

5 Design specification

Reactions by all parties in the USA to the proposed design specification as presented in N4 are as follows:

A) Sections 5 & 6 of the proposed structure for the ISO SR guidance standard clearly represent the structure of a management system standard, which is contrary to the general consensus of the AG, the Stockholm conference and the ISO/TMB's decisions resulting from the AG and the conference. Indeed, the ISO/TMB discussed and agreed in developing the NWIP that this document will not be a new ISO MSS and therefore, no ISO Guide 72 justification study was necessary to accompany the NWIP. Many ISO members voted on this proposal understanding that it did not represent a new ISO MSS.

B) Sections 5 & 6 are far too prescriptive and suggest the development of one approach for implementing SR in organizations rather than flexible guidance.

C) Sections 5 & 6 are process oriented rather than results and improvement oriented, which is contrary to the recommendations of the AG, the consensus of the Stockholm conference, the ISO/TMB's NWIP and the ISO member bodies voting on it.

Working from a number of elements of document N4 which are worthwhile, ANSI and its experts and observers recommend the following for the design specification:

- 0 Introduction
- 1 Scope
- 2 Normative References
- 3 Terms and definitions

Acknowledging and working from existing SR definitions already established by groups such as ILO, UN Global Compact, OECD, etc. without establishing new definitions where unnecessary. Also, clearly explaining differences with other existing definitions that may exist in regional or national standards or in governmental regulations.

- 4 SR Principles (including and building from the principles suggested under #4 in N4)
- 5 SR Components and Issues (Guidance and descriptions of various SR components and issues such as environmental aspects, labor concerns, human rights, etc. as they relate to organizations implementing SR)
- 6 Organizational Roles and Best Practices in SR (Describing the various types of organizations that can contribute to SR, with flexible guidance on what they may consider or do to assist in SR, including best practice examples where possible).
- 7 Stakeholder Engagement (including and building from the bullets suggested under #6.2 of N4)
- 8 SR Communications (including and building from the bullets suggested under #7 of N4)

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Guidance on Social Responsibility

0. Introduction

1. Scope

2. Normative References

3. Terms and definitions

4. SR Principles

Examples of principles:

- Respect for international legislation and instruments (i.e UN conventions and declarations, ILO conventions and declarations, Global Compact, etc)
- Respect for the flexibilities and autonomy of the organisation
- Respect for cultural and economical differences
- Transparency, fairness, responsiveness, credibility, appropriateness, etc.
- Sustainability achievement and business continuity through stakeholder confidence and satisfaction

5. Establishing the SR Framework

Guidance on framework and strategic considerations, including:

- Relation between organisations vision, mission, values, policy, strategy and SR implementation
- Setting Boundaries of SR
- SR policy and commitment (i.e. philanthropy)
- Objectives
- Organizational governance (the decision making process within an organization)
- Resource allocation
- Authority and responsibilities
- Regulatory framework
- Communication policy

6. Handling SR within the organisation

NOTE: Whenever the WG considers existing international accepted schemes/documents are available, these will be referenced.

6.1 Preliminary assessments

Guidance, including:

- Internal assessment of SR aspects within identified boundaries

6.2 Stakeholder engagement

Guidance, including:

- Identification of stakeholders & differentiating between them
- Mechanisms for identification of stakeholders needs and expectations
- Communication with stakeholders

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6.3 Identifying & recognising SR issues

Guidance based on:

- Stakeholder needs and expectations
- Policy, objectives etc
- Established boundaries for organisation
- Established SR criteria for identifying SR issues

and including:

- Examples of SR issues

6.4 Analysis and evaluation of SR issues

Guidance, including:

- Techniques and tools for analysis and verification of SR issues
- Techniques and tools for prioritizing SR issues
 - Complying with legal requirements
 - Stakeholder priorities
 - Correspondance with organisation vision
- Risk/opportunity assessment

6.5 Implementing

Guidance, including:

- Social, environmental and economic decision making activities within an organisation (internal governance)
- Top management commitment
- Resource allocation
- Training

6.6 Monitoring Performance and Progress

Guidance, including:

- Use of existing processes and performance evaluations
NOTE: need not involve third party conformity assessment
- Performance indicators
- How to measure

6.7 Maintaining and improving

Guidance, including:

- Evaluation of performance indicators
- Reviewing policy, objectives etc

7 SR Communication

Guidance, including:

- Principles on communication with stakeholders
 - Internal and external communication systems
 - Integration of input to process
- Communication plan and process – some guidance
- Reporting as a tool for communicating performance