

[International and regional items of interest for September 2020 are as follows:](#)

1. WTO issues new report regarding impact of COVID-19 crisis on agricultural trade

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2. WTO Members intensify work on technical barriers to trade

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3. WTO members discuss participation of developing countries in world trade

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1. Cold Chain Logistics: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity

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

International

1. [WTO issues new report regarding impact of COVID-19 crisis on agricultural trade](#)

The WTO Secretariat has published a new information note examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on world agricultural trade. The paper notes that agricultural trade has fared better than other sectors, and that initial measures focused on guaranteeing the immediate availability of food have been followed by a second phase of policies seeking to mend broken supply chains and help producers to cope with the “new normal” situation.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO Members intensify work on technical barriers to trade](#)

WTO members will intensify their work over the coming months on ensuring that standards and regulations do not act as unnecessary obstacles to trade. In their discussions in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee, they will also work on developing guidance on how governments should test and certify products, with the aim of reducing trade barriers.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [WTO members discuss participation of developing countries in world trade](#)

The WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) started its autumn schedule of meetings on 14 September with an informal session dedicated to Aid for Trade. A formal CTD meeting on regional trade agreements will be held on 29 September along with a separate meeting on technical assistance and training for developing countries.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Cold Chain Logistics: Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on Cold Chain Logistics has been submitted by JISC, the ISO member body for Japan. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position. The proposal focuses on standardisation in the field of cold chain logistics. The scope will include but is not limited to:

- Terms and conditions for carriage/storage service of refrigerated goods, physical handling of refrigerated goods (acceptance, loading, transshipment, storage, sorting, transportation and delivery)
- Maintenance and control methods of temperature-controlled facilities, quality control methods throughout the cold chain (e.g. temperature monitoring and control, prevention of damage, loss and delay)
- Hygiene management during carriage/storage service to prevent contamination of goods
- Facilitation of logistical efficiency
- Manpower management, staff education and training, safety management for staff and workplaces
- Safety and reliability of carriage/storage services
- Information management and data processing such as customer management and cargo/parcel tracking, as well as terminology

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

2. [Cannabis Facilities and Operations: Proposal for International Workshop](#)

Stakeholders are invited to attend an international workshop to shape the development of three documents to cover the safety, security and sustainability of buildings, facilities, equipment and systems utilised for the cultivation, production, processing, transportation and sale of cannabis and cannabis products. The workshop meeting details are:

- Meeting 1: November 30 – December 4, 2020 (Virtual via Zoom)
- Meeting 2: January 28, 2021 (Virtual via Zoom)
- Meeting 3: May 3-7, 2021 (Potential physical meeting – Ottawa, Canada)

If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

3. [The Future Looks Smart- new Smart City ICT reference framework standard](#)

With increasing urbanization and population growth, the future of cities depends on sustainable solutions that support their evolution while improving the well-being of all. The role of information communication technology (ICT) is fundamental. A new series of standards will help by providing ICT frameworks to help cities get started, and the first of them has just been published.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [Robotics: Proposal for a new Technical Committee](#)

China has submitted a proposal to establish a new Technical Committee on Robotics for electricity generation, transmission and distribution systems. Standards Australia invites stakeholders to share their views on the proposal to help inform the Australian position.

The scope includes:

- Standardisation of robotics applied in power systems i.e. power plants, substations, transmission and distribution lines, etc.
- Robot systems used in power systems shall include those travelling on rails, on ground (via unmanned ground vehicles), in the air (just like unmanned aerial vehicles-based inspection robots), under water/liquid (via unmanned underwater vehicles), and on or inside equipment etc.
- Standardisation of edge computing as well as diagnosis and analysis of information acquired by robot systems.

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

2. [IEC now offers standards with technical commentary](#)

In response to market demand, IEC is now offering new editions of its most popular standards with comments by technical experts. Known as Commented Versions (CMV), these publications provide commentary on the major changes between the new edition of the standard and the previous one.

IEC 60335-1:2020 CMV – Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Part 1: General requirements was the first standard launched with CMV and is now available [through Australian distributors](#).

Learn more [here](#).

3. [IEC enhances safety of medical equipment with amendments to medical device standard](#)

IEC Technical Committee 62 develops international standards for the basic safety and essential performance of electrical equipment in medical practice. The recent amendments to IEC 60601-1:2020 series of Standards brings key changes in the area of electromagnetic disturbances and alarms.

Learn more [here](#).