International Conference on “Standards and Regulatory Frameworks”

Opening remarks to the 23rd Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies – UNECE WP 6

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Geneva, Switzerland
Breadth of ISO’s work in recent years

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

New ISO groups touching upon sustainability pillars of:
- Environment
- Economic
- Societal
Good regulatory practice and good international standards development practice

**Good regulatory practice**
1. Efficiency
2. Effectiveness
3. Transparency
4. Clarity
5. Equity

**Good standards practice**
1. Transparency
2. Openness
3. Impartiality and Consensus
4. Effectiveness and Relevance
5. Coherence
6. Development dimension
International standards – efficiency in trade

Country A

My product or service meets this standard. I want to sell my product in Country B

Country B

That’s nice – But we only accept products or services that meet this standard

Loss of economies of scale

Surprise costs

Information costs

Conformity assessment costs
So … Standards and regulation are critical in international trade – what about bilateral and multilateral trade?

Today there are around 250 agreements currently in force
DG SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI
London, 4 November 2003
“The multilateral trading system: challenges and opportunities”

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) have become increasingly prevalent since the early 1990s. As of 10 January 2013, some 546 notifications of RTAs (counting goods and services and accessions separately) had been received by the GATT/WTO. Of these, 354 were in force
WTO Press Release January 2013
Referencing standards in regulation

Great tool that explains how standards can assist regulators and what is the best way of referencing standards in regulation. Opportunity to make it even better with involvement from regulators.
Regulators and standards developers – opportunities for cooperation

1. Build partnership / cooperation between regulators and the ISO member in their country

2. Establish best practices for referencing to standards in regulation

3. Raise awareness of how to best use standards as part of, or as an adjunct to regulation – subjects could include how to best reference standards to meet regulatory objectives

4. Identify and work on critical/interesting subject areas regulators are or could be using standards – for example health and safety, security, privacy

5. Agree how to better link information on standards used in regulation, with the regulation itself. Could we establish portals or online access to the information – while respecting copyright of standards

6. Include standards as an option when conducting regulatory impact assessment – for example, could a regulation be more performance-based and the standard be established as one means of compliance with the regulation?
Regulators and standards developers – opportunities for cooperation (cont.)

7. Do we need a platform for citizens to access the content of the standards referenced in regulation?

8. Help to **protect copyright in standards** that are referenced be protected – e.g. Germany & New Zealand copyright law makes it clear that referenced standards remain copyright protected

9. **Work together to fight pirated standards.** These are dangerous since pirated standards may be:
   - fake
   - not the current standard
   - a draft rather than the final document
   - not the standard they are purported to be
Key messages on standards and the use of standards be regulators

- Standards are developed by experts from all over the world who volunteer their time and ideas
- The ISO System is funded to a large extent by the sale of standards
- The ISO System helps recover the costs of organizing the development process and to make standards widely available
- The sales model provides a fair, user-based way to recover costs
- Regulators can benefit from using standards instead of developing their own individual requirements
- We constantly look at new ways to improve access to standards, while ensuring costs are recovered to develop them

- Given this, if there are new or innovative ideas to fund the development of standards, then we are happy to discuss further
ISO and ISO member involvement in this conference

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Thank you
Confidence has a nickname…