REPORT OF ISO/CASCO TO CIML

1   29th ISO/CASCO plenary and policy work

The 29th plenary of the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO) was hosted by the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) and the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA) in Beijing, China, on 9 and 10 October 2013. It was attended by 106 delegates from 37 member bodies, 2 internal liaisons, 12 liaisons, including the IEC and 8 observers.

ISO/CASCO held an open day and round table discussions on conformity assessment in conjunction with the plenary. These sessions attracted more than 95 participants. The open day focused on the current work of ISO/CASCO working groups (WGs) and recently published standards. The round table discussions focused on future strategic issues facing ISO/CASCO and conformity assessment in general.

Having the ISO/CASCO plenary in China facilitated the participation from the Asia-Pacific region in the plenary and the workshop. The ISO committee for developing countries (DEVCO) sponsored the participation of a number of delegates from ISO Member Bodies in the region.

A regional workshop on the *Impact of Economic Globalization, Regulation and Consumer Safety on Conformity Assessment* was also held in conjunction with the plenary and was attended by over 110 delegates.

2   Topical issues currently being addressed in ISO/CASCO

- The format and timing of the ISO/CASCO plenary was reviewed. The new format includes interactive sessions on the technical program of the committee as well as round table discussions on specific topics. Given past and potential conflicts with other international conformity assessment meetings (especially the IAF/ILAC General Assemblies), the timing of the ISO/CASCO plenary will shift from the 4th quarter to the 1st in 2016.

- IAF-ILAC-ISO Joint Strategic group continues to monitor the implementation of their strategic action plan to ensure good conformity assessment in relation to management systems standards and to assist in protecting the ISO brand and image.

- ISO/CASCO is in the process of completing an interactive online tool to promote a harmonized approach to conformity assessment based on the ISO/CASCO toolbox by national regulators. It is intended for use by the national member bodies together with national regulators. Two regional workshops are planned for 2014 in Oman and Zimbabwe.

- CASCO Strategic Alliance and Regulatory group (STAR) continues to attract and encourage intergovernmental agencies and industry sectors' interaction directly with ISO/CASCO. The membership continues to grow with two new members who joined the group, Quest Forum and IIOC. The ISEAL Alliance Executive Director has participated as observer in a number of meetings. ISO/CASCO continues to promote the benefits of the toolbox to the STAR members and other participants. The format of the STAR is under review to even further facilitate participation and discussions.

- ISO/CASCO is investigating various possibilities with regard to developing guidance and other deliverables on conformity assessment schemes. Guidance is already being finalized with regard to product certification schemes. It is intended to expand this to personnel and sector schemes in the coming 12 to 18 months.

- ISO/CASCO continues exploring ways of ensuring adequate representation of stakeholders, industry, consumers and developing countries in ISO/CASCO activities, especially via the use of the WebEx for all of its meetings. Continued international hosting of the annual plenary alternating outside of Europe is also intended (after a return to Geneva this year).

- Together with COPOLCO, ISO/CASCO has developed an information package for ISO member bodies and consumer organizations on the complaints' handling process for Management System Standards (MSSs) on national level. It facilitates their involvement in the resolution of complaints as they are in a position to alert local bodies where necessary.

- ISO/CASCO completed its sixth year of managing the *ISO Survey of Certifications*. The 2012 survey results have been published on the ISO website and like for the 2011 Survey, are fully available free of charge here. The results show an overall growth in the number of certificates globally.

3   On-going ISO/CASCO technical work

ISO/CASCO technical projects are progressed by their respective WGs and include the development of the following documents:

- **ISO/IEC 17021** *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems,* the revision started at the end of 2012 and the document is planned to be published mid 2015*;*

- **ISO/IEC 17021-6** *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 6: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of business continuity management systems,* the JWG40 had its first meeting in March and produced a Draft Technical Specification (DTS) that has been approved at the beginning of July*.*

- **ISO/IEC 17021-7** *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 7: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of RTS/road traffic safety management systems,* the JWG41 had its first meeting in March and also produced a Draft Technical Specification (DTS) being balloted until beginning of July*;*

- **ISO/IEC TR 17026** *Conformity assessment – Model scheme for certification of manufactured products (Revision of Guides 28 and 53),* the WG32 will meet a second time in April 2014 and the document is planned to be published at the end of 2014*.*

A New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) has been launched for the revision of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, the ballot will close on 2014-09-19.

