ISO/TC 59
Buildings and civil engineering works

Newsletter No. 4, November 2013

The TC 59 secretariat is happy to present the fourth newsletter of ISO/TC 59, giving a brief indication of current or recent affairs in our committee. The newsletter will be distributed twice a year. Please feel free to use this as a forum to inform others of your work or draw attention to areas you would like to highlight with relevance to ISO/TC 59. Please send your contributions to the TC 59 secretary: ksb@standard.no.

Resilience and the Built Environment

A word that is getting increasingly used in respect of communities is ‘resilience’. It relates to the ability of communities to cope with disasters, which because of the increasing size of urban populations and the increasing wealth of these populations, are continuing to increase in magnitude in real terms, particularly in their socio-economic impact. An increasing number of national governments and supra-national organizations concerned with development are including the development of more resilient communities as one of their goals.

Resilience is a sub-set of the overall term ‘sustainability’ and like it can have a range of specific meanings depending on the context in which it is applied. In respect of TC59 it refers to the properties of buildings and civil engineering works – i.e. the built environment – which contribute to the resilience of the communities in which they are located. The major causes of the socio-economic impact of disasters arising from the built environment are failures of buildings causing large numbers of deaths and serious injuries, failures of buildings resulting in a large number of them becoming uninhabitable, large scale failures of lifelines such as water supply, sewerage systems, electricity and gas supply, and communications severely disrupting community life, and large economic costs arising from the repair and reconstruction of the damage to the built environment. Limiting these to acceptable levels is the purpose of resilience.

The level of resilience required of individual constructed assets will vary according to the potential magnitude of disasters to which a community is exposed. Designing for resilience means differing criteria depending on the potential size of communities during the potential life of individual constructed assets and the potential scale of the hazard events to which they are exposed. It means asking the question of how will the constructed assets perform if the normal design criteria is exceeded, a not uncommon occurrence in major disasters. It means addressing not only new construction but also existing construction by addressing such issues as what criteria should be used for deciding if current construction is to be deemed inadequate and what criteria should be used for retrofitting it if it is to be retained rather than demolished and replaced. These issues are beyond the scope of current normal design criteria. Developing appropriate performance parameters for measuring resilience, and methods for evaluating them, will need to address these issues.

George Walker, Chairman ISO/TC 59/SC 15 (george.walker@aonbenfield.com)
SC 2 and terminology coordination

At the SC 2 Plenary in October 2013 it was announced that work on the revision of ISO 6707-1, Building and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – General terms, and ISO 6707-2, Building and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Contract terms, had been completed and the texts passed to ISO Central Secretariat for publication. These documents play a key role in terminology coordination within TC 59, as sub-committees are encouraged to use them as a primary source when defining terms for their own standards. The relevant procedure was defined in “SC 2 procedural guidelines for TC59 sub-committees when dealing with language and terminology”. Part of the coordination procedure was for documents produced by SCs and containing definitions to be sent to SC 2 for consideration from a terminological viewpoint.

At its October 2013 meeting SC 2/WG 3 formulated an administrative procedure for dealing with documents it received. This was approved for implementation on a one year trial basis. Key points for the initial check are:

(a) If there is a terms and definitions clause then a normative reference to ISO 6707-1 should be made at the beginning.
(b) Terms defined in ISO 6707-1 should not normally be included. If inclusion of the definition would be helpful to readers, then the text of the entry in ISO 6707-1 should be reproduced without alteration, and the source indicated.
(c) If no definition from ISO 6707-1 is available, then definitions from other published standards should be used or adapted. The ISO Online browsing platform should be used to locate existing definitions. (www.iso.org/obp/)

Any queries on SC2s role in terminology coordination should be addressed to Mike Roberts, Secretary of SC 2 (mikeroberts@blueyonder.co.uk)

News from our SCs and liaisons

ISO/TC 59/SC 13/WG 12, a joint working group between SC 13 and ISO/TC 184/SC 4 “Industrial data”, with appropriate liaison with buildingSMART International (bSI), was established in July 2013 for the maintenance of ISO 16739, Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) for data sharing in the construction and facility management industries, and the development of related standards. SC 13 has the administrative responsibility of the JWG, and Thomas Liebich, Germany, is the convener. The intention is to move ISO 16739 to from ISO/TC 184/SC 4 to SC 13. The detailed operational procedures for development and maintenance of ISO 16739 will be developed, based on the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1, Annex SK. A Validation team and Maintenance team will be clearly defined. It is important that the procedures describe the maintenance of the standard in one process only, and not as parallel work in both buildingSMART and ISO. Internal meetings of JWG 12 will be held as web meetings, and physical meetings are planned twice a year, in spring in conjunction with the ISO/TC 184/SC 4 meeting, and in autumn in conjunction with the SC 13 meeting. The main purpose of the physical meetings is to collaborate with these groups of experts, and to present JWG 12 work.

SC 13 in liaison with ISO/TC 10/SC 10 "Process plant documentation"

Due to the importance of coordination between SC 13 and ISO/TC 10/SC 10 concerning the development of NWI 81346-12, Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Structuring principles and reference designations – Part 12: Buildings and building services, SC 13 has initiated a liaison between ISO/TC 59/SC 13 and ISO/TC 10/SC 10. The secretariat of SC 13/WG 2 will participate in this work.

By Lisbet Landfald, Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 13 (lla@standard.no)

Published since November 2012*

* The secretariat would like to apologise that this table in the previous newsletter was incomplete. The standards published since November 2012 are therefore listed again below.

ISO 16354:2013, Guidelines for knowledge libraries and object libraries (SC 13)
ISO/TR 21932:2013, Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – A review of terminology (SC 17)

If you have ideas or contributions to the next newsletter, please make contact!