



ISO/TMB "Technical Management Board"
Secretariat: **ISO**
Secretary: **Rossi Marco Mr**



Form 01 - Cultural Heritage Conservation

Document type	Related content	Document date	Expected action
General / Other		2023-07-14	



PROPOSAL FOR A NEW FIELD OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY

PROPOSER:

DATE OF CIRCULATION:

SAC

CLOSING DATE FOR VOTING:

A proposal for a new field of technical activity shall be submitted to the Office of the CEO (to tmb@iso.org), which will process the proposal in accordance with [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Clause 1.5](#).

Furthermore, a proposal will be considered as complete if every information field is complete and follows the guidelines for proposing and justifying a new field of activity given in the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C](#).

TITLE

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.2](#))

Cultural Heritage Conservation

SCOPE

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.3](#))

Standardization in the field of terminology, technologies, materials and equipment for monitoring, evaluation, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

Note: Limited to tangible cultural heritage. If an overlap or the potential for overlap with other TC/SC is identified, coordination with related TC/SC should be sought by contacting or working with working groups.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION (Please use the field immediately below or attach an annex.)

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.13](#))

Cultural heritage embodies an immeasurable wealth inherited from our ancestors, serving as a testament to the progress of human civilization and encompassing profound historical, artistic, and scientific significance. Yet, the conservation of world cultural heritage confronts urgent challenges, as numerous significant cultural sites are at risk of damage and loss caused by natural disasters, climate change, inadequate maintenance and management, urbanization, vandalism and theft, cultural identity crises, and social changes. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) highlights the need for increased efforts to safeguard world cultural and natural heritages. Standardization serves as a crucial tool for enhancing the effectiveness of cultural heritage conservation efforts. However, different countries and international organizations have formulated or implemented different standards, due to vast distribution, large quantity, diverse status and exceptional value of cultural heritage around the world. This poses significant obstacles to the global conservation of cultural heritage and hampers effective communication and cooperation on a global scale. Hence, the establishment of the ISO Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation is a matter of utmost urgency.

The establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation will make significant contributions to the conservation of cultural heritage:

Fostering consensus on cultural heritage conservation. The establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation, will significantly contribute to fostering consensus among countries regarding cultural heritage conservation, building a universally recognized system of terms, theories, and methodologies for cultural heritage conservation. The formulation of common standards will play a crucial role in reducing the subjectivity and uncertainty in cultural heritage conservation, leading to more effective conservation practices.

Enhancing the level of cultural heritage conservation. The establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation, will involve the development and implementation of a series of international standards for cultural heritage conservation, which will facilitate the exchange of advanced technological expertise and best practices accumulated from global efforts in cultural heritage conservation. This will foster collaborative endeavours in technological innovation, encouraging research and application of new technologies in cultural heritage conservation, elevating the overall level of conservation efforts in all countries, particularly those with limited access to advanced technologies. This approach will fully leverage the leading and supporting role of standards.

Creating an exchange platform for cultural heritage conservation. The establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation, will create an efficient and inclusive platform that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and practices in cultural heritage conservation. It will actively involve more countries and regions in the development of cultural heritage conservation standards, thereby ensuring their active participation. Furthermore, it will facilitate communication and collaboration between the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and esteemed international organizations dedicated to cultural heritage conservation, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Council of Museums (ICOM), which will effectively support the implementation of relevant conventions on cultural heritage conservation.

Promoting the research on the origin and development of standardization. The establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation provides an opportunity to explore the study of standardization in relation to cultural heritage research. This involves examining significant milestones and the overall development process of standardization, encompassing the transition from spontaneous to conscious efforts and from experiential to scientific approaches. Furthermore, it entails interpreting the conceptual framework and logical principles underlying the development of standardization disciplines from the perspective of cultural heritage conservation. These efforts will significantly contribute to advancing research on the origin and historical development of global standardization.

PROPOSED INITIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK (Please use the field immediately below or attach an annex)

Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C.4.4 and C-4.5](#))

For each item, the initial work programme shall define the deliverable type and target dates. The initial work programme shall also assign priorities to the different items.

Standardization of cultural heritage conservation is a systematic and ongoing endeavor that requires continuous improvement. The new ISO/TC will develop, but not be limited to, the following international standards in the first three years:

1. Conservation of cultural heritage - Terminology
2. Conservation of cultural heritage - Deterioration and illustration
3. Conservation of cultural heritage - Restoration techniques for inorganic porous cultural relics(stone, wall painting, earthen sites)
4. Conservation of cultural heritage - Specification for seismic protection of museum collections
5. Conservation of cultural heritage - Environmental monitoring for museum collections

RELATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND ON-GOING STANDARDIZATION WORK

- The proposer has checked whether the proposed scope of the new committee overlaps with the scope of any existing ISO or IEC committee or JTC1 sub-committee
- If an overlap or the potential for overlap is identified, the affected committee has been informed and an agreement has been reached between proposer and committee on
 - i. modification/restriction of the scope of the proposal to avoid overlapping,

ii. potential modification/restriction of the scope of the existing committee to avoid overlapping.

- If agreement with the existing committee has not been reached, please explain why the proposal should be approved.

- Have proposals on this subject been submitted into an existing committee and rejected? If so, what were the reasons for rejection?

No.

LISTING OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS (SUCH AS STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS) AT INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.6](#))

I . Cultural heritage standards issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

1. ISO 21127:2014, Information and documentation — A reference ontology for the interchange of cultural heritage information
2. ISO/TR 19263-1:2017, Photography — Archiving systems — Part 1: Best practices for digital image capture of cultural heritage material
3. ISO 13810:2022, Tourism and related services — Visits to industrial, natural, cultural and historical sites — Requirements and recommendations

II . Cultural heritage standards issued by the regional organizations for standardization(The European Committee for Standardization, CEN/TC346- Conservation of Cultural Heritage)

1. EN 15999-1:2014, Conservation of cultural heritage - Guidelines for design of showcases for exhibition and preservation of objects - Part 1: General requirements
2. EN 16648:2015, Conservation of cultural heritage - Transport methods
3. EN 16782:2016, Conservation of cultural heritage - Cleaning of porous inorganic materials - Laser cleaning techniques for cultural heritage
4. EN 15898:2019, Conservation of cultural heritage - Main general terms and definitions
5. EN 17429:2020, Conservation of cultural heritage - Procurement of conservation services and works

III . Cultural heritage standards issued by some countries

1. Argentina

- (1) IRAM 30801, Management system for collections of cultural or natural objects. Requirements

2. Australia

- (1) AS/NZS 2789:2016, Information and documentation - International library statistics
- (2) AS ISO 21127:2017, Information and documentation - A reference ontology

3. China

- (1) GB/T 23862-2009, Specification of shipping packaging of cultural relics
- (2) GB/T 30686-2014, Bronze and iron collection's disease and illustration
- (3) GB/T 37909-2019, Technical specifications for thermoluminescence dating of the ancient ceramics
- (4) WW/T 0037-2012, Technical requirements for conservation & restoration of polychrome paintings on historic buildings
- (5) WW/T 0104-2020, Monitoring for museum environment-Monitoring terminal-Temperature and humidity

4. Egypt

- (1) E.S. 4044 / 2006, Information and Documentation - Library performance indicators
- (2) E.S.2604-1/2008, Information and documentation - International library statistics Part 1: Vocabularies

5. France

- (1) NF X80-002, Conservation of cultural heritage - Recommendations for designing, building, selecting and using a showcase for the exhibition of cultural heritage
- (2) NF X80-003, Conservation of cultural heritage - Test methods - Evaluation of the effect of a treatment on porous inorganic materials by the measurement of the groove width
- (3) NF Z40-014, Information and documentation - Requirements and criteria for the selection of paper and boards for the storage of paper and parchment documents

6. Germany

- (1) DIN 31645, Information and documentation - Guide to the transfer of information objects into digital long-term archives
- (2) DIN SPEC 67701, Information and documentation - Collections management for archives and libraries
- (3) VDI 3798 Blatt 1:2020, Material cultural heritage - Documentation, examination, and preservation including consideration of environmental impacts

