RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDS

Aid For Trade Seminar

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Standards Australia – Who we are

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA – FORMED 1922

Independent, not-for-profit, non-government

Represents Australia on the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO)

Recovers a small royalty on sale of Australian Standards

Driven by adding Net Benefit to Australia

A trusted partner of government, industry and the community

Agenda and priorities driven by stakeholders
OUR NOMINATING ORGANISATIONS CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DEVELOPING STANDARDS
STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

What we do

• Facilitate the development of internationally harmonised Standards and other solutions that make a positive contribution to Australia

What we don’t do

• Make laws or regulations
• Test or certify products or systems
Standards Australia – Who we are

STATUS

Recognised as Australia’s National Standards Body by the Australian Government
Standards Australia in the national context

PART OF AUSTRALIA’S TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Role: Providing documentary Standards and test methods

Other members
JAS-ANZ: Accreditation body and professional accreditation
NATA: Laboratory and inspection body accreditation
NMI: Metrology (measurement and scientific standards)

Goal
The four members of the TIA provide quality and safety assurance that organisations meet or exceed societal or business expectations.
WHAT IS A STANDARD?
What is a standard?

A Standard is defined as a:

- “…formal document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context…”

- Standards should be based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.”

*ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004, Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*
AREAS OF STANDARDISATION

Standards may contain rules, guidelines or characteristics for:

- Products
- Processes
- Services
- Management systems
- Organisations
- People

Standards can be written as a set of requirements or as guidance statements, or a mixture of both, depending on the end-user and application of the Standard.

Tip: International Standards play a critical role in assisting Australia and our FTA partners meet our trade obligations on Standards related measures e.g. STRACAP provisions.
WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?
Imagine a world without standards…

WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?
WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?

Standards Benefit Everyone

AS 2432-2009 Babies' dummies

AS/NZS 2172:2010 Cots for household use - Safety requirements

AS/NZS 4385:1996 Infants' rocking cradles - Safety requirements

In your infancy
Standards Benefit Everyone

WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?

AS/NZS 1927:1998
Pedal bicycles

AS/NZS 2063:2008
Bicycle helmets
WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?

AS 2047-1999  Windows in buildings - Selection and installation

AS 3660 Protection of buildings from subterranean termites

AS 1408 Size of cooking utensils
WHY DO WE HAVE STANDARDS?

Standards Benefit Everyone

AS/NZS ISO 7176.4:2011
Wheelchairs - Energy consumption of electric wheelchairs and scooters for determination of theoretical distance range

In your retirement
STANDARDS BENEFIT THE INDUSTRY

Reduce costs  Maximise revenue  Expand markets

Increase innovation  Risk management tool

Sources: ASTM and DIN studies/reports, CBI Centre (http://www.nssf.info/CBI)
Standards Boost Business

STANDARDS AND INNOVATION

- Standards provide an essential platform on which new technologies and processes can build and knowledge can be widely diffused.

- ‘Standards are necessary to accompany the emergence of new markets and the introduction of complex systems’ Commission of the European Communities 2007

- Standardisation is a vital component of the innovation system, ...Targeted application of standards to new and emerging technologies can accelerate and extend the application of innovative activity. Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills, Implementing “The race to the top”: Lord Sainsbury’s Review of UK government’s science and innovation policies (March 2008)
Standards and Regulation

ARE STANDARDS LAW?

- No action
- Non-regulatory solutions e.g. information program
- Self-regulation, including Australian Standards, industry codes
- Quasi-regulation, including Australian Standards endorsed by government
- Co-regulation, including Australian Standards called up in regulation
- Law (government legislation)

Standards Australia
Standards and Regulation

POLICY PROBLEM

Policy solutions

- No Action
- Non-regulatory Solutions
- Self regulation
- Quasi regulation
- Co-regulation
- Law

No Action

E.g. Information programs

Incl. standards, industry codes

Incl. standards endorsed by govt

Incl. standards called up by regulation

Government legislation
Standards Australia – The Global Connection

THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK
THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

• There should be a preference for international standards because they will facilitate the importation of a wider range of goods to consumers and industry and ensure Australia fully participates in the global marketplace.
  » Productivity Commission 2006

• As a signatory to the World Trade Organisation Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT), Australia should utilise international standards and conformity assessment procedures (where they meet our needs) to the extent possible
  » Australian Government policy April 2011
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

ISO
Multi-discipline and cross-sector, including conformity assessment

IEC
Electro-technology, including medical devices

PASC
A forum of Pacific Rim National Standards Bodies
Building regional capacity and capability

AID FOR TRADE IN ACTION

Recent Activities

- Myanmar Institutional Strengthening Project
- APEC SMEWG Harmonisation of Standards
- APEC SCSC The Role of Standards and Innovation for Driving APEC’s Silver Economy

Opportunities

- Fiji building standards request
- PNG National Quality Infrastructure
- PIFS - Pacific building codes initiative
- Tonga is considering setting looking at setting up a National Standards Body
- Philippines Australia – Economic Growth and Trade Facility
- ISO’s MoU with the World Bank
- SA working with other counterparts e.g. Singapore and Japan in third markets
STANDARDS: A KEY COMPONENT OF TRADE

- Standards and Conformance Assessment are key pillars in underpinning global trade.
- Standards support regulatory objectives by providing technical solutions that complement government policy positions.
- Australia must actively support the role and work of international standards setting organisations i.e. ISO and IEC – 1 country 1 vote!
- Australia’s Standards Infrastructure can provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries under the DFAT EDF e.g. CLMV.
- The role of Standards and Conformance is critical to achieving benefits realisation under high-quality, economic partnership agreements and broader global trade liberalisation outcomes.
If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together.

—*African proverb*

Thank you
QUESTIONS

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