

Global synergies to benefit ISO stakeholders

Highlights of achievements



By breaking down the physical barriers between people, multiplying and facilitating communications, reducing the world to a “village”, and fostering international exchange, the phenomenon of globalization in its broadest sense has brought trade and standardization closer together, built new areas of cooperation at many levels, and developed the search for organizational synergies. These are taking new forms, and everything points to an acceleration in such types of collaborative efforts. The watchword is “inclusive” standardization in search of the most rational use of resources for the best standards.

Fastener standards are holding fast

It is hard to imagine an industry that does not use fasteners, and that has not done for years. ISO standards covering most areas in the field already exist and have been generally well taken up by industry, and yet the work of ISO/TC 2, *Fasteners*, has not yet been finished and will probably never be. Today, some trillion or more fasteners are being used annually; International Standards solve the repair and maintenance problem, once a major headache for manufacturers and product users. There is an incessant, market-driven need for new standards, and a need to update existing ones: standards that are good for today may be outdated tomorrow due to advances in technology. In fact, in many cases, a second or even a third edition of the standards has been published. The system of ISO standards for fasteners consists of interconnected standards, which, in most cases, can-

not be used in isolation, so that the system keeps being extended by the development of standards for additional products and for properties specific to them. Moreover, new basic elements leading to new functions of fasteners can be standardized, and new standardized coatings open up new areas in, for instance, corrosion resistance, frictional behaviour and decorative appearance.

So that the appearance of the fifth edition of the ISO Standards Handbook, *Fasteners and screw threads* (this time with the added alternative of a CD ROM) is timely: the handbook contains 78 new and revised standards.



Safe fun on water

If, on land, ISO is active in many areas of safety and accident prevention in sports and leisure activities, so, on water, ISO's International Standards work more and more to reduce drowning accidents, and to tighten up the security arrangements for equipment and procedures for rescue.



Increasingly, ISO's work is tackling the aquatic equipment used on the water for leisure activities and which might cause accidents or dangerous situations. Water rescue devices have been greatly improved over the last 20 years, but water sports have over the same period leaped in popularity – whence an urgent need to ensure that adequate attention has been paid to safety of rescue material.

Standardization in the field has burgeoned, with a set of national standards, many of which were subsequently worked on and developed into European regional standards (at the CEN level), and that are now showing their worth at the international level as ISO standards.

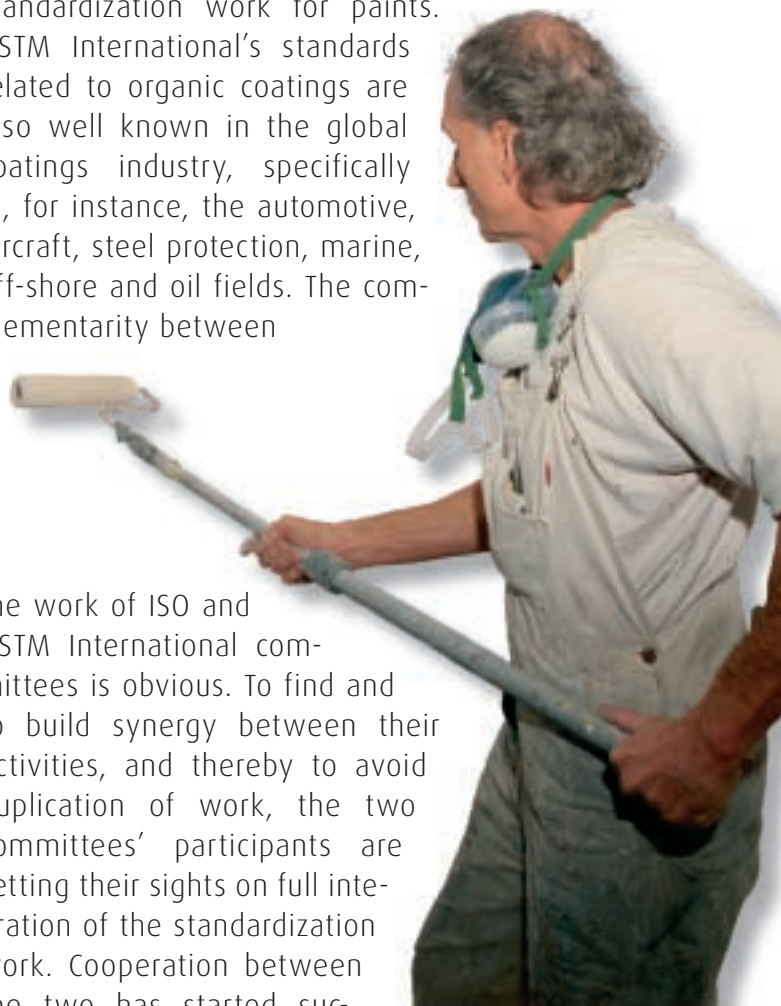
This development continues at all levels, with the work at ISO entering into the arena of various technical committees, including ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*, and working on such standards as ISO 12402-1 to 5, *Personal flotation devices*, and ISO 15027, Parts 1 to 3, *Immersion suits*.

Spreading the paint work

International cooperation over the board is the watchword of ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*. ISO and CEN on paints and varnishes have been working together for decades; in recent years, Japan, followed by the USA, has become increasingly committed to international standardization work for paints. ASTM International's standards related to organic coatings are also well known in the global coatings industry, specifically in, for instance, the automotive, aircraft, steel protection, marine, off-shore and oil fields. The complementarity between

the work of ISO and ASTM International committees is obvious. To find and to build synergy between their activities, and thereby to avoid duplication of work, the two committees' participants are setting their sights on full integration of the standardization work. Cooperation between the two has started successfully.

ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, handles all items concerned with the performance of coatings in order to achieve a coherent set of standards and to ensure



an integrated approach, providing an umbrella under which all those with any input on paints and their application can meet to hammer out efficient standardization and coordination, leading to benefits for the whole industry. ISO/TC 35 is, in the words of its Chair, Prof. E. Banken, becoming “a mature, active committee of truly global players.”



ISO brought out a third edition of the ISO Standards Handbook, *Paints and varnishes*, collecting together over 280

International Standards in four volumes. Applying this collection of standards will provide an efficient and profitable tool to all those in

the field and in related industries. A new feature: a concordance list of ISO and ASTM standards. The very considerable number of new standards says something of the dynamism of the field.

The exchange of material between providers and publishers/printers

In February 2002, Time Inc., one of the world's largest publishers, shook the advertising production world with its announcement that all digital advertisements for its 56 titles had to be in ISO PDF/X-1 format by 1 June of 2002, i.e. in accordance with ISO 15930, which standardizes the use of the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) for the exchange of print-ready material. Time Inc. then announced that it was considering going a step further in requesting the delivery of final content in PDF/X-3 format, i.e.



ISO/DIS 15930, Part 3, which allows colour managed workflows.

ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology*, has demonstrated its capacity of offering continual improvement of its standards for the benefit of the market. It illustrates, furthermore, the efforts of positive interaction between sector players, as this family of standards – that is revolutionizing the exchange of material between providers and publishers/printers – exemplifies a new degree of cooperation between the owner of an industry specification (Adobe) and ISO activities to formalize the use of certain aspects of that specification.

ISO 9000 series for the automotive industry

A successful partnership between ISO and the international automotive industry has resulted in the publication of a new edition of ISO/TS 16949: 2002, *Quality management systems – Particular requirements for the application of ISO 9001:2000 for automotive production and relevant service part organizations*, which specifies quality system requirements for suppliers in this sector.

It is expected that the technical specification (TS) will become the common and unique basis for the automotive

industry's quality management system requirements worldwide, gradually replacing the multiple national specifications now used by the sector (e.g. QS 9000, AVSQ, VDA6.1 and EAQF). ISO/TS 16949 therefore has a substantial potential market comprising more than 30 000 companies currently certified (registered) against one or other of the national specifications.

ISO/TS 16949:2002 was developed by a partnership comprising the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), with the support of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 176, which is responsible for the ISO 9000 family of quality management standards.

Henry Gryn, leader of the IATF delegation, commented, "The IATF is pleased to announce the release of ISO/TS 16949:2002 for the global automotive supply chain. This technical specification is a value-adding docu-

ment for the automotive sector. The process for completion was fast and involved participation by original equipment manufacturers (OEM's), suppliers and ISO/TC 176 members. We believe that this technical specification, when coupled with its accompanying registration scheme, has significant benefits for the suppliers to whom it is applicable and for subscribing OEM's."



ISO 9001 for Small Businesses

The first edition of the ISO handbook *ISO 9001 for Small Businesses* sold like hot cakes. The second edition has been completely revised to align the advice with ISO 9001:2000. The new standard defines the requirements for a quality management system based on "the process model" and aimed at achieving customer satisfaction and continual improvement in performance. *ISO 9001 for Small Businesses* explains the standard in plain language.

The Handbook has been written by the experts who developed ISO 9001:2000. They give no-nonsense, practical advice – just what the small business

A warm smile is a good start. ISO 9001 for Small Businesses helps you with the rest.



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Report 2002

wants. There is no need to convince the small businesses of the importance of keeping the customer satisfied, or the need to get better at it to meet rising expectations and to stay in the race with the competition. The full text of ISO 9001:2000 is included in boxes, section by section, accompanied by explanations, examples and implementation guidance in everyday terms.



Technical drawings

"Basic drawing standards deal with one of the very few universal languages: the common practice of preparation and interpretation of technical drawings," says the Chair of TC 10, *Technical drawings*, Bruce Harding. One of the main demands of technical drawings is that they should be understandable by all users – and to reach this requires a broad use of International Standards. Anyone, anywhere, should be able to gauge from the drawing exactly the same data – whence the importance of the fourth edition the ISO Standards

Handbook, *Technical drawings*, in two volumes. This Handbook, with its 154 International Standards has proved an indispensable tool for designers, engineers, technologists, for students in technical faculties of institutes and universities and for all those dealing



with technical drawings. Basic technical drawings standards cross every aspect in product definition for procurement anywhere in the world.

Since the basic drawing standards were first developed in 1947 within TC 10, many have been adopted in national standards and used in the exchange of drawings on all continents, with the standards having been translated into many languages.

Security aboard ships

ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, has established strong relations with IMO (International Maritime Organization), and is in the forefront of new Maritime security/Anti-terrorism against Shipping initiatives of IMO. One of the issues being addressed concerns electronic seals. Furthermore, on containers a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the chairs of ISO/TC 8, TC 104, *Freight containers*, and TC 204, *Transport information and control systems*, to cover the multimodal freight distribution system. IMO has agreed to increase its reference to International Standards in its regulations, and more than 100 projects are under preparation in this framework. A relevant example is ISO 17631:2002, *Ships and marine technology – Shipboard plans for fire*



protection, life-saving appliances and means of escape. ISO/TC 8 is developing a strong activity in the field related to environmental protection as well as to security.

people to record and file material, in any medium or format or in any combination of media. Regardless of the size of the enterprise, the type of organization, or the level of technology used, users will benefit from reviewing their record keeping activities against the standard's best practice.

According to Robert McLean, member of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, "ISO 15489 enables organizations to develop policies, strategies and programmes which will ensure that information assets have the essential characteristics of accuracy, integrity and reliability."

Improving the management of business records

ISO 15489, *Information and documentation – Records management*, is the first International Standard for the management of business records, and is expected to result in cost savings for users, whether large or small enterprises, as well as improved risk management.

Experts from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia forged agreement on a clear and systematic approach to the essentials of record keeping. The standard allows organizations to establish a framework to enable a comprehensive records management programme. The standard provides a common international language for

