

**INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION****STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT BOARD****SUBJECT**

Decisions and report from SMB meeting 179 held on 2024-02-28 in Sydney (AU)

*This version includes an editorial update in Annex B*

**1 Opening of the meeting****1.1 Welcome by the Chair**

SMB Chair Vimal Mahendru opened the meeting.

Vimal Mahendru welcomed the following new SMB members and alternates: Beatriz Novel (ES), replacing Oscar Querol, Qendresa Hasanaj (CA), replacing Lynne Gibbens. The SMB Chair thanked outgoing SMB members and alternates for their service in the SMB and their involvement in the IEC.

The following guests were introduced and attended parts of the meeting: Marco Rossi (ISO/TMB Secretary), Lynne Gibbens (ISO/IEC JSAG GRS Co-Convenor), Hao Hu (SEG 13 Convenor), and Atsushi Miyoshi (MSB Chair Assistant). The following IEC Officers were also in attendance for parts of the meeting: Kazuhiko Tsutsumi (MSB Chair) and Philippe Metzger (Secretary-General and CEO).

Vimal Mahendru also remembered the rich legacy living on in the SMB, thanks to the contributions from members who had passed away in 2023, Christian Gabriel and Kim Craig.

**1.2 Adoption of the agenda****SMB Decision 179/1 – Revised SMB agenda**

SMB approved the revised agenda as amended and given in document SMB/8080B/DA.

**SMB Decision 179/2 – TC/SC/SyC reports and SBPs**

SMB, by consent:

- approved 54 reports, including SBPs, from TC/SC/SyCs, listed in Annex A of the decision list; and
- expressed appreciation to the Chairs and Secretaries of all the TC/SC/SyCs for the reports submitted.

Comments made by SMB members during the comment/approval process have been submitted directly to the TC/SC/SyCs concerned.

### 1.3 Actions from previous SMB meetings

The list of actions in ([SMB Actions \(monday.com\)](#)) allows the SMB Secretariat and SMB members to follow them up in real time. SMB members are encouraged to review the progress regularly and provide feedback to the IEC Secretariat.

## 2 Strategic work

### 2.1 SMB Chair's Advisory Group (CAG)

CAG sessions were held on 2024-02-26 and 2024-02-27 and addressed the following topics:

- How to efficiently manage SBPs (including JTC 1)
- Engagement with Affiliates
- Review of SG 12 recommendations and AI use cases
- Review of ahG 96 progress to date
- Digital engineering
- E-labelling across industries
- Feedback from ISO Optimized Deliverables project
- Recommendations from SG 13 report
- Review of draft SMB decisions
- Topics for June 2024 SMB/TMB meeting
- Future CAG and DD topics

Action items agreed at the CAG meeting will be added to [monday.com](#) for review and monitoring by SMB members.

A Deep Dive session on Efficiency and Effectiveness of SMB was organized on 2024-02-26 and facilitated by the SMB Chair and Secretary.

A second Deep Dive session on Sustainability was organized on 2024-02-27 and facilitated by Pascal Terrien, SMB member for France.

#### **SMB Decision 179/3 – ACEA Guide 109**

SMB noted that ACEA is working on the revision of Guide 109 (Environmental aspects – Inclusion in electrotechnical product standards) and encouraged ACEA to speed up the revision process and complete this work by SMB meeting 181 in October 2024.

Given the strategic importance of Guide 109 for the IEC community and beyond, SMB requested the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to make it available at no cost.

The outcome of the Deep Dive sessions will be summarized by the SMB Secretariat and shared with SMB members.

### 2.2 SMB Operational Plan

The SMB Secretary reminded SMB members that an update of the three management board Operational Plans was provided to the IEC Board at its February meeting.

Following the discussion that took place at the October 2023 CAG meeting, SMB members agreed to amend the SMB Operational Plan by removing the following action:

- Implement actions to ensure agile and flexible standards development

They concurred to keep the following action in the SMB Operational Plan:

- Facilitate uptake of new/emerging technologies identified by MSB

They also agreed to add the following new actions, which will be further refined and described by the IEC Secretariat:

- Explore the potential of artificial intelligence for standardization
- Further engagement with regulators and legislators
- Increase collaboration with other IEC management boards

### **2.3 ahG 96 Governance of Artificial Intelligence**

Mike Wood and Ian Verhappen reported on the progress made to date by ahG 96. The topics that ahG 96 had been working on so far were to identify the responsibilities of SMB when it comes to AI governance as well as to determine where AI could be used to support the SMB work on fulfilling its tasks according to Directives Part 1.

