ISO/TC 59
Buildings and civil engineering works

The ISO/TC 59 secretariat is pleased to present the sixteenth newsletter of ISO/TC 59, giving a brief indication of current or recent affairs in our committee. The newsletter is distributed twice a year. 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 ISO/TC 59 committee manager at ksb@standard.no.

TC 59 Advisory Group week in Longyearbyen, Norway

From Longyearbyen, Norway. Photo: Per Jæger

At 17 October, AG 1, the Chair’s Advisory Group in ISO/TC 59, met in Longyearbyen, Norway. In the three days prior to the meeting, four subcommittees and seven working groups had their own meetings. Around 40 representatives from 10 countries were present during the week. Good progress was made during the meetings and on one of the evenings there was also a social event which included a presentation from the local government. Here, at 78˚ North, where the buildings are built on stilts due to the permafrost, the impacts of climate change are already visible. The permafrost is thawing, and this will have severe consequences. The local government’s goal is now to go from coal-mining dependency to becoming emission free by 2030.

Appreciation to Brian Edgill

Brian Edgill was instrumental in the creation of TC 59/SC 2 “Terminology and harmonization of languages” in 1982. He has since been a representative of the British Standards Institution (BSI) on this committee for many years and convenor to several of its working groups from 2007 to date.

In Longyearbyen, the leadership of TC 59 and the leadership of SC 2 took the opportunity to thank Edgill for his outstanding contributions to the work of TC 59 and to SC 2 in particular and to express their gratitude and appreciation for his dedication over the years. Among other things, Edgill was involved in developing the first edition of ISO 6707-1 which was published in 1984, and since then he has actively taken part in the continual improvement of the standard.

Chairman’s corner

During my time as Chair of TC 59, I have been fortunate to meet and work alongside a lot of highly skilled people. Together we have steered the committee in a direction for the future. Climate change, urbanisation, population growth, unstable economic trends in the markets, the demand for increased productivity and sustainable, cost-efficient solutions throughout the value chain – these are all drivers for change in the construction industry. To support this change and to facilitate the increasing integration of new technologies, the industry will need good standards.

The standards of TC 59 and its subcommittees contain some very useful tools in that respect. The challenge in the time to come will be to also make them machine interpretable, which will expand their usability even further.

2019 has been an eventful year in our committee, with good progress, a lot of meeting activity, and the good discussions that are needed to produce good standards. I would like to thank everyone involved with the work of TC 59: ISO/CS, all our delegates and experts, our liaisons, and the members of the national mirror committees around the world for your collaboration and valuable contributions.

It has been a pleasure working with you all and I am now proud to pass the baton to Øyvind Skarholt, who takes over as TC 59 Chair from January. I wish Øyvind all the best in his new role.

Best wishes for the holidays and happy new year to you all.

Kind regards,

Per Jæger

Photo: Johnny Syversen

Per Jæger (TC 59 Chair), Brian Edgill (SC 2/JWG 3 and WG 4 Convenor) and Andrey Kharitonov (SC 2 Chair)

Photo: KSB
Preliminary work item on resilience and climate change under ballot in TC 59

One of the working groups directly under the TC, WG 4 “Resilience of buildings and civil engineering works”, is currently about to conclude their work on a technical report, ISO/DTR 22845, which aims to provide an inventory of existing viewpoints on resilience, including concepts, disaster risk and countermeasure in the field of buildings and civil engineering works.

Based on their findings, WG 4 is now planning a standards series of three parts, where the first part, Buildings and civil engineering works – Framework, principles and guidance for resilience design – Part 1: Climate change induced disasters, is out for ballot in TC 59 until 15 January for registration as a preliminary work item. The planned future parts 2 and 3 will concern earthquake-induced and man-made induced disasters respectively.

How can we make construction works more resilient to climate change induced disasters, and what will this do to the standard practices for designing, constructing and operating the construction works?

Both the TC 59 subcommittees and other ISO committees are invited to contribute to this crosscutting project. Subject to a positive ballot result, WG 4 aims to have a new work item proposal ready for ballot by April 2021.

Meetings in Oslo

Two task groups and four working groups met in the days prior to the plenary of SC 13 “Organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM)” on 10 October. In addition to liaisons, delegations from eleven P-members were present, among them for the first time Peru (new P-member in 2019) and Chile (new P-member in 2018).

