

The ISO/TC 59 secretariat is pleased to present the fifteenth newsletter of ISO/TC 59, giving a brief indication of current or recent affairs in our committee. The newsletter is distributed twice a year. Feel free to use this as a forum to inform others of your work or draw attention to areas you would like to highlight with relevance to ISO/TC 59. Please send your contributions to the ISO/TC 59 committee manager at ksb@standard.no.

Participation at ISO/TMB SAG MRS meeting in Geneva

As one of several ISO committees, ISO/TC 59 was invited to attend a meeting of the ISO/TMB Strategic Advisory Group on Machine Readable Standards in Geneva. The purpose was to present our views on current and future needs for digital standards in the construction industry, as this group is working to develop a roadmap on the introduction and implementation of machine-readable standards within ISO, including identifying ISO standards that are a priority for transformation from text into machine-readable standards. The SAG's mandate also includes the development guidelines for technical committees and provision of input on the subject for the next ISO Strategic Plan 2021-2025. ISO/TC 59 was well represented at the meeting, with the Chair, the Chair Elect and the Committee Manager present.



At the ISO/TMB SAG MRS meeting in Geneva on 13 June

Photo: KSB

What is challenging for the construction industry in particular is that our industry is relatively fragmented, covering a wide range of actors and subject areas. The construction industry is also subject to a wide range of laws, regulations and building codes. Furthermore, many standards seem to get more and more complex and require an increasing level of expertise for practical use.

According to the World Economic Forum, 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which are a core driver of climate change, are attributable to facilities constructed by the industry, and the infrastructure and urban development industry is the largest consumer of raw materials further depleting scarce resources. Around 200,000 people migrating to urban areas daily are dependent on the provision of affordable housing and infrastructure.

From this, it is clear we need to find innovative solutions to support the industry's transformation and thereby achieve higher productivity, greater sustainability and enhanced affordability.

An important key is digitalisation. More and more construction projects are incorporating systems of digital sensors, intelligent machines, mobile devices, and new software applications – increasingly integrated with a central platform of Building Information Modelling (BIM). The challenge, however, is not only to achieve widespread adoption of disruptive technologies and harmonisation of proprietary solutions but also to develop standards that can be used digitally to help support our common goals.



Chairman's corner

In ISO, the construction industry is represented with over 30 technical committees. Each with a number of subcommittees and working groups, so this involves a lot of people and standards.

To at any time get the appropriate information from all these standards, i.e. the exact requirements related to a given construction project, into the "I" of the "BIM", in a harmonised and digitalised way will be challenging. I believe it is achievable, but it may require organisational openness with increased involvement across TCs and SCs and we may also have to go outside the box.

Looking to CEN, there are harmonised standards with a particular "Annex ZA" that states which clause of the standard fulfils which requirement of an EU Directive. Would it be possible to have a specific annex in ISO standards with information extracted for use in digital solutions? Or to assign GUIDs to the concepts in the ISO Online Browsing Platform? ISO has a big role to play in facilitating the transition to machine readable standards. But with this role also comes big opportunities.

Kind regards, *Per Jæger*

Photo: Johnny Syversen

Chair Elect and new Chair of ISO/TC 59 from 2020



As the term of SC and TC chairs is limited to nine years, 2019 will be the final year of our current Chair, Mr Per Jæger. In April, therefore, Standards Norway nominated a successor, Mr Øyvind Skarholt (Norway). The nomination, which was approved by ISO's Technical Management Board (ISO/TMB) at the end of May, entailed that Mr Skarholt will be Chair Elect until the end of this year before becoming the new Chair from 1 January 2020 until end 2023.

Mr Skarholt holds a degree from the Norwegian Air War Academy and has throughout his career been in leading positions as chairman for organisations, such as buildingSMART Norway and the Norwegian EPD Foundation, and he has experience from contractors and distributors and lately as CEO for Construction Products Norway. He also has experience from national and international standardisation work.

ISO/TC 59/SC 17 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Last year, ISO incorporated a new section on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in each committee and subcommittee webpage.

What a surprise to discover that our subcommittee on sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works only contributes to SDGs 10 (reduced inequalities) and 11 (sustainable cities and communities)!!

That didn't reflect at all the reality and obviously the content of our standards.

It is important to point out that SDGs might also be an entry point to our SC 17 standards since sustainable development strategies of organizations (including those purchasing buildings and civil engineering works) are partly based on SDGs.

Having these two realities in mind, the chair and the WG convenors decided, in Beijing, to draft a mapping of our standards crossing SDGs.

Six months later, the result is that ISO/TC 59/SC 17 contributes with 14 standards to the following 13 [Sustainable Development Goals](#):



The ISO page of ISO/TC 59/SC 17 has also been updated accordingly: <https://www.iso.org/committee/322621.html>

By Karine Dari (karine.dari@afnor.org), Committee Manager of ISO/TC 59/SC 17 "Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works"

Arctic adventures ahead



Photo: pixabay.com

AG 1, which is the Chair's Advisory Group in ISO/TC 59, meets annually and this year, the meeting will be held in Longyearbyen, Norway. Four subcommittees and seven working groups will take the opportunity to meet in conjunction, so from 14 to 17 October, experts and delegates from near and far will come together at 78° North to discuss and collaborate on the drafting of construction standards. The host, Standards Norway, is looking forward to making this a memorable event. The subcommittees meeting are

- ✓ SC 2 "Terminology and harmonization of languages"
- ✓ SC 14 "Design life"
- ✓ SC 15 "Framework for the description of housing performance"
- ✓ SC 18 "Construction procurement"

One week earlier, from 7 to 9 October, two Task Forces and four working groups under our SC 13 "Organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM)", will meet in Oslo. This will be followed by the SC 13 plenary meeting on 10 October.

The next plenary meeting week of ISO/TC 59, which takes place every two years, will be held in Moscow in the week starting 26 October 2020.

Proposal for new terminology standard in SC 2

With the growth in the number of international construction projects and the development of the international market in construction products, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language. The objective of the ISO 6707 series is to provide a consistent language for use by the various professions involved in the construction industry. The ISO 6707 series is developed and maintained by our SC 2 "Terminology and harmonization of languages".

The proposal, submitted by the British Standards Institution, is for a new Part 4 in this series to establish preferred terms and concepts related to facility management for buildings and other types of construction works. The project is intended to complement ISO 41011:2017 *Facility management – Vocabulary*, which is developed by SC 2's liaison ISO/TC 267 "Facility management". Consideration has also been given to the way in which electronic processes are being increasingly employed across building and civil engineering projects and how this has an impact on the work of those engaged in facility management.

The proposal is currently under ballot in SC 2 as ISO/NP 6707-4 *Buildings and civil engineering works – Vocabulary – Part 4: Facility management terms*. The ballot closes on 28 August, and if approved, the project will be registered in the work programme of SC 2/WG 4.

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ISO 21931-2:2019 *Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Framework for methods of assessment of the environmental, social and economic performance of construction works as a basis for sustainability assessment – Part 2: Civil engineering works (SC 17)*