How International Standards can help address challenges in governance and regulation

IRGC/OECD Conference on improving risk regulation, Paris, 14 October, 2014
ISO – A Global System

165 national members
98% of world GNI
97% of world population

Collection of 19,777 ISO Standards

1,103 standards produced in 2013

229 active TG’s
3,483 technical bodies
4,518 documents under development

Customer

Vision & Strategy

Internal Process

Learning Growth

Over 750 organizations in liaison

Central Secretariat in Geneva
138 FTE staff from 19 Countries

Updated Sept 2014
Breadth of ISO’s recent work

2009
- Fraud countermeasures and controls
- Traditional Chinese medicine
- Sustainability in event management
- Energy efficiency & renewable sources terminology
- Sustainability criteria for bioenergy

2010
- Asset management
- Natural gas fuelling stations
- Pigments, dyestuffs & extenders
- Safety amusement rides and devices
- Treated wastewater re-use for irrigation
- Biogas
- Energy savings

2011
- Project, programme & portfolio mgt
- Additive manufacturing
- Facilities management
- Outsourcing
- Risk management
- Bionics
- Fireworks
- Coal bed methane
- Carbon capture and storage

2012
- Railway applications
- Sustainable development in communities
- Plastics and rubber machines
- Compliance programs
- Forensic sciences
- Customer contact centres
- Light and lighting

2013
- Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal
- Biotechnology
- Sustainable purchasing
- Anti-bribery management system – Requirements
- Innovation process: interaction, tools and methods
- Management consultancy
- Fine bubble technology
- Water re-use
- Occupational Health & Safety MS requirements
- Clean cookstoves and cooking solutions

2014
- Collaborative business relationship management
- Chain of custody of wood-based products
- Educational organizations management systems
- Brand evaluation
- Online reputation
What are International Standards?

- Represent **global consensus** on a solution to a particular issue
- Embody universally agreed procedure or practice
- Provide requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics to consistently ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose
- **Voluntary**

ISO standards do NOT:
- Seek to establish, drive or motivate public policy or regulations, social or political agendas
- Set performance thresholds (these are set by policy makers/regulators according to their requirements)
Why standards can be powerful instruments of governance

• Efficient and cost-effective tools

• Consistent with the obligations of countries that are WTO members to reduce technical barriers to trade

• When used in the public sector:
  • Enable greater transparency and competition, e.g. in public procurement
  • Provide essential requirements for industry (via reference in regulations and laws)

• When used in the private sector:
  • Create market incentives to follow internationally accepted practices
  • Encourage innovation and growth
Parallels between standards development and policy making best practices

Good policy-making practice

- Transparency
- Openness
- Efficiency
- Impartiality & consensus
- Effectiveness & relevance
- Clarity
- Equity
- Development dimension

Good standardization practice
Benefits of using and referencing standards

International Standards:

- Are developed in a multi-stakeholder environment and reflect a double layer of consensus (between the technical experts and also between countries)

- Allow products to be supplied and used across different markets, reducing market inefficiencies and facilitating regulator compliance

- Can be used for conformity assessment to enhance confidence in products, systems, processes, services or personnel

- Offer the same level of consumer protection whether applied in a mature or evolving economy

- Are globally applicable
Standards are more than just one means of regulating.
How International Standards are used in governance and regulation

Legislative actions

- Laws (or Acts of Parliament)
- Technical regulations (which support the requirements of laws)
- Other actions include rules, notices, orders, determinations, and warrants.

Non-legislative actions

- Funding priorities
- Incentive systems
- Awareness campaigns
- Public procurement
- Codes of conduct
  …and more

Example of a non-legislative action:
ISO 50001 Energy Management: the Canadian government offers grants to industrial organizations that adopt processes to improve energy efficiency. Implementation of this standard is a pre-requisite for eligibility.
Considerations for policy makers when referencing standards in regulations

• Should the use of the standard by mandatory (providing the only solution) or voluntary (providing one possible solution)?

• What level of checks should be put in place to ensure the standard is suitable for the intended use and addresses all needs?

• Will the reference be to the whole standard or selected parts (only to certain clauses and sub-clauses)?

• How will the regulation be kept up-to-date if the standard is revised?
Towards improved cooperation and dialogue

ISO is working to:

• Stimulate cooperation and dialogue between policy makers and standards developers – a workshop is planned for 2015

• Provide policy makers with a better resources (new brochure plus online resources) to use standards as tools to support their work
Creating better resources for policy makers – CASCO online platform

Interactive online tool to promote a harmonized approach to conformity assessment (CA) and support national regulators when they deal with CA matters.

- based on the CASCO toolbox; combines concepts and practical examples of the role/use of conformity assessment in regulations;
- intended for use by members together with national regulators;
- will be used for a series of ISO training sessions on CA
ISO/TC 262 Risk management

- ISO 31000:2009 *Risk management -- Principles and guidelines* (to be revised)


- ISO/TR 31004:2013 *Risk management -- Guidance for the implementation of ISO 31000*

TC 262 has **44 participating countries** participating actively in the work and 10 observing

TR 31004 provides a structured approach to efficiently transition existing risk management practices to ISO 31000, and additional guidance on the ISO 31000 principles and framework for the management of risk.
ISO 31000 Risk Management

- provides principles, framework and a process for managing risk and can be used to address risk at any level and on any subject
- 1st international risk management document developed by consensus and widely adopted by many major global economies
- prompted the development of sister standards such as the Austrian ONR 49000, Canadian Q 31001, Irish NWA 31000, UK BSI 31100, and also of companion documents to assist stakeholders in the application of the standard