7. India

- (1) IS 14850: 2000, Fire Safety of Museums - Code of Practice
- (2) IS 15791: 2007, Museum Plywood – Specification

8. Italy

- (1) UNI 11769: 2020, Applications for the cultural heritage - Evaluation elements for archival arrangement and description applications
- (2) UNI 10705: 2007, Cultural heritage - X-ray fluorescence analysis using portable systems

9. Russian Federation

- (1) GOST R 56198-2014, Monitoring of technical state of the cultural heritage objects. Immovable monuments. General requirements
- (2) GOST R 56891.1-2016, The preservation of cultural heritage. Terms and definitions. Part 1. General concepts, the composition and content of the scientific and project documentation
- (3) GOST R 70005-2022, Preservation of cultural heritage objects from biological damage. Classification, methods of protection and elimination of consequences. General requirements

10. Saudi Arabia

- (1) SASO-ISO-21127, Information and documentation - A reference ontology

11. Spain

- (1) UNE 41810:2017, Conservation of cultural heritage. Intervention criteria for stone materials

12. United Kingdom

- (1) BS 7913:2013, Guide to the conservation of historic buildings
- (2) BS 4971:2017, Conservation and care of archive and library collections

13. United States

- (1) NFPA 909-2021, Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties – Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship

(2) ANSI/IES RP-30-2017, Recommended Practice on Museum and Art Gallery Lighting
And others.

IV. Cultural heritage documents published by other international organizations

1. Documents issued by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

- (1) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- (2) Recommendation for the Protection of Movable Cultural Property (1978)
- (3) Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)
- (4) Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage (2018)

2. Documents issued by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):

- (1) International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter) (1964)
- (2) The Washington Charter (1987)
- (3) Nara Document on Authenticity (1994)
- (4) Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005)

3. Documents issued by the International Council of Museums (ICOM):

- (1) Environmental Guidelines IIC and ICOM-CC Declaration(2014)

LISTING OF RELEVANT COUNTRIES WHERE THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR NATIONAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.8](#))

Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, and organizations for conservation of cultural heritage

LISTING OF RELEVANT EXTERNAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR INTERNAL PARTIES (OTHER THAN ISO AND/OR IEC COMMITTEES) TO BE ENGAGED AS LIASONS IN THIS WORK

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Clause C.4.9](#))

- 1. ISO/TC42 Photography
- 2. ISO/TC 46 Information and documentation
- 3. ISO/TC 228 Tourism and related services
- 4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- 5. International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- 6. International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- 7. International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- 8. International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC)

IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT AFFECTED STAKEHOLDER CATEGORIES (Please see [ISO Connect](#))

	Benefits/Impacts/ Examples
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Industry and commerce – large industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide reliable technical requirements for cultural heritage conservation - Assist in the development and improvement of materials, equipment, and technologies for cultural heritage conservation
Industry and commerce – SMEs	- Same to that of large industry
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage conservation - Guide in the formulation of cultural heritage conservation policies - Provide standard tools for the management of cultural heritage conservation projects
Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the understanding of the importance of cultural heritage conservation - Enhance the accessibility, appreciation and enjoyment of the preserved cultural heritage
Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide professional technical specifications for personal skills and career development - Provide standards for professional qualification - Create more job opportunities for international personnel
Academic and research bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote more international academic exchanges and cooperation through the development of commonly agreed terminology and the formulation of international standards - Enhance basic research on cultural heritage conservation
Standards application businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standardize and effectively carry out work - Provide international standards for professional qualifications
Non-governmental organizations	- Provide worldwide technical guidance for cultural heritage conservation in accordance with international standards and conventions issued by relevant international organizations
Other (please specify)	

EXPRESSION OF LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT FROM THE PROPOSER

(Please see the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex C, Clause C.4.12](#))

If ISO agrees to establish this Committee on Conservation Technology of Cultural Heritage, China is willing to undertake the work of the Secretariat.

The proposer confirms that this proposal has been drafted in compliance with iso/iec directives,

part 1, annex c

SIGNATURE OF THE PROPOSER

SAC

COMMENTS OF THE ISO CENTRAL OFFICE (IF ANY)