; life cycle cost calculation; risk evaluation methods; the calculation of health indices for major equipment; prioritization methods for asset management; and system performance indices.

Standards Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on this proposal. For more information or to make a submission please contact Jessica.Curtis@standards.org.au by 16th September 2016.

2. New IEC strategic group on smart manufacturing

IEC's Standardization Management Board have endorsed the formation of a Systems Evaluation Group on Smart Manufacturing (SEG 7), as a precursor to a Systems Committee with a scope of evaluating, with a broad participation, the standardisation needs in the area of smart manufacturing, and making recommendations to SMB on the creation of a Systems Committee.

The SEG is to develop a clear proposal to resolve potential work overlap between the activities of the new Systems Committee and those of other committees and other IEC stakeholders and possible interactions in other organisations, such as ISO and IEEE.

Taking into account of previous work, SEG 7 will:

- Expand on the market relevance and business drivers, identified in previous reports, taking into account other SDO initiatives and national programs;
- Provide an inventory of existing standards and current standardisation projects under the management of IEC, ISO and other SDO;
- Invite the cooperation of ISO, JTC1/WG10, IEEE, consortia, and other organisations to assist in mapping smart manufacturing activities that are closely related, and to participate in the activities of the proposed SyC;
- Expand on the definition of common value chains within a smart manufacturing enterprise, as identified in SG 8, and identify associated use cases which will assist in determining the state of the art in the industry, and the identification of potential gaps where IEC standardisation is needed with respect to smart manufacturing;
- Establish an initial roadmap of smart manufacturing standardisation, architecture and prospective standardisation and conformity assessment projects to be conducted by the SyC member TCs and partners;

- Deliver a dashboard to cross reference the project work items to documented use cases within particular value chains to assist standards developers, and industry stakeholders to navigate the domain;
- Make a recommendation to the SMB on the proposed SEG's transition into a Systems Committee (SyC) outlining the proposed SyC structure, membership, principles of operation and deliverables of the SyC which are supportive of the individual goals and deliverables of the participating stakeholder Technical Committees.

The first meeting of the SEG on Smart Manufacturing is planned for October 2016 in Frankfurt, Germany, as part of the IEC General Meeting.

3. World smart cities forum

The “World Smart Cities Forum” will be held this month in Singapore and will revolve around 4 themes: Smart City pain points on Energy, Water, Cybersecurity and Privacy, and Mobility/Transportation.

Discussions will focus on the issues hindering smart city development, and the tools – including International Standards – that will accelerate progress towards smart city goals. A closed door session will be organised on 14 July 2016 enabling standards development organisations (SDOs) and other partners to come together and share their activities on smart cities, analyse gaps and overlaps in their work programs and establish a framework for future collaboration.

For more information see, <http://www.worldsmartcity.org/programme/>

A new IEC Systems Committee on Electrotechnical Aspects of Smart Cities will hold its first organisational meeting in Singapore on 15 July 2016, adjacent to the World Smart Cities Forum. At this meeting the SyC will review and confirm its scope, define the structure of its groups, and outline projects and initial work items.

Australia is currently participating on the Systems Committee.