#### **SMB Decision 179/4 – ahG 96 Governance of Artificial Intelligence**

SMB thanked Mike Wood and Ian Verhappen for providing an update on the work of ahG 96 accomplished so far.

SMB agreed on prioritizing the following pilot project ideas, which would be refined and described by ahG 96 by SMB meeting 180 in June 2024:

- Review and monitor IEC Committee Strategic Business Plans (SBPs)
- Check circular and duplicate definitions
- Monitor P-member participation

SMB also requested ahG 96 to start work on:

- Developing a usage guide on how IEC Committees may use AI in their work
- Reviewing how IEC adopts its own standard (ISO/IEC 42001)

### **2.4 SG 12 Digital Transformation and Systems Approach**

#### **SMB Decision 179/5 – SG 12 Digital Transformation and Systems Approach – Creation and management of digital content**

SMB thanked Ralph Sporer for reporting on the work done by SG 12.

SMB acknowledged that IEC Committees do not have today appropriate tools and guidance within the IEC environment to create and manage code related and supplementary digital content.

To support the creation and management of digital content in IEC Committees, SMB asked the IEC Secretariat to analyse existing published types of digital content across IEC Committees and any existing tools used to manage their development and report back to SMB by its June 2024 meeting.

In addition to this inventory, the IEC Secretariat is requested to provide SG 12 with an assessment and recommendations on using dedicated tools (such as GitHub and GitLab) and conduct a pilot project with a limited set of IEC Committees or Working Groups. The report of this pilot project is requested by SMB meeting 181 in October 2024.

#### **SMB Decision 179/6 – SG 12 Digital Transformation and Systems Approach – Cybersecurity requirements of digital content**

As SG 12 lacks appropriate technical expertise in cybersecurity, SMB further asked ACSEC to assess the risks and define security objectives related to digital content and deliverables provided by the IEC. ACSEC is requested to report back to SMB by its October 2024 meeting.

### **SMB Decision 179/7 – SG 12 *Digital Transformation and Systems Approach – Standard Information Model (SIM)***

When it comes to the Standard Information Model (SIM) developed by SG 12, SMB requested the IEC Secretariat to clarify copyright, intellectual property and licensing mechanisms that are currently applicable to the SIM and recommend any additional options that could be considered to enhance the protection of this deliverable for the benefit of the entire IEC community. Given the urgency of this matter, this report is expected by the end of March 2024.

Additionally, SMB requested the IEC Secretariat to carry out an initial analysis of the patent situation on the SIM and provide recommendations to SG 12 on possible approaches to mitigate any identified threat deriving from the intellectual property landscape. Noting that the IEC Secretariat has already started addressing these questions, SMB asked that an initial report be delivered to SMB by its June 2024 meeting.

Ralph Sporer, Co-convenor of SG 12, provided the following additional information:

- Since the scalability of SMART and native authoring of SMART standards relies heavily on upgrading the OSD platform to incorporate SMART authoring capabilities, this must be prioritized within the IT roadmap and OSD project and align with the 2024 SMART roadmap.
- SG 12 will develop a proposal for the future governance and development process for the SIM by October 2024. IEC/DMT, IEC Legal, ISO/TMB, ISO/DMT, ISO Legal, and IEC Board Task Force on SMART will be consulted.
- SG 12 will develop a proposal for a new Advisory Committee on Digital Content by June 2024. The scope, tasks, and rationale will be developed to feed an SMB decision.
- Smartification of existing content (e.g. with AI support) is necessary to speed up the process and produce a critical mass for service provision. The options foreseen are unverified content vs. expert validation and will require further discussion.

### **2.5 SG 13 *Working with consortia***

#### **SMB Decision 179/8 – SG 13 *Working with consortia***

SMB thanked Thomas Korssell for reporting on the work done by SG 13 and noted that all recommendations from SG 13 had been approved. SMB acknowledged the strategic significance of working with consortia, especially in the context of emerging technologies and in relation to the IEC strategy.

SMB asked the IEC Secretariat to support SG 13 to carry out a survey among IEC Committees and selected liaison and partner organizations by June 2024 to gather inputs on how to increase the attractiveness of the IEC among consortia and enhance cooperation between the IEC and consortia.

To support the work with consortia outside technical matters (e.g. intellectual property considerations, business model considerations, potential services offered to consortia), SMB asked the IEC Board to consider setting up a working group under the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to look after consortia matters as per the scope outlined in recommendation A.2 of the SG 13 report.