The following international standards and technical specifications were published in 2013 and early 2014:

- **ISO/IEC TS 17021-3** *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems;*
- **ISO/IEC TS 17021-4** *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems;*
- **ISO/IEC TS 17023** *Conformity Assessment – Guidelines for determining duration of management system certification audits;*
- **ISO/IEC 17067** *Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification;*
- **ISO/IEC TS 22003** *Food safety management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems.* [1]
- **ISO/IEC TS 17027**, *Conformity Assessment –Vocabulary related to competency of persons for certification of persons;*
- **ISO/IEC TS 17021-5** *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 5: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management systems.*

4   Promotion of the ISO/CASCO toolbox and 2013/2014 workshops

Over 2013 and 2014, the Chair and Secretary of ISO/CASCO have promoted the ISO/CASCO toolbox and highlighted the importance of implementing well established and recognised conformity assessment practices. The CASCO Chair has attended two ISO Council meetings during 2013 and one CSC SPC meeting. He also represented ISO/CASCO at the ISO General Assembly in 2013. A number of other events were attended:

- **FAMI-QS** (Quality & Safety System for Speciality Feed Ingredients & their mixture) Scheme meeting June 2013 in Greece;
- **TC 6** (Paper, Board & Pulps) Leadership meeting Canada March 2013;
- **TC 156** (Corrosion of Metals 6 Alloys) meeting in Portugal September 2013;
- **WTO/TBT** Thematic meeting Geneva Switzerland October 2013;
- **IAF** meeting in Frankfurt, April 2013;
- **IAF** and **ILAC** General Assemblies, in Seoul October 2013;
- **IIOC** meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 March 2013;
- **MENA** and Gulf Standards organization conference, Middle East and North Africa Conference on Standards Development and Good Regulatory Practices, Casablanca, Morocco, 20 – 21 May 2013;
- **BIPM, OIML, ILAC, ISO** Quadripartite meeting in Paris, March 2014;
- **DCMAS** (Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries) in Poland, April 2014.

5   External representations and liaisons

External relations with liaison members of ISO/CASCO are proceeding well. The Committee maintains category A liaison with 20 international organizations, including IEC.

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[1]   As ISO 22003 cross-references numerous clauses of ISO/IEC 17021 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems* a combined document, including the text of the referenced clauses, was published in May 2014. This document combines in one document the 22003 clauses and all the normative parts of ISO/IEC 17021.

6   ISO/CASCO membership

As of July 2014 ISO/CASCO has 123 members, including 77 P-members and 46 O-members.

7   Next ISO/CASCO plenary meeting

The next ISO/CASCO plenary, workshop and associated meetings will be held the week of 22 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Further ISO activities, other than CASCO's, of interest to the legal metrology community

ISO/TC 12, Quantities and units, is currently revising the ISO 80000 series (all parts), which gathers together the International System of Units (SI, maintained by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, BIPM), and the International System of Quantities, handled by ISO/TC 12 and IEC/TC 25. The revision of the 80000 series is being co-ordinated with the preliminary work in the BIPM to revise the SI Brochure.

ISO is contributing to the preliminary work for the revision of the *International vocabulary of metrology* (VIM, ISO/IEC Guide 99) and the *Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement* (GUM, ISO/IEC Guide 98-3), through the appointed ISO experts in the Working Groups of the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM), which is responsible for the maintenance and further development of these documents. The annual JCGM meeting (held in the BIPM premises in Paris, in December) provides an opportunity for the ISO and OIML representatives to exchange views on items for technical co-operation.

ISO co-operation in OIML projects

ISO is contributing to the work of the following OIML projects:

OIML/TC 1/p 3, *The setup and maintenance of a bi-lingual (English/French) electronic vocabulary containing the entries from the VIM and the VIML and additional terms and definitions validated by the Project Group.* – Participation from ISO/REMCO, ISO/TC 158 and ISO/TC 37.

OIML/TC 3/SC 3, *General requirements for the programme of reference material certification* – Participation from ISO/REMCO.

OIML/TC 6/p 5, *Guidance for defining the system requirements for a certification system for prepackages* — Participation from ISO/CASCO and ISO/COPOLCO.