



**CONVERGING AND EMERGING  
TECHNOLOGIES:  
THE COORDINATION IMPERATIVE**

**ISO/TMB & IEC/SMB**

**Third ANSI Conference on  
U.S. Leadership in ISO and IEC**

*Presented by*  
**Steven P. Cornish**  
ANSI Director, International Policy  
ANSI Representative on the ISO/TMB

# ***BACKGROUND - ANSI***

---

**APRIL 2006**

**The ANSI International Policy Committee IPC agrees to support the following specific cooperative projects between ISO and IEC:**

- **Harmonization, promotion and effective implementation of the global relevance policies.**
- **Develop a shared mapping process for future work and converging/emerging technologies, to allow industry stakeholders an early say in how overlapping or converging work may be addressed to best suit the constituents' needs, while doing so early enough to allow decisions before principals are so deeply engaged in a course of action.**
- **Improved engagement of consumer interests in ISO and IEC standards development.**
- **Continue to hold regular joint meetings between the ISO/TMB and the IEC/SMB.**

# ***BACKGROUND - PASC***

---

## **MAY 2006**

The Pacific Area Standards Congress approved its Resolution 7 which (in part) calls upon ISO and IEC to pursue the following cooperative efforts:

- **Harmonize, promote and effectively implement the global relevance policies of both organizations;**
- **Develop a shared mapping process for future work and converging/emerging technologies, to allow industry stakeholders an early say in how overlapping or converging work may be addressed to best suit the constituents needs, while doing so early enough to allow decisions before principals are so deeply engaged in a course of action;**
- **Formulate a common plan to improve engagement with consumer interests in ISO and IEC standards development; and**
- **Continue to hold regular joint meetings between the ISO/TMB and the IEC/SMB.**

# ***BACKGROUND – ISO GA***

---

## **SEPTEMBER 2006**

**The ISO General Assembly approved its Resolution 3/2006, which:**

- **Recognized the importance ISO attaches to cooperation between ISO and the IEC (along with the ITU-T) at various levels;**
- **Underlined that the global community can only benefit from the organizations working as closely together as possible in the rapidly changing global society; and**
- **Encouraged ISO and IEC to strengthen their cooperation.**
- **Called upon ISO and IEC to pursue the following specific action to develop a shared process for future work on converging/emerging technologies.**

# ***BACKGROUND – ISO/TMB & IEC/SMB***

---

**ISO/TMB projects to assist in the implementation of the ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010:**

- **In areas of converging technologies, ISO, IEC, ITU should be encouraged to establish joint committees and avoid parallel structures.**
- **Develop criteria and guidance on when a JTC or JWG should be established (added value), as well as operational procedures on how JTCs and JWGs shall operate.**

**Operational procedures for JWGs have been recently approved by ISO/TMB and IEC/SMB.**

**JUNE 2007**

**A joint TMB/SMB session will discuss details of a shared process for future work on converging technologies as well as criteria and guidance for establishing JTCs or JWGs.**

# ***RECENT AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST TO ISO AND IEC***

---

- **Nanotechnologies;**
- **Explosive atmospheres;**
- **Household appliances;**
- **Cold ironing of ships in ports;**
- **Semiconductor accelerometers;**
- **Rotating machinery;**
- **Crane insulators;**
- **Security;**
- **Energy efficiency and renewable resources;**
- **Automotive electronics;**
- **Network services billing;**
- **Second hand goods;**
- **Batteries;**
- **Consumer product safety;**
- **Consumer product recall.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 1***

---

## **PROBLEM 1**

**Efforts have been problematic, time-consuming and negatively charged recently for TMB and SMB to come to agreement on how to advance areas of common interest. This lack of timely responsiveness has not served the affected industries well.**

**The recently approved JWG procedures will prove useful in resolving some concerns.**

**However, the Directives continue to require assignment of administrative lead to one committee or the other. This gives the impression that one organization or the other has greater ownership on projects of common interest and decisions to assign administrative lead have proven difficult.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 1***

---

## **RECOMMENDED SOLUTION 1**

- **Eliminate assignment of administrative lead;**
- **Form JWGs that are co-convened by individuals named by each relevant committee;**
- **Each committee names its experts to the JWG. Balanced and manageable;**
- **Balloting of documents occurs among the P members of each relevant committee;**
- **Comment resolution responsibility lies with the JWG co-conveners or may occur in ballot resolution meetings of the JWG;**
- **ISO and IEC will decide on editing and publishing;**
- **Ongoing maintenance responsibility lies with the JWG.**



# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 2***

---

## **PROBLEM 2**

**Clause B.3 of the ISO/IEC Directives states that when a proposal to establish a new technical committee is made to ISO or IEC, the proposal shall also be submitted to the other organization requesting comment and/or agreement.**

**To date, ineffective administration of this by staff in Geneva has occasionally resulted in one organization learning of a proposal of common interest too late to have effective influence or be considered as an equal partner.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 2***

---

## **RECOMMENDED SOLUTION 2**

**Directives should be revised to require when ISO or IEC receive a proposal in a new field of technical work such proposals will be sent to the other organization for review to confirm whether the proposal is of interest to one or both organizations.**

**After initial and mutual staff review, the TMB and SMB should be consulted on the appropriate mode of cooperation for any projects identified as relevant to both organizations.**

**The recommended mode of cooperation will be documented in the proposal that is sent to ISO and IEC members for vote.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 3***

---

## **PROBLEM 3**

**With improvement to the implementation of Clause B.3 regarding proposals for entirely new fields, there is also a need for a mechanism for early detection of new work item proposals of mutual interest within ISO and IEC committees.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 3***

---

## **RECOMMENDED SOLUTION 3**

**Staff at ISO and IEC should review all NWIPs and identify projects of possible common interest as early as possible.**

**TMB should discuss with ISO staff and SMB should discuss with IEC staff how this may be most effectively pursued. TMB and SMB should then have a future discussion on the appropriate means to resolve this concern.**

**In ISO, all NWIPs should be sent by the proposers to both the committee secretariat and to ISO Central Secretariat in order for ISO/CS to make a quick consultation with IEC CO on any NWIPs of relevance to both organizations.**

**ISO and IEC should consider establishing a joint online public listing of NWIPs that is updated as NWIPs are introduced.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 4***

---

## **PROBLEM 4**

**At present the concept of an ISO/IEC joint technical committee (JTC) has only been pursued in one case.**

**Strong negative reactions exist to the idea of establishing additional JTCs.**

**Others view this structure as a possible option or solution that may be applied in some cases confronting the ISO/TMB and IEC/SMB.**

# ***PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS - 4***

---

## **RECOMMENDED SOLUTION 4**

**TMB and SMB should discuss and take a policy decision on whether or not the concept of JTCs is one that has any future value for application in other areas of common interest to ISO and IEC.**

**If yes, the TMB and SMB should then develop criteria that would determine when a JTC1 is the right structural approach.**

**If yes, the TMB and SMB should then develop details on how new JTCs will operate that will ensure the rights and interests of ISO, IEC and their members are respected and upheld.**