



my ISO job

2020 edition

My ISO job

What delegates and
experts need to know





My ISO job

What delegates and experts need to know



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Welcome to **ISO**





Congratulations
on your appointment
as a delegate of an ISO committee
or an expert in a working group.

The purpose
of this document is
to help you participate
effectively in ISO's
technical work.

The purpose of this document is to help you participate effectively in ISO's technical work.

Part 1 provides general background information about ISO and the standards development process. **Part 2** explains what is expected of you as a participant in ISO. **Part 3** gives a list of the tools and resources available to you.

This document presents an overview and is not exhaustive. Links to additional information are provided throughout. If you are reading a paper version, the full links are given in Part 3. You can also visit www.iso.org or **ISO Connect**. A full list of the **acronyms** used are defined at the end of the document.





The most important information for your ISO work is covered in **Part 2.**

So if you are familiar with ISO, we suggest you skip the background in Part 1 and go to **Part 2 to get right to the essentials.**

The people there to help you...

ISO has detailed processes and it is normal to feel a little overwhelmed at first. Your national standards body is available to provide you with any information. Committee leaders (Chairs and Managers) are also available to answer your questions, as are the ISO Central Secretariat Technical Programme Managers (TPM) assigned to each committee. A TPM provides committees with advice on ISO policies, procedures and work programme matters. The name and contact information of the committee leaders and TPM are available on the “About” section of each **committee page on iso.org**.

This document is to assist delegates and experts in ISO's technical work. The following remain the source documents (**www.iso.org/directives**):

- *ISO Statutes*
- *ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1*
- *Consolidated ISO Supplement to the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1*
- *ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2*
- *ISO/IEC JTC 1 Supplement*

ISO

A SNAPSHOT

What ISO does

Develops International Standards and other **deliverables** for products, services, processes, materials and systems, and for conformity assessment, managerial and organizational practice.

What ISO does not do

Carry out certification of conformity to its standards, including ISO 9001 or ISO 14001.

ISO – the organization

Consists of a network of the most representative **national standards bodies** from all regions of the world, working in partnership with international organizations such as the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

ISO's origins

Founded in 1946 by delegates from 25 countries, ISO began operating on 23 February 1947.

- MORE AWARENESS

↳ SOCIAL MEDIA

Other.

by empowering local/regional experts in promoting ISO26000 within the region/country

USER FRIENDLY FOR SME'S

ISO Handbook for Small and Medium Co's Integrating ISO 26000

MAKE ISO 26000 AVAILABLE AT ISO-WEBSITE

Promote through USB - the development of tools based on stakeholder consensus to make gap analysis.

Develop BEST PRACTICES ON HOW TO implement ISO 26000

CREATE PLAT-FORM FOR USERS OF ISO 26000 STANDARD

CERTIFIABLE OR NOT?!

RECOGNITION HOW CAN COMPANIES GET IT?

Introducing ISO

PART 1

What makes ISO so unique

The need for truly global standards has expanded as new markets, new actors and new powerful economies emerge. ISO provides unique mechanisms to establish international consensus that results in globally and market-relevant standards. With a collection of thousands of International Standards and other deliverables, developed and promoted by stakeholders in a network of national standards bodies from all regions and hundreds of international organizations, ISO is the leading producer of International Standards. This Part provides basic information about how it all happens.

Background

ISO members

ISO is a network of national standards bodies which make up the ISO **membership**. These bodies represent ISO in their countries. There are three member categories which enjoy different levels of participation :

Full members (or member bodies) **influence** ISO standards development and strategy by participating and voting in ISO technical and policy meetings. Full members can sell and adopt ISO International Standards nationally.

Correspondent members observe the development of ISO standards and strategy, including by attending ISO technical and policy meetings as observers. Correspondent members can sell and adopt ISO International Standards nationally.

Subscriber members keep up to date with ISO's work but cannot participate in it – nor can they be observers in committees. They do not sell or adopt ISO International Standards nationally.



ISO and trade

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) **Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade** (TBT), which includes the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (in Annex 3), recognizes the important contribution of international standards and conformity assessment systems to improve the efficiency of production and facilitate international trade.

ISO implements the principles adopted by the TBT committee that should be observed by international standardizing bodies: transparency, openness, impartiality and consensus, effