

ISO launches a project committee to develop an International Standard for energy management

ISO has just approved the creation of a project committee mandated to develop an international standard on energy management.

The standard will provide all types of organizations and companies a practical and widely recognized approach to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs and improve their environmental performance by addressing both the technical and management aspects of rational energy use. The standard is intended to be broadly applicable to various sectors of national economies, including utility, manufacturing, commercial building, general commerce, and transportation sectors, and therefore, could have influence on as much as 60 percent of the world's energy demand.

ISO Secretary-General Alan Bryden commented: "The urgency to reduce GHG emissions, the reality of higher prices from reduced availability of fossil fuels, and the need to promote efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, provide a strong rationale for developing this new standard building on the most advanced good practices and existing national or regional standards".

Following the successful examples of the ISO 9000 series on quality management and the ISO 14000 series on environmental management, the project committee ISO/PC 242, *Energy management*, will consider the development of a standard containing relevant terms and definitions and providing management system requirements together with guidance for use, implementation, measurement and metrics.

The standard will be based on the continual improvement and Plan-Do-Check-Act approach utilized in ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 to provide compatibility and integration opportunities.

Among the main benefits of the future standard are that it will:

- provide organizations and companies (utilities, manufacturers, commerce, buildings, transportation, both private and public) with a well-recognized framework for integrating energy efficiency into their management practices
- offer organizations with operations in more than one country a single, harmonized standard for implementation across the organization
- provide a logical and consistent methodology for identifying and implementing improvements that may contribute to a continual increase in energy efficiency across facilities

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- assist organizations to better utilize existing energy consuming assets, thus reducing costs and/or expanding capacity
- offer guidance on benchmarking, measuring, documenting, and reporting energy intensity improvements and their projected impact on reductions in GHG emissions
- create transparency and facilitate communication on the management of energy, promote energy management best practices, thus reinforcing the value of good energy management behaviors
- assist facilities in evaluating and prioritizing the implementation of new energy-efficient technologies
- provide a framework for organizations to encourage suppliers to better manage their energy, thus promoting energy efficiency throughout the supply chain
- facilitate the use of energy management as a component for projects in the context of GHG emission reduction projects.

The secretariat of ISO/PC 242 will be held jointly by the ISO members for the United States and for Brazil: ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and ABNT (Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas)

ANSI has approved the formation of a United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) for ISO PC 242. The TAG is a mechanism for identifying issues and developing national consensus regarding energy management. The TAG's primary purpose is to develop and transmit to the International Organization of Standarization (ISO), via ANSI, the US position on activities and ballots of their ISO Project Committee. The US TAG for PC 242 will consist of experts and practitioners in the field of energy management. Delegates selected will actively participate in activities of ISO/PC 242 including the development of the ISO standard on energy management and others that will be approved in the future. Participation in the US TAG 242 provides an opportunity for representatives of all affected U.S. constituencies (industry, commerce, NGO, education, government, etc.) to influence the development of international energy standards.

Persons who are interested in participating in the development efforts of the international standard through the US TAG for PC 242 should contact Deann Desai with the Georgia Institute of Technology Enterprise Innovation Institute Energy and Environmental Management Center (GTEEMC). Ms. Desai will provide an application for participation in the US TAG or answer any questions that you may have regarding the matter. Ms. Desai can be reached:

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