A month later, on 12-14 November, Standards Norway also hosted the meetings of SC 16 “Accessibility and usability of the built environment”. SC 16 is working on the revision of ISO 21542:2011 Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment. The draft of the new version is soon to be expected on DIS ballot.
Appreciation to Per Jæger

Per Jæger (Norway) was elected Chair of TC 59 in 2011 and so 2019 has been his ninth and final year at the helm. Throughout the years, he has been a devoted and inclusive leader and a true ambassador for TC 59 and its subcommittees, both on a national and an international level.

With eight subcommittees and over 30 active working groups, TC 59 is a large structure, and one of Jæger's primary goals during his leadership has been to increase the collaboration across the traditional subcommittee boundaries and encourage more cross-over projects. A good example would be the work on Environmental Product Declarations for BIM, currently taking place in SC 17 in strong collaboration with SC 13.

Jæger has also been very active in his work to promote digitalisation of standards in order to increase efficiency and reduce waste and costs in the construction industry, topics that are likely to remain high on the agenda in the years to come.

During a dinner in Camp Barentz outside of Longyearbyen, Jæger was awarded ISO's Certificate of Appreciation for his considerable contribution to ISO activities and in particular for his dedication to the work of TC 59.

TC 59 with subcommittees and working groups thanks Jæger for all his support and devotion over the years and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

SC 2 making substantial progress in four directions

Revision of ISO 6707-1:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 1: General terms

In the recent ballot on ISO/DIS 6707-1, all the voting P-members voted in its favour. This standard, now in its 6th edition, is proving to be as relevant today as when it was first published in 1984. A fruitful collaboration with ISO/TC 218 "Timber" has been established with a view to making the best possible use of ISO 24294:2013 Timber – Round and sawn timber – Vocabulary which was confirmed in 2018 and is currently being revised.

Revision of ISO 7078:1985 Buildings and civil engineering works – Procedures for setting out, measurement and surveying – Vocabulary

SC 2 undertook the revision of this standard to bring the approach to terminology in line with the ISO Directives and SC 2 procedural guidelines on languages and terminology for TC 59 subcommittees. In a field where the technology is rapidly changing, the need for precision in measurement has remained a constant. The DIS received 100% support from voting P-members, but comments suggested that laser measuring tools should be included. Additional terms have been added and the document is about to be circulated as a FDIS.

ISO 6707-4 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 4: Facility management terms

The aim of this project is to produce a new part of ISO 6707 which will establish preferred terms and concepts related to facility management for buildings and other types of construction works. The resulting standard is intended to complement ISO 41011:2017 Facility management – Vocabulary and SC 2 is working in close collaboration with ISO/TC 267 "Facility management". The SC 2 Chair, Andrey Kharitonov, attended a recent meeting of ISO/TC 267 in St Petersburg, Russia, where he provided SC 2's committee draft for consideration by ISO/TC 267 experts. SC 2 is looking forward to receiving input on the draft, which is out for CD ballot until 7 February.

Revision of ISO 6707-3:2017 Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 3: Sustainability terms

SC 17 "Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works" made a request for SC 2 to revise ISO 6707-3 to address gaps observed in the document and to improve the alignment with definitions in SC 17 standards. SC 2 has now assembled enough material to embark upon a revision and has initiated a vote so a start can be made on the project. The joint working group which produced the 2017 publication has been re-established, and in the new year, SC 2 will be inviting SC 17 to state its willingness to participate in the work and nominate experts to the joint working group.

By Mike Roberts (mikeroberts@blueyonder.co.uk), Committee Manager of ISO/TC 59/SC 2 "Terminology and harmonization of languages"

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ISO 21723:2019 Buildings and civil engineering works – Modular coordination – Module (TC 59/WG 3)
ISO 16938-1:2019 Buildings and civil engineering works – Determination of the staining of porous substrates by sealants used in joints – Part 1: Test with compression (SC 8)
ISO 16938-2:2019 Buildings and civil engineering works – Determination of the staining of porous substrates by sealants used in joints – Part 2: Test without compression (SC 8)
ISO 15392:2019 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – General principles (SC 17)