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If you have any comments or suggestions related to the updates below, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au.

ISO/IEC Governance and Leadership Update for April 2026

Australia holds positions on several key international governance groups, including **ISO's Technical Management Board (TMB)** and **IEC's Standardization Management Board (SMB), Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), Business Advisory Committee (BAC)** and **IEC Board (IB)**. These positions give Australia a voice on the policy, operational and strategic direction of ISO and IEC.

1. Update of the Guidelines for the implementation of the Vienna Agreement

Guidelines for the implementation of the Vienna Agreement (the technical cooperation agreement between ISO and CEN, first approved in 1991) have been updated and are now available via ISO's publicly available resources. Following a 2024 review, ISO and CEN consolidated previously separate guidance documents into a single, streamlined set of guidelines that reflect current practices, remove duplication and provide clearer direction, particularly for harmonised projects at different stages of development. The revised document introduces a defined scope, updated and clarified procedures across cooperation, work allocation, parallel approvals, adoption and maintenance of identical publications, and includes new information boxes for work items linked to EU legislation, refreshed guidance based on recent ISO/TMB resolutions, and updated processes for certain ballots and special procedures. Importantly, the update introduces no new rules or policies but offers one clear reference point for both ISO and CEN committees. Frequently Asked Questions will be refreshed throughout the year, and webinars for committee leaders are planned, with dates to be advised. For further information, stakeholders are encouraged to contact their Technical Programme Manager.

If you have any questions related to the update above, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

2. SAVE THE DATE: ISO/IEC Annual Consultation Webinar, 2 July 2026.

Participating member of the ISO and IEC National Mirror Committees are invited to attend our ISO and IEC Consultation Event 2026 hosted by Standards Australia. Australian contributors and experts are invited to share their insights and experiences and the receive updates on recent activities within ISO and IEC. Stay tuned for registration details in the May Newsletter.

If you have any questions related to the update above, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

3. Draft ISO/IEC Guide on Gender Responsive Standards

A Draft ISO/IEC Guide on Gender Responsive Standards is currently out for ballot, marking an important step toward ensuring that International Standards better reflect the diverse needs of all users. The draft Guide provides practical guidance for standards developers on how to identify and address gender-related impacts throughout the standards development process, helping to avoid unintended bias and improve relevance, safety and effectiveness across sectors. By encouraging consideration of biological and socio-cultural differences where they are relevant to the subject matter, the Guide aims to support more inclusive outcomes and align standards development with broader global objectives on equality and sustainable development. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the draft and provide input during the ballot period to help shape this important guidance.

If you wish to review the draft guide and provide feedback, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

ISO Technical Update for April 2026

1. New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Wound dressings and compresses (TS/P 322)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on "Wound dressings and compresses" has been submitted by SASO (Saudi Arabia).

The scope of the proposal is the following:

Standardization of particular aspects related to wound dressings and wound compresses, including but not limited to, design, safety and performance requirements and associated test methods for adhesiveness, absorption, waterproofness and skin-fitting. In addition to standardization of safety controls and terminologies for these products.

Excluded:

- aspects related to biological and clinical evaluation, covered by ISO/TC 194;
- quality management and corresponding general aspects, covered by ISO/TC 210.

Voting on this proposal closes on 12 June 2026. If you have any questions related to the update above, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

2. New proposal to establish an ISO Technical Committee on Artificial ice and snow landscape (TS/P 333)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on "Artificial ice and snow landscape" has been submitted by SAC (China).

The scope of the proposal is the following:

Responsible for the standardization of safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance and sustainable development of artificial ice and snow landscape constructions (both indoor and outdoor), excluding the standardization in permanent buildings with residential functions (ISO/TC 59), ice and snow sports and recreational facilities (ISO/TC 83), bases for design of structures (ISO/TC 98) and tourism and related services (ISO/TC 228).

Voting on this proposal closes on 16 June 2026. If you have any questions related to the update above, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

3. New edition of ISO 14001:2026 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standard

A new edition of ISO 14001:2026, the world's most widely used Environmental Management Systems (EMS) standard, has now been published. ISO 14001:2026 has been refreshed to better reflect today's environmental, economic and regulatory context, with an increased focus on turning environmental commitment into measurable performance, resilience and long-term value. The revised standard continues to support organisations of all sizes and sectors in managing environmental risks and opportunities, improving sustainability outcomes and demonstrating credible environmental management, while remaining fully compatible with other ISO management system standards. Further information, including an overview of what has changed and practical guidance for organisations, is available on the ISO website here [ISO - ISO 14001:2026 published – raising the bar for environmental performance](#)

If you would like to review the proposal and provide feedback. Please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

IEC Technical Update for March 2026

1. IEC Young Professional Program 2026 – Call for applications

The [IEC Young Professionals \(YP\) Programme](#) supports early career professionals who want to get involved in international standards work. Each year, Standards Australia selects two Australian representatives to join this global initiative, giving emerging leaders the chance to collaborate with experts, build professional skills and contribute to the future of international standardisation.

The selected participants will attend the IEC Young Professionals workshop, held alongside the IEC General Meeting from 16–20 November 2026 in Hamburg, Germany. Following the workshop, they'll also take part in ongoing activities aimed at deepening their engagement, expanding industry networks and encouraging continued knowledge sharing.

This programme offers a unique opportunity to gain real-world experience in the international standards community, work with peers from around the world and develop the capabilities needed to become influential contributors to global standards development.

For further details about how to apply, visit the Standards Australia website here [IEC Young Professionals Programme](#)

If you have any questions related to the update above, please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au

2. Proposal for a new field of Technical Activity: Systems Committee (SyC) on Metaverse

IEC Standardization Management Board is currently balloting a proposal to establish a new Systems Committee (SyC) on the Metaverse, following a recommendation from Joint Standardization Evaluation Group 15. The proposed committee would take a top-down, systems-based approach to Metaverse standardization, focusing on end-to-end user experience, reference architectures, system requirements and interoperability, while coordinating existing work across IEC, ISO, ISO/IEC JTC 1 and other international standards and industry organisations. Rather than developing individual technology standards, the SyC would provide oversight of the broader standards landscape, addressing technical, user and socio-regulatory dimensions to support an open, inclusive and interoperable Metaverse.

The vote closes on 26 June 2026

If you would like to review the proposal and provide feedback. Please contact us at intsect@standards.org.au