



ISO

NORMAPME a.s.b.l.

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WHO IS ISO ?

- ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 147 countries, on the basis of one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.
- ISO occupies a special position between the public and private sectors, as:
 - *many of its member institutes are part of the governmental structure of their countries, or are mandated by their government.

AND

*The other members have their roots uniquely in the private sector, having been set up by national partnerships of industry associations.

Therefore, ISO is able to act as a bridging organization in which a consensus can be reached on solutions that meet both the requirements of business and the broader needs of society, such as the needs of stakeholder groups like consumers and users.

ISO History

- Pioneering work in other fields than electricity was carried out by the International Federation of the National Standardizing Associations (ISA), which was set up in 1926.
- ISA's activities came to an end in 1942.
- In 1946, delegates from 25 countries met in London and decided to create a new international organization, of which the object would be "to facilitate the international coordination and unification of industrial standards".
- The new organization, ISO, officially began operations on 23 February 1947.

ISO Standard Principales (1)

- **Equal Footing** - Every participating ISO member institution has the right to take part in the development of any standard which it judges to be important to its country's economy. No matter what the size or strength of that economy, each participating member in ISO has one vote.
- **Voluntary** - ISO standards are voluntary. A certain percentage of ISO standards - mainly those concerned with health, safety or the environment - has been adopted in some countries as part of their regulatory framework, or is referred to in legislation for which it serves as the technical basis.

ISO Standard Principales (2)

- **Market-driven** - ISO develops only those standards for which there is a market requirement.
- **Consensus** - Although ISO standards are voluntary, the fact that they are developed in response to market demand, and are based on consensus among the interested parties, ensures widespread applicability of the standards.
- **Worldwide** - ISO standards are technical agreements which provide the framework for compatible technology worldwide

ISO Standards

- Between 1947 and the present day, ISO published more than 13 700 International Standards.
- ISO's work programme ranges from standards for traditional activities, such as agriculture and construction, through mechanical engineering, to medical devices, to the newest information technology developments, such as the digital coding of audio-visual signals for multimedia applications.

Where to find information on ISO standards

- ISO's entire portfolio of standards is listed in the **ISO Catalogue** (www.iso.ch) which can be accessed online.
- The site also provides access to the **World Standards Services Network** (WSSN) (www.wssn.net) which is a network of publicly accessible Web servers of standards organizations around the world. It contains links to international, regional and national standardization bodies, and also to other international and regional organizations which develop standards in their specialized subject area, in addition to their principal activity.

How the ISO system is managed

- All strategic decisions are referred to the ISO members, who meet for an annual General Assembly.
- The proposals put to the members are developed by the ISO Council, drawn from the membership as a whole, which resembles the board of directors of a business organization.
- Operations are managed by a Secretary-General, which is a permanent appointment.
- The Secretary-General reports to a President who is a prominent figure in standardization or in business, elected for two years.

How the ISO system is financed

- ISO's national members pay subscriptions that meet the operational cost of ISO's Central Secretariat. The subscription paid by each member is in proportion to the country's Gross National Product and trade figures.
- Another source of revenue is the sale of standards.

By whom and how ISO standards are developed (1)

BY WHOM:

- ISO standards are developed by technical committees comprising experts on loan from the industrial, technical and business sectors. TC work progress can be followed on ISO website.

HOW:

- The experts of a technical committee meet to discuss, debate and argue until they reach consensus on a draft agreement.
- Then circulated as a Draft International Standard (DIS) to ISO's membership as a whole for comment and balloting.

By whom and how ISO standards are developed (2)

- The ISO members then take account of any feedback they receive in formulating their position on the draft standard.
- If the voting is in favour, the document, with eventual modifications, is circulated to the ISO members as a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS).
- If that vote is positive, the document is then published as an International Standard.

ISO's partners

International

ISO and the IEC cooperate on a joint basis with the ITU

Regional

ISO has recognized regional standards organization representing Africa, the Arab countries, the area covered by the Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe, Latin America, the Pacific area, and the South-East Asia nations.

Specialist liaisons

ISO also liaises with some 550 international and regional organizations interested in aspects of ISO's standardization work.

These include the 28 or so international standards-developing bodies outside the ISO/IEC system.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**