Successful Pretoria meetings

In October, the ISO/TC 59 Advisory Group and three of our subcommittees had meetings in Pretoria. The Advisory Group consists of the leadership of the TC and the leaderships of our eight subcommittees and any working groups directly under the TC. This group meets once a year to discuss the strategic direction of the committee, provide operational support and optimise coordination and collaboration between the subcommittees. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) provided excellent meeting facilities and hospitality.

Among other things, the Advisory Group agreed to establish a Task Group to investigate the potential for developing digital IDs for the contents of the standards under ISO/TC 59. The objective would be to make the standards machine readable. The group has been tasked to produce a report on how this can be done and present this at next year’s Advisory Group meeting. Much work is already going on in the field of digitalization, such as the development of data dictionaries related to the use of BIM, and these ongoing initiatives will be valuable input to the work of the Task Group.

The group will be led by Mr Jens Sjøgren from Norway and a call for experts to the group is now out in ISO/TC 59, closing on 15 January. Anyone interested in participating can contact their national member body or liaison organisation to be nominated.

Chairman’s corner

ISO is celebrating a 70-year anniversary in 2017. Many committees saw the light of day in that first year of 1947, and ISO/TC 59 was one of them.

Reaching the respectable age of 70, however, has not slowed us down. In fact, 2017 has been a very productive year. Not only in terms of what we have published this year, which is an impressive 13 standards, but also in terms of new activities. Various aspects of security, new ways of using BIM, and how to increase the digital usability of our standards are just some examples of new work initiated in 2017.

A big thank you to everyone for your valuable contributions and hard work in 2017.

And my very best wishes for the upcoming year.

Kind regards, Per Jæger
Photo: Johnny Syversen

New standard project to connect objects and symbols

In the sister committee ISO/TC 10/SC 8 Construction documentation, work is going on with a standard for object libraries. The standard covers identification, shape and measurement, attributes and assemblies. In particular, the standard will address the object characteristics required to manage symbolic presentation. The demand for different kinds of objects and corresponding symbols needed to support modelling throughout the model and project lifecycle is recognized; template objects, generic objects, library objects for products and so on. They all need corresponding graphical representation that can be substituted in order to develop models and to present them for different purposes. The standard is meant as a platform for developing standardized object libraries, but will not include the libraries themselves.

Work has been going on since the spring of 2017, based on a previous technical report, ISO/TR 16310, as well as the British standard series BS 8541. A working draft for sharing with persons within TC 10/SC 8 and TC 59/SC 13 is planned for January 2018, in order to coordinate content and get input for the continued work. The working group welcomes participation from experts within the TC 59 community, please contact the convener Kurt Löwnertz, kurt.loewnertz@bimalliance.se, to get more information.

Kurt Löwnertz, Chair of ISO/TC 10/SC 8 and Convenor of ISO/TC 10/SC 8/WG 16

Links to relevant ISO material

✓ ISO article on ISO 21930:2017, Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services: “Building a sustainable future with ISO 21930” (article published August 2017)

Our subcommittees

In the previous newsletters, we have been presenting the ISO/TC 59 subcommittees. The final subcommittee to present is SC 2.

SC 2 "Terminology and harmonization of languages"

Chair: Rodney McPhee (Canada)
Secretary: Mike Roberts (British Standards Institution)

Terminology is the cornerstone of all standardisation work within ISO/TC 59. With eight subcommittees, a common approach to managing terminology and language across the TC is needed. The task of achieving the necessary coordination has been given to SC 2.

In addition to the development of the ISO 6707 series, SC 2 has produced the SC 2 procedural guidelines for TC sub-committees when dealing with language and terminology, which describes procedures and recommended operating practices that will help facilitate the coordination of terminology and harmonisation of language within ISO/TC 59.

SC 2 monitors the terminology activity of the other ISO/TC 59 subcommittees, making comments on their drafts where appropriate in accordance with the procedural guidelines. SC 2 also produces vocabularies on specific subjects where a need has been demonstrated.

The subcommittee currently has two working groups, WG 4 “Maintenance of terminology standards and policies” and JWG 3 “Joint ISO/TC 59/SC 2 – ISO/TC 59/SC 17 WG Vocabulary on sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works”.

Rodney McPhee, Canada, who retires as the International Chair of ISO/TC 59/SC 2 at the end of 2017, and Andrey Kharitonov, Russia, who was recently elected to take over as International Chair of SC 2 in the new year, were in London recently to attend a meeting of SC 2/WG 4. The photograph above shows from left to right Brian Edgill, Convener of SC 2/WG 4, Rodney McPhee, Mike Roberts, Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 2, and Andrey Kharitonov.


Mike Roberts (roberts@blueyonder.co.uk), Secretary of ISO/TC 59/SC 2

Milestones in standards development and certification at buildingSMART

For over two decades, buildingSMART has been helping industry through its standards for openBIM and interoperable working. New demand for extensions to the IFC standard continues to emerge, the most significant being IFC extensions to infrastructure. A project covering IFC for Rail got underway at the London bSI Summit in the autumn, with road and bridge extensions also moving forward to full development. And there is progress on further extensions to IFC in the areas of ports and harbours, rebar, quantity take-off and an energy view for thermal boundaries.

These planned extensions represent the technical side of bSI’s work. But standards on their own do not transform industry, and bSI’s user activities are equally important. BuildingSMART certification, both of software and people, has taken a leap forward this year. In the summer, software certification 3.0 was launched, offering certification to IFC4, starting with the reference view M

The summit demonstrated the importance of universal digital standards,’ said Richard Petrie, Chief Executive of bSI. ‘Change is inevitable, and it is a question of whether you lead or follow.’

Betsy Dinesen, Editor for buildingSMART International

Published since June 2017

ISO 6707-1:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 1: General terms (SC 2)
ISO 6707-2:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 2: Contract and communication terms (SC 2)
ISO 6707-3:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 3: Sustainability terms (SC 2)
ISO/TR 20436:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Sealants – Paintability and paint compatibility of sealants (SC 8)
ISO 15686-5:2017 Buildings and constructed assets – Service life planning – Part 5: Life-cycle costing (SC 14)
ISO 9836:2017 Performance standards in building – Definition and calculation of area and space indicators (SC 15)
ISO 21930:2017 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services (SC 17)