Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations

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Meeting global needs

International standards can complement policy makers and regulators to address:

- Globalization of trade in products and services
- Deregulation/privatization of public services
- Challenges of global climate change and improved energy efficiency
- Public demand for consumer safety, environmental protection, corporate social responsibility
- Need for international solidarity to face global terrorism, pandemics and natural disasters
- Pace of innovation and convergence of new technologies
Context for examining the subject of standards supporting regulations

  “Promoting the use of voluntary standards as an alternative or as a support to technical regulations”

- IEC Masterplan 2006, “IEC Standards as a strategic tool”
  “The IEC will enhance its promotion, marketing and communications efforts with decision makers … among regulators and developing countries, particular emphasis will be given to the importance of adopting and referring to IEC Standards …”

- ISO TMB and IEC SMB - supporting development of a joint document providing information to regulators
Using and referencing ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations

- to convey to regulators the benefits of choosing to use and reference ISO and IEC standards
- in support of evolving good regulatory practices
1. Advantages and benefits
2. Introduction/background
3. International trade and standards
4. Global applicability of ISO and IEC standards
5. Different types and aspects of ISO and IEC standards
6. Methods of referencing/using ISO and IEC standards for technical regulations
7. Other considerations
8. Conclusion

Annex A — Examples supporting regulations in different sectors
Annex B — Examples of national and regional regulatory texts
Annex C — Examples of national and regional policies
Why use or reference ISO and IEC Standards? (Cl 1)

- Support societal/environmental policies and sustainable development
- Consistent level of consumer protection
- Facilitate compliance across different regions enhancing market access (SMEs)
- State-of-the art and vehicle for dissemination of new technologies
- Basis for national standards and consultations (avoiding regulatory consultations)
- Basis for national technical regulations avoiding barriers to trade
- Complete range of tools for various modes of conformity assessment
- Process providing coherence and avoidance of duplication
Ensuring that national technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures do not constitute unnecessary barriers to international trade

- use international standards, guides and recommendations as basis for national technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

- play a full part, within the limits of resources, in preparation by participating in international standardizing bodies
Methods of referencing and using ISO and IEC standards for technical regulation (CI 6)

- Direct references to specific standards in the legal text
  - Dated references
  - Undated references

- Indirect reference to the use of ISO or IEC Standards
  “Example: Where the product meets the relevant ISO or IEC standard whose reference number has been published in [refer to relevant official listing here], the relevant authorities shall presume compliance with the requirements of this law.”

- Actions by regulators/authorities to encourage the use of ISO and IEC standards
  - government procurement policies
  - acknowledgment that ISO or IEC Standard meeting regulatory objectives
Other considerations (Cl 7)

- Ensuring no delegation of legislative responsibility
  - regulator always maintains choice of techniques to assess and ensure the suitability of an ISO or IEC standard
- National and regional adoptions of ISO and IEC standards
- Maintenance of ISO and IEC standards and regulator monitoring
- Regulator participation in standards development
- Role of conformity assessment in technical regulations
  - CASCO conformity assessment toolbox
  - First, second and third party conformity assessment
Some concrete examples (Annex A)

- **UN Recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the work of ISO/TCs 58 and 220**
- **GHTF and work of ISO/TC 194 (Bio eval of med devices), ISO/TC 210 (QM for med devices) and IEC/TC 62, Electrical equipment in medical practice**
- **UN/ECE Working Party 29 (World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations) and ISO/TC 22**
- **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the test methods and food safety work of ISO/TC 34**
- **Radio spectrum regulatory authorities and work of the IEC/CISPR (International special committee on radio interference)**
- **IMO framework regulations in maritime field and work of ISO/TC 8 (Ships and marine technology) and related IEC TCs 18 (ship electrical) and 80 (navigation)**
Open Session on:

*International Standards and Public Policies*

20 September 2007, Geneva

- *International Standards supporting public policies for sustainable development - am*
- *International Standards in relation to public safety and security policies - pm*
- *Key speakers from United Nations and agencies, international regulatory fora and policy makers*
- *Communication on ISO-IEC Special Publication*
Thank you for your attention

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