

## [International and regional items of interest for September 2019 are as follows:](#)

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## International

### 1. [Members review regional trade agreements of Pacific Alliance, EAEU members and Viet Nam](#)

WTO members reviewed three regional trade agreements (RTAs) at the meeting of the Committee on RTAs on 17 September. Members considered the Pacific Alliance trade protocol, the Armenia-Kazakhstan free trade agreement and the free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Viet Nam.

Learn more [here](#).

### 2. [WTO Public Forum programme is now available](#)

This year's Public Forum, entitled "Trading Forward: Adapting to a Changing World", will feature 136 sessions to be held at the WTO's headquarters from 8 to 11 October. All the sessions at the Forum will be organized by participants, including WTO member governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academia, law firms and international organizations.

Read more [here](#).

## ISO

### 1. [Establishment of new ISO technical committee on audit data services \(ISO/TC 295\)](#)

Following approval by ISO member bodies, a new Technical Committee was established: ISO/TC 295, Audit data services.

The scope of the committee is standardization in the field of audit data services, covering the content specification as well as the collection, pre-processing, management and analysis techniques for the identification, communication, receipt, preparation and use of audit data.

Australia is not a member of this committee. The Secretariat has been allocated to SAC (China).

For more information, please email us at [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au).

### 2. [Establishment of new ISO project committee on sex toys \(ISO/PC 325\)](#)

Following approval by ISO member bodies, a new Project Committee was established: ISO/PC 325, Sex toys – Design and safety requirements for products in direct contact with genitalia, the anus, or both.

The scope of this committee is to specify safety and user information requirements relating to the materials and design for products intended for sexual use. The scope covers only products that are intended to come in direct contact with genitals and/or the anus, not including products classified as medical devices or assistive products.

Australia is an Observer (O) member of this committee. The Secretariat has been allocated to SIS (Swedish Institute for Standards).

For more information, please email us at [sem@standards.org.au](mailto:sem@standards.org.au).

### [3. Putting patients first was key to winning ISO's top committee award](#)

The demand for new technologies and solutions for delivering drugs that are safer and more convenient never stops. Add to that the varying injection equipment and methods used around the world to suit individual clinical and patient needs, and it's clear the safety and quality of products are more important than ever.

ISO's technical committee (TC) for standardization in this field – ISO/TC 84 – is always one step ahead, often having standards in development in time for when new technology comes on the market. Its efforts have just been recognized through the Lawrence D. Eicher Award for excellence and superior performance in standards development.

Read more [here](#).

### [4. Developing country participation critical to ISO's future](#)

The participation of developing countries was highlighted as key in ensuring ISO can continue to deliver solutions into the future, at the recent Committee on developing country matters (DEVCO) meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the ISO Week 2019.

Learn more [here](#).

### [5. Fire! New ISO standard will take its breath away](#)

One of the most effective ways of preventing fires in buildings is to reduce the level of oxygen in the air. The world's first International Standard for oxygen reduction systems has just been published.

Read the full article [here](#).

### [6. New international guidance makes ethical claims more credible](#)

Locally sourced, sustainably produced, or made with love – claims on labels that speak to our ethical side have grown astronomically in recent years. How do we know which claims are true, and what they really mean? New international guidance has just been published to help make things clearer.

[ISO/TS 17033](#), *Ethical claims and supporting information — Principles and requirements*, sets out internationally agreed ways to make a credible ethical claim.

Read the full article [here](#).

## IEC

### 1. [How the IEC has been preparing for 5G](#)

Fifth-generation cellular networks, known as 5G, look set to transform the way we live and work by connecting not just people but things in the so-called Internet of Things. It'll mean smarter motorways and smarter factories, and being able to control your car, home and pretty much everything else from a single device.

*e-tech* spoke to Mike Wood, who's been heavily involved, in the roll-out of 5G, in Australia, and also chairs [IEC TC 106](#) that deals with safety testing standards for mobile devices, base stations and wireless communications systems.

Read the full article [here](#).

### 2. [Establishing trustworthiness is vital in our human-machine world](#)

In manufacturing plants, programmed robotic arms and humans work in close proximity side by side. Transport uses more and more automated systems. Self-driving vehicles deploy advanced driver assistance systems, while modern airline autopilot and safety systems use manoeuvring augmentation characteristics systems. Both rely on sensor data processing algorithms to analyze data gathered from many sensors around the vehicles and airplanes in order to ensure safe, efficient journeys. In healthcare, diverse professionals are using analysis from big data mined by machine learning algorithms, to help diagnosis diseases.

“A key barrier to adoption of artificial intelligence is concerns about the trustworthiness of the system. Led by SC 42/WG 3, the projects that the committee is pursuing in this area, not only try to identify and put a framework around these emerging issues but also provide technical approaches to mitigating the concerns and link to the non-technical requirements such as ethical and societal challenges. This revolutionary approach that SC 42 is taking by looking at the full AI ecosystem will enable wide scale adoption of AI and the promise it has as a ubiquitous technology enabling the digital transformation”, said Wael Diab, who leads the standardization work on AI, through Subcommittee 42 of the IEC and ISO joint technical committee (ISO/IEC JTC 1) for information technology.

Read the full article [here](#).

### 3. [Batteries for a sustainable world](#)

The work of Technical Committee 21 reflects the changes in battery technology over the last 20 years. Standardizing safety requirements is more essential than ever before.

Read the full article [here](#).

### 4. [Standards help achieve SDGs](#)

The United Nations defines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the core of its blueprint for building a better world by 2030. The SDGs serve as a call for action to all countries to promote prosperity while simultaneously protecting the environment. They seek to end poverty and stimulate economic growth while also addressing societal needs, such as health and education, and preserving the environment.

Electricity is the cornerstone of nearly all of the SDGs. And, without electricity, the objectives of the SDGs cannot be reached.

Read the full article [here](#).