SMB also requested the JDMT to assess the proposal made by SG 13 in Annex 1 of its report to clarify Annex F of the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1.

SMB endorsed an investigation of a possible IWA procedure for the IEC and requested SG 13 to lead this study, in collaboration with knowledgeable partners (primarily ISO), and come back to SMB for review at its June 2024 meeting.

## **2.6 SEG 13 *Electrical equipment under extreme climate, environmental and disaster conditions***

Hao Hu, Convenor of SEG 13, provided SMB with an update on the work of the SEG, including membership, working groups structure, and a draft outline of the final report. SMB noted the following progress made since the last report in February 2023:

- An overview of electrical equipment and system vulnerabilities under various extreme conditions was provided.
- 30 use cases of emerging technologies coping with extreme conditions covering 13 countries or regions were identified. Preventative and mitigation solutions were studied.
- The current status and future needs in standardization regarding electrical equipment coping with extreme conditions and preventative and mitigation solutions were analysed.

As next step, SEG 13 will complete its draft final report at the next plenary meeting, with the aim of submitting this report to SMB by June 2024. Based on feedback received by SMB, SEG 13 will address the comments and update its report and recommendations as a final submission to SMB meeting 181 in October 2024.

## **3 Management of technical work**

### **3.1 Standardization Division**

Sophie Clivio reported on production statistics from the Standardization Division. It was noted that while figures for 2023 indicated an upward trend in the number of publications, the average time to develop standards reached a peak at 34.3 months. This number could be explained by the fact that 62 late standards (having taken more than 5 years to be developed) were published in 2023 following SMB Decision 176/8 (Projects under development for more than 5 years). 8 out of these 62 deliverables took 8 to 10 years to reach the publication stage. On the matter of late projects, Sophie Clivio reported that 18 exceptions to SMB Decision 176/8 had been granted in 2023. As of February 2024, she indicated that 13 projects were late by 5 years or more (among 1'756 active projects and to be compared to the 105 late projects in February 2023).

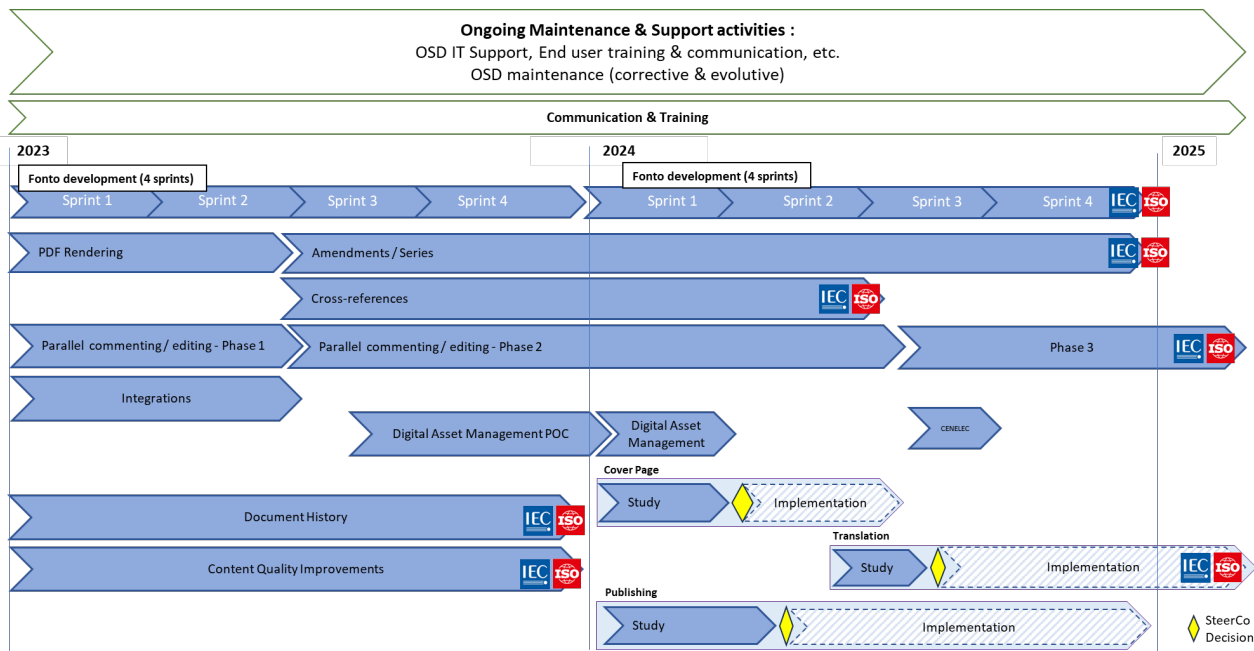
#### **SMB Decision 179/9 – Joint IEC/ISO projects under development for more than 5 years**

SMB noted that while projects with double or triple logos are automatically granted extensions, such exceptions should not be pursued anymore in 2024 for joint IEC/ISO projects as both organizations share the same 5-year cancellation rule.

SMB therefore asked ISO/TMB to concur with this approach and requested the IEC Secretariat to carry out its implementation in coordination with the ISO Central Secretariat.

Sophie Clivio also provided a status report on the Online Standards Platform (OSD) project. SMB noted the significant effort undertaken in 2023 to increase the number of training and ad hoc dedicated sessions to support both Technical Committees and National Committees. As of January 2024, 48 projects and 14 pre-projects in 29 Committees were under development on the OSD platform.

It was also noted that the OSD project has 4 new releases scheduled per year, and at each release a webinar is held to communicate on the changes brought by the new release. The current OSD roadmap was shared with SMB as follows:



### 3.2 TCs not submitting reports within 4 weeks of their meetings

There were no late reports to be highlighted for this SMB meeting.

### 3.3 TC 106 *Methods for the assessment of electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields associated with human exposure*

Mike Wood, current TC 106 Chair, provided SMB with an overview of TC 106 activities. Among the challenges highlighted in the presentation, he pointed out that the evolution of test systems, regulatory environment and mobiles market has led to TC 106 experiencing more contentious situations in developing standards. He noted that more support from the IEC Secretariat to raise awareness of the IEC Code of Conduct has been needed and well appreciated.

Mike Wood also underlined several opportunities for TC 106 going forward: extended collaboration with IEEE to ensure global consistency; responding to regulatory and market needs in a timely manner; new IEC/IEEE amendment to allow dual logo TR and PAS; rotating conveners and shared leadership; and ensuring teams are effective and improving ways to reach consensus. He mentioned metaverse, AI and 6G as future technologies TC 106 needs to embrace.

Mike Wood eventually outlined a vision for 2033 centred around 5 key aspects: simplified standards development; technical writing and new ways of working using AI; advanced safety assessments for devices and networks; supporting future technologies; global thought leadership and future vision.

SMB acknowledged the good work being done in TC 106, and thanked Mike Wood for his leadership, knowing that he would be handing over Chair of TC 106 to Teruo Onishi as of 2024-05-25.

### 3.4 ISO/IEC JSAG Gender Responsive Standards (GRS)

#### **SMB Decision 179/10 – ISO/IEC JSAG Gender Responsive Standards (GRS)**

SMB thanked Lynne Gibbens for her presentation on the work of the ISO/IEC JSAG GRS.

SMB decided to use a simplified GRS assessment form without the need for a signature (as provided in Annex B). SMB further asked the IEC Secretariat to inform all IEC experts of the requirement for GRS training.

SMB requested the ISO/IEC JSAG GRS to extend their work until February 2026 with the following mandate:

- Continue to conduct awareness raising and communication activities.

#### By February 2025:

- Develop an ISO/IEC Guide on Gender Responsive Standards based on the JSAG Guidance document.
- Explore using the Online Standards Development (OSD) platform to enable GRS.
- Analyze how GRS may be included in the standardization process at the earliest stage.

#### By February 2026:

- Review the implementation of the previous actions, possibly using a survey among IEC and ISO Committees.
- Recommend SMB and TMB further steps as appropriate.

The ISO/IEC JSAG GRS is asked to report back to SMB by its February 2025 meeting.

SMB asked ISO/TMB to concur.

SMB thanked Lynne Gibbens for her leadership and continued engagement in this important activity of the SMB Operational Plan.

### **3.5 Standardization Programme Coordination Group (SPCG)**

Thomas Korszell provided a brief update on the first SPCG meeting that he led as new SPCG Chair. SMB noted that the next report to the technical boards will be delivered by the next SMB meeting.

## **4 Directives**

### **4.1 Directives Maintenance Team (DMT)**

There was no DMT topic discussed at this SMB meeting.

### **4.2 Joint Directives Maintenance Team (JDMT)**

There was no JDMT topic discussed at this SMB meeting.

