International Organization for Standardization
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Международная организация по стандартизации

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Form 1: Proposal for a new field of technical activity

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Proposer: ABNT	**ISO/TS/P 278**

A proposal for a new field of technical activity shall be submitted to the Central Secretariat, which will assign it a reference number and process the proposal in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, subclause 1.5). The proposer may be a member body of ISO, a technical committee, subcommittee or project committee, the Technical Management Board or a General Assembly committee, the Secretary-General, a body responsible for managing a certification system operating under the auspices of ISO, or another international organization with national body membership. Guidelines for proposing and justifying a new field of technical activity are given in the ISO/IEC Directives (part 1, Annex C).

The proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

Title of the proposed new committee (The title shall indicate clearly yet concisely the new field of technical activity which the proposal is intended to cover.)

ISO TC 287 Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products

Scope statement of the proposed new committee (The scope shall precisely define the limits of the field of activity. Scopes shall not repeat general aims and principles governing the work of the organization but shall indicate the specific area concerned.)

Standardization in the field of the wood and wood-based industries, including but not limited to sustainability and renewability aspects, chain of custody, timber tracking and timber measurement, across the entire supply chain from biomass production to the finished wood and wood-based products.

Excluded: those applications covered by ISO/TC6 “Paper, board and pulps”; ISO/TC89 “Wood-based panels”; ISO/TC 165 “Timber structures”; ISO/TC 218 “Timber”; and ISO/TC 207 “Environmental management”.

Proposed initial programme of work (The proposed programme of work shall correspond to and clearly reflect the aims of the standardization activities and shall, therefore, show the relationship between the subject proposed. Each item on the programme of work shall be defined by both the subject aspect(s) to be standardized (for products, for example, the items would be the types of products, characteristics, other requirements, data to be supplied, test methods, etc.). Supplementary justification may be combined with particular items in the programme of work. The proposed programme of work shall also suggest priorities and target dates.

ISO TC 287 Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products intends to develop technical work on:

Chain of custody;

Timber tracking and measurement;

Sustainability aspects for the wood and wood-based industries;

Harmonized terminology.

Indication(s) of the preferred type or types of deliverable(s) to be produced under the proposal (This may be combined with the "Proposed initial programme of work" if more convenient.)

Technical Standards and/or technical specifications.

A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels. (Any known relevant document (such as standards and regulations) shall be listed, regardless of their source and should be accompanied by an indication of their significance.)

List not exhaustive:

Brazil

- ABNT NBR 14790:2007 – *Forest management – Chain of custody*;
- ABNT NBR 15753:2009 – *Forest management – Guidelines for implementation of* ABNT NBR 15789.

Australia

- AS 4708 Supp 1:2007 – *Guidance for medium and large native forest ownerships* (Supplement 1 to AS 4708 - 2007).

Spain

- UNE 162001:2007 – *Sustainable forest management – Vocabulary, terminology and definitions*;

United States

- ASTM D7480-08 – *Standard guide for evaluating the attributes of a forest management plan*;
- ASTM D7480-08 – *Standard guide for evaluating the attributes of a Forest Management plan*.

ISO

- ISO 24294 “Timber -- Round and sawn timber -- Vocabulary” should be cited as relevant standard.

A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing ISO and IEC deliverables. (The proposer should explain how the work differs from apparently similar work, or explain how duplication and conflict will be minimized. If seemingly similar or related work is already in the scope of other committees of the organization or in other organizations, the proposed scope shall distinguish between the proposed work and the other work. The proposer shall indicate whether his or her proposal could be dealt with by widening the scope of an existing committee or by establishing a new committee.)

The proposal intends to address topics that will offer, in some cases, opportunities for developing interactions with other Technical Committees in form of liaison, joint working groups or other initiatives. The TC Leadership will work proactively on avoiding overlaps and building relationships with other parties, aiming to respect activities that are currently being developed and potentialize opportunities for synergy. Initially, such dynamic may occur with TC 59/SC 17, TC 207, TC 218, TC 238, TC 296 and PC 308.

A listing of relevant countries where the subject of the proposal is important to their national commercial interests.

Austria, Brazil, Germany, Canada, Sweden, China, France, Finland, Denmark, Argentina, United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands, South Africa, Japan, Chile, Romania, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, India, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Thailand, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Gabon, Malaysia, Uruguay, Norway, Bulgaria - list not exhaustive.

A listing of relevant external international organizations or internal parties (other ISO and/or IEC committees) to be engaged as liaisons in the development of the deliverable(s). (In order to avoid conflict with, or duplication of efforts of, other bodies, it is important to indicate all points of possible conflict or overlap. The result of any communication with other interested bodies shall also be included.)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC);

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC);

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI);

United Nations Forum on Forests;

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois);

European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS);

Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités (GERES);

GS1;

International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA);

The Rainforest Alliance.

A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small and medium sized enterprises) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s).

The list of affected stakeholders includes, but is not limited to, the following:
Consumers;
Society;
Government;
Industry;
NGOs;

Forest owners;

Small producers of timber;

Research institutes.

An expression of commitment from the proposer to provide the committee secretariat if the proposal succeeds.

ABNT is committed to allocate the Committee's Secretariat, with its full responsibilities if the proposal succeeds.

Purpose and justification for the proposal. (The purpose and justification for the creation of a new technical committee shall be made clear and the need for standardization in this fieldshall be justified. Clause C.4.13.3 of Annex C of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 contains a menu of suggestions or ideas for possible documentation to support and purpose and justification of proposals. Proposers should consider these suggestions, but they are not limited to them, nor are they required to comply strictly with them. What is most important is that proposers develop and provide purpose and justification information that is most relevant to their proposals and that makes a substantial business case for the market relevance and the need for their proposals. Thorough, well-developed and robust purpose and justification documentation will lead to more informed consideration of proposals and ultimately their possible success in the ISO IEC system.)

