ISO/TC 59

Buildings and civil engineering works

The ISO/TC 59 secretariat is pleased to present the eighteenth 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.

Chairman’s corner

At the end of 2020 – a year I believe we will remember for the rest of our lives – I feel privileged. Privileged to participate in ISO – privileged to have the honour of serving as Chair for TC59 and privileged to experience the capability we as an organisation have to carry on. Without being able to meet physically, meetings have been arranged virtually and new standards have still been produced. Unable to meet physically in October in Moscow as planned, we had a digital plenary meeting with participants from all over the world coming together – with passion and engagement.

At the end of 2020 we have even got a new P-member – USA has joined our committee and we warmly welcome them into our work. We also see two proposals for new SCs I believe will be of interest to several of our members – and even also to countries not being members today. I choose to see all this as a confirmation of all the good work going on regarding standardisation and globalisation.

On behalf of Kari and myself I would like to send a warm thank you to you all – and we look forward to seeing you all in Lima, Peru, next October.

Kind regards,

Øyvind Skarholt

News from SC 18 “Construction procurement”

SC 18 is responsible for 8 published standards, Parts 1 to 8 of ISO 10845, which cover the standardisation of a wide range of procurement processes, methods and procedures. These documents facilitate the establishment and implementation of a procurement system which is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective and which, subject to applicable legislation, may promote objectives additional to those associated with the immediate objective of the procurement itself.

The objective of the series is to create a framework for the development and implementation of procurement systems that facilitate fair competition, reduce the possibilities of abuse, improve predictability of outcomes, and allow the demonstration of best value or cost-effective outcomes. Revisions to Parts 1 and 2 have been completed while the revisions to Parts 3 and 4 are currently under DIS ballot. The major enhancements to Part 1 relate to the expansion of the provisions for organisational procurement policies and framework agreements and improved guidance on managing and controlling procurement processes.

SC 18 is currently also developing ISO 22058 Construction procurement – Guidance on strategy and tactics, to be expected on DIS ballot in February, which helps frame the tendering/contracting focus of ISO 10845. Further, during its October 2020 meeting, SC 18 agreed to register a preliminary work item, ISO/PWI 6082 Construction project governance – Guidance on delivery management.

Procurement is seen by SC 18 as the process which creates, manages and fulfils contracts (ISO 10845, Parts 1-8).

Procurement strategy involves the organisational decisions that frame the tendering/contracting decisions on a project (ISO 22058). Delivery management is the critical leadership role played by a knowledgeable client to plan, specify, procure and oversee the delivery of projects. Delivery management (the client buying function) is required to translate the value proposition associated with a business case into project outcomes and impacts.

Those interested in advancing ISO/PWI 6082 are encouraged to engage with their national standards bodies so that they can be nominated as experts to SC 18/WG 2.

By Dr Ron Watermeyer, SC 18 Chair

Proposals for new subcommittees in TC 59

The TC 59 secretariat has recently been approached by SAC, the Chinese member body, about the potential establishment of two new subcommittees. One of the proposals, which concerns prefabricated building, is currently being drafted by the proposers, but the other has now been formally submitted and will be addressed in TC 59 in the coming months. The proposal is to establish a new subcommittee for standardisation of prefabricated integrated ceilings and walls for buildings. This will include general terminology, performance specifications, test methods (excluding fire resistance and sound insulation tests), design, assembly and installation, quality acceptance criteria, and maintenance. A ballot to ask the members’ approval and feedback will now be opened in TC 59 and it will remain open until 30 January. A positive ballot result in TC 59 will also have to be ratified by ISO’s Technical Management Board (ISO/TMB).

New standard from SC 13 "Organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM)"

ISO 23387:2020 Building information modelling (BIM) — Data templates for construction objects used in the life cycle of built assets — Concepts and principles was published in July. It was developed in collaboration with CEN/TC 442 with CEN lead and Espen Schulze (Norway) as project leader. The standard sets out the principles and structure for data templates used to describe the characteristics of construction objects. It is developed to support digital business processes requiring information about any type of construction object, generic or physical, representing a product, system, assembly, space, building element etc. The data template enables software to use one and the same data structure to exchange information about construction objects through the whole life cycle of a built asset.

By Lisbet Landfald, SC 13 Committee Manager
Advisory group on climate change adaptation in TC 59
At the 2020 plenary, TC 59 agreed to establish a new advisory group on climate change adaptation following a proposal from the SC 14 leadership. The group has now been set up as TC 59/AG 2 "Climate change adaptation" under the leadership of Michael Lacasse (Canada), who is Chair of SC 14 "Design life". The group will look into how CCA affects the SCs within TC 59 and from this determine whether CCA should be addressed on the TC level or by the individual subcommittee. It will review the possible impact of applying CCA principles horizontally across TC 59, assess whether additional guidelines are necessary for TC 59 and its subcommittees, and if deemed necessary, draft a set of guidelines for application, subject to approval by TC 59. The new AG 2 will stay updated on developments and activities related to the new TMB Climate Change Coordinating Committee (TMB/CCCCC) and communicate outputs of their work to this committee. To further facilitate the information flow, the TC 59 Chair has now become a member of the TMB/CCCCC.

Proposed preliminary work item in SC 17 "Sustainability on buildings and civil engineering works"
A proposal to register a preliminary work item titled "Connection between the contributions of CEW to sustainability and achievement of the SDGs" is currently under ballot in SC 17 until 2 February. If approved, the preliminary project will be further developed by WG 5 "Civil engineering works" under the leadership of Antonio Burgueño (Spain). The work will focus on finding the links between the indicators, impacts and aspects used in the evaluation of the sustainability of civil engineering works (CEW), and the objectives and targets of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The planned deliverable is a new standard, and if realised, the standard can complement ISO 21928-2 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Sustainability indicators — Part 2: Framework for the development of indicators for civil engineering works, which is currently under development in WG 5.

News from SC 16 "Accessibility and usability of the built environment"
The revision of ISO 21542:2011 Building construction — Accessibility and usability of the built environment moves on to the next step and ISO/FDIS 21542 will undergo Formal Vote soon.

As a result, ISO/FDIS 21542, in comparison to the 2011 version, will be presented as a completely revised document. From an editorial point of view, the document has been comprehensively restructured to provide for an easier understanding and application. The technical revision focussed especially on bringing the specifications on (fire) emergency evacuation, lifts, acoustics, ramps, visual contrast and TWSI up to date and on adding an informative annex on housing. Throughout the document technical improvements have been carried out by an international team of experts gathered in SC 16 to make this edition of ISO 21542 meet the accessibility needs of today.

By Steffen Jenkel, SC 16 Committee Manager

Liaison to TC 59 and SC 16, ANEC (European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardization), also actively involved in the work to revise ISO 21542:2011 in SC 16, welcomes the approval of the 1st European standard on accessibility of the built environment: #Consumers expect to be able to ‘go out & about’ whatever their ages and abilities – EN 17210 can make it a reality. @MyEDF @Standards4EU @Fundacion_ONCE @NormasUNE @AGE_PlatformEU

The European standard developed by CEN/CLC JTC 11 is based on ISO 21542 but covers functional requirements.

Published since June 2020
ISO/TR 22845:2020, Resilience of buildings and civil engineering works (TC 59)
ISO 6707-1:2020, Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms (SC 2)
ISO 23387-2020, Building information modelling (BIM) — Data templates for construction objects used in the life cycle of built assets — Concepts and principles (SC 13)

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