## **5 Relations with other bodies**

### **5.1 IEC Secretariat (SEC)**

Philippe Metzger updated SMB on recent engagements with IEC Members and partners, including the G20 International Standardization Dialogue in Delhi and the COP 28 in Dubai, both events held in November 2023 and in partnership with ISO and ITU. Following the virtualization of last year's General Meeting, he visited the Egyptian National Committee in January 2023 and took this opportunity to also meet with AFSEC. He noted the successful Digital Transformation workshop hosted by the Indian National Committee and run in collaboration with ISO in January 2023.

More recently, the IEC leadership met, together with ISO and ITU leaderships, with the WTO Deputy Director-General as part of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) meeting. Also in cooperation with ISO and ITU, Philippe Metzger represented the IEC in a standardization panel at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. Looking ahead, the IEC will be attending the upcoming IFAN Board Meeting and will continue following the developments of the Council of Europe Committee on AI.

The Secretary-General provided a brief update on the IEC Secretariat and mentioned the recruitment of a new Director of Communications, starting on 15 May 2024, to replace Gabriela Ehrlich who is going on retirement this year. An External Relations Officer has also been hired to fulfil increasing needs as discussed with SMB at its February 2023 meeting. The new person will be joining the IEC Secretariat on 1 May 2024.

## 5.2 IEC Board (IB)

As part of his update to SMB, the Secretary-General highlighted the Digital Transformation workshop that was conducted by the IEC Digital Transformation Officer during the February IEC Board meeting. The roadmap of SMART activities for 2024 was endorsed by IEC Board members.

## 5.3 Conformity Assessment Board (CAB)

There was no CAB topic discussed at this SMB meeting.

## 5.4 Market Strategy Board (MSB)

Kazuhiko Tsutsumi, MSB Chair, provided a brief introduction to the MSB White Paper on Power semiconductors for an energy wise society. It was noted that the market for power semiconductors was anticipated to keep growing substantially due to the increased share of renewable energy that needs to be converted and connected to existing and future power grids.

The following recommendations were raised by MSB in the White Paper:

1. Consider formulating additional guidelines or roadmaps for the development of power semiconductors standards through discussions that align device, system, and application level needs. Engage TC 22, SC 47E, TC 121, and other relevant IEC Committees.
2. Proactively coordinate and collaborate with other SDOs (JEDEC, UL, etc.) and industrial and academic forums to produce comprehensive, robust, and consistent sets of standards that serve global power semiconductor industries. The absence of coordination and collaboration will inevitably lead to multiple and competing standards that confuse and fragment the market, burdening suppliers, and users with the need to maintain compatibility across multiple formats.
3. Improve industry awareness of power semiconductor IS development in TC 47 through common and focused views on current work and required future steps.
4. Provide high level guidance on future steps regarding module standards for power semiconductors; life cycle assessment (LCA), carbon footprint, recycling, etc.; and users' needs.

### 5.4.1 Recommendations from MSB to SMB on White Paper on *Power semiconductors for an energy wise society*

#### **SMB Decision 179/11 – MSB White Paper on *Power semiconductors for an energy wise society***

SMB requested the IEC Secretariat to coordinate with TC 22, SC 22F, TC 47, TC 121, and any other relevant Committees, and identify a lead Committee to work on formulating additional guidelines or roadmaps for the development of power semiconductors standards aiming at aligning device systems and application level needs. The lead Committee will also be asked to provide high-level guidance on possible future steps regarding module standards and life cycle analysis considerations for power semiconductors. To undertake this task, the lead Committee will be encouraged to proactively coordinate and collaborate with other SDOs and industrial and academic forums as appropriate.

SMB asked the identified lead Committee to provide an update on this activity by SMB meeting 181 in October 2024.

SMB also requested the IEC Secretariat to undertake additional promotion of this White Paper to a broader community.

## 5.5 ISO Technical Management Board (TMB)

SMB thanked Marco Rossi for providing an update on ISO activities and noted with satisfaction the continuing fruitful collaboration with ISO/TMB. Marco Rossi provided a brief feedback from the ISO Council meeting that took place in Geneva the week before. The meeting included three workshops on artificial intelligence, SMART and business models. He highlighted the ISO priorities for 2024: the governance review, a new Task Force on business models, and stakeholders engagement.



The ISO/TMB Secretary gave an overview of the main topics that will be on the agenda of the upcoming ISO/TMB meeting, including a particular focus on the Optimized Deliverables project that submitted its initial recommendations. A list of new ISO Committees, proposals and closed ballots was also presented to SMB.