Motivation

The importance of forests and their resources to the livelihood of our planet is unquestionable. According to latest data from the United Nations, these ecosystems cover approximately 4 billion hectares or about 30% of Earth's land area and 1.6 billion people depend on forests for income generation and subsistence. Understandably, the pressure on forests through the ever-growing demand for wood and agricultural land is a central part of international concern and debate.

To understand the complexities of this challenge and to enable the rational design of strategies to alleviate future competition between land and resources, it is important to consider the future of forests in the context of global population demographics. By 2030, it is estimated that the world's population will jump from a current 7.6 to 9.5 billion people. Consequently, the demand for wood is expected to triple in the same period, reaching 10 billion cubic meters per year and leading to an unavoidable increment in land use that could reach 250 million hectares. Technological advances and the versatility of wood as a renewable raw material also play a crucial role in the design of solutions for this dilemma. As innovation progresses, a bio-economy based on woody biomass becomes feasible, allowing a more diverse use of products made from fiber and lignin, many of them positioned to replace chemical compounds derived from petroleum.

Growing forests and plantations sequester huge amounts of CO2 from the atmosphere and the renewable carbon cycle does not add any new GHG to the atmosphere as long as forests are managed in a sustainable way. Therefore, wood and wood-based products play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. They have the potential to replace many of the fossil-based products (energy, materials and chemicals) and have a smaller ecological footprint than other competing materials such as concrete and steel (ref FAO). As a result, they can contribute significantly to the United Nations COP process and to reaching the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. On the social side, sustainably managed forests and plantations have the potential to contribute substantially to rural development. In this area there are already well established international standards dealing with sustainable forest management. ISO TC 287 intends to create a working group to provide the tools to address sustainability aspects associated with the production of renewable wood-based products.

One of the important challenges in this context is assuring the legal origin of timber in supply chains, as well as that of other raw materials derived from wood. ISO PC 287 has already successfully developed ISO 38200 Chain of custody of wood and wood-based products, but this is an extensive and dynamic topic, with new approaches and technological innovations being regularly introduced to stakeholders. In response to this scenario, the future TC 287 aims to develop additional International Standards to support and complement ISO 38200.

It will also be essential to develop new measurement tools and exercise due diligence in their implementation. For example, ISO TC 287 intends to explore the adoption and standardization of novel and promising technologies for timber tracking, as well as establishing relevant methodologies and developing internationally harmonized standards for measuring properties of wood and wood-based products. These will not only facilitate fair trading practices but will also serve as valuable chain of custody tools.

The aim of the future TC is to promote the sustainable production of renewable wood and wood-based products by preserving natural resources and mitigating negative environmental impacts. To achieve these goals, cohesive and holistic actions must be implemented. Technical Committee 287 will serve as a forum to produce state-of-the-art, market relevant standards that can be adopted internationally. The intention of TC 287 is not to compete with existing TCs on specific products, but to complement them by handling the topics that are common to all parts of the wood and wood-based industry.

Considering the high rate of innovation within the industry, the amount of new applications of renewable wood and wood-based products and the complexity of the supply chains, there is a growing need for a holistic approach to deal with key issues. Therefore, ISO TC 287 intends to initially establish three working groups (WGs) that will deal with chain of custody, timber tracking and measurement, and sustainability aspects. Harmonization of terminology between the working groups will initially be addressed by an ad hoc/task group. The three WGs will serve as overarching structures that will begin their work by conducting gap analyses and prioritizing needs. ISO PC 287 members have already identified the following topics as potential issues of interest:

WG 1 Chain of custody

- Maintenance of ISO 38200
- Application of blockchain for the forest industry
- Product categories
- Multi site
- Outsourcing
- Shared credit
- Due diligence
- Implementation guidance

WG 2 Timber tracking and measurement

- Genetic tracking
- Barcode tracking
- Moisture content
- Measurement of industry input material (weight, volume)

WG 3 Sustainability aspects for the wood and wood-based industries

Context: a lot of the focus for the industry so far has been on forest management, but there is a need for addressing sustainability from a broader perspective, including the entire supply chain. One of the benefits of this wider perspective will be to help positioning the forest sector at the forefront of sustainable industries. This may include:

- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals – applications for the forest industry
- Renewability
- Recyclability – relation with circular economy
- New applications of woody biomass: lignin, nanocellulose and bioproducts
- Wood fibers in textiles
- Additives
- Carbon balance/carbon footprint
- Other LCA related topics

As there is currently no demonstrable industry demand, it is not intended that the new TC should develop, as an international standard, a complete framework for sustainable forest management. However, it is intended that the new TC should bring forward proposals for technical guidance standards that will support the sustainable and renewable production of wood and wood-based products.

Context:

This proposal was initially developed by the ISO PC 287 Leadership and subsequently updated by an Ad Hoc Group formally established during the Committee's last plenary meeting and formed by experts from: Canada, China, Denmark, Sweden, United Kingdom, the PC Chair and Secretariat. As part of the consensus building process, the updated proposal was then assessed by the full Membership of PC 287 in a Committee Internal Ballot (CIB). The CIB resulted in an 81% majority approval (13 Yes X 3 No). Attached to this Form are: The Committee resolution approving the initiative to transform ISO PC 287 into ISO TC 287, the CIB results and the collated comments with the replies. All technical comments received in the CIB were put "on hold" and will be dealt with in a parallel process involving the PC Members and Leadership.

Signature of the proposer Click here to enter text.

Further information to assist with understanding the requirements for the items above can be found in the Directives, Part 1, Annex C.