## 6 Other business

### 6.1 Dates and places of next meetings

Meeting	Date	Location	Status
<b>2024</b>			
SMB/TMB	2024-06-11	Geneva, CH	Confirmed
SMB/CAG & DDs	2024-06-12/13	Geneva, CH	Confirmed
SMB	2024-06-14	Geneva, CH	Confirmed
SMB/CAG & DDs	2024-10-18 pm/19	Edinburgh, UK	Confirmed
SMB	2024-10-21	Edinburgh, UK	Confirmed
CAB/MSB/SMB	2024-10-22 pm	Edinburgh, UK	Confirmed
<b>2025</b>			
SMB/CAG & DDS	2025-02-24/25	Mexico City, MX	tbc
SMB	2025-02-26	Mexico City, MX	tbc
SMB/TMB	2025-06-10	Geneva, CH	tbc
SMB/CAG & DDs	2025-06-11/12	Geneva, CH	tbc
SMB	2025-06-13	Geneva, CH	tbc
SMB/CAG & DDS	2025-09 (day 1/day 2)	tbc	tbc
SMB	2025-09	tbc	tbc
CAB/MSB/SMB	2025-09	tbc	tbc

### 6.2 Any other business

No other business was raised at the end of the meeting.

## 7 Close of meeting

The Chair adjourned the meeting and thanked all participants for their active contribution.

## Annex A to SMB Decision 179/2

SMB approved the reports listed below:

Document	Committee
SMB/7999/R	TC 69
SMB/8002/R	SyC SET
SMB/8013/R	TC 110
SMB/8014/R	TC 100
SMB/8017/R	TC 94
SMB/8019/R	TC 38
SMB/8021/R	SyC AAL
SMB/8027/R	TC 119
SMB/8028/R	TC 62 and SCs 62A, 62B, 62C, 62D
SMB/8031/R	TC 13
SMB/8032/R	TC 115
SMB/8033/R	TC 112
SMB/8034/R	TC 106
SMB/8036/R	TC 125
SMB/8037/R	SyC Smart Energy
SMB/8038/R	TC 101
SMB/8039/R	TC 124
SMB/8040/R	TC 103
SMB/8042/R	TC 99
SMB/8043/R	TC 3 and SCs 3C, 3D
SMB/8046/R	JTC 1
SMB/8047/SBP	JTC 1 and SCs
SMB/8052/R	TC 107
SMB/8053/R	TC 9
SMB/8058/R	TC 49
SMB/8059/R	TC 51
SMB/8060/R	TC 80
SMB/8061/R	TC 2
SMB/8062/R	TC 111
SMB/8063/R	TC 31 and SCs 31G, 31J, 31M
SMB/8067/R	TC 34
SMB/8068/R	TC 15
SMB/8069/R	TC 91
SMB/8070/R	TC 66
SMB/8071/R	TC 25
SMB/8074/R	TC 11
SMB/8082/R	TC 5
SMB/8085/R	TC 7
SMB/8086/R	TC 105
SMB/8087/R	TC 120
SMB/8090/R	TC 61 and SCs 61B, 61C, 61D, 61H, 61J
SMB/8091/R	TC 122
SMB/8092/R	CISPR and CIS/A, CIS/B, CIS/F, CIS/H and CIS/I
SMB/8093/R	TC 45 and SCs 45A, 45B
SMB/8095/R	TC 40
SMB/8096/R	TC 77 and SCs 77A, 77B, 77C
SMB/8101/R	TC 42
SMB/8102/R	SyC Smart Cities
SMB/8103/R	SyC Smart Manufacturing

SMB/8104/R	PC 130
SMB/8105/R	TC 86 and SCs 86A, 86B, 86C
SMB/8106/R	PC 126
SMB/8108/R	PC 127
SMB/8109/R	TC 8 and SCs 8A, 8B, 8C

## **Annex B to SMB Decision 179/10**

### **Gender Assessment Declaration**

*Please select the appropriate option.*

- A. The committee has identified that there are sex and/or gender differences (that may range from limited to significant) the standard must address, and the committee has made the necessary modifications to the standard.
- B. The committee has determined that there are no relevant sex and/or gender differences at this time. No gender considerations are needed in the standard.
- C. The committee has determined that there is insufficient data at this time to incorporate gender considerations. However, the committee will revisit as new data becomes available.

**If the committee selects A, it is requested to answer the Gender Assessment Results questions 1 and 2 below.**

### **Gender Assessment Results**

*Please provide a detailed explanation to each question below in the appropriate response section.*

**Question 1:** List / describe the potential sex /gender differences identified by the committee

**Question 2:** How has the committee addressed the sex and/or gender implications to ensure the standard is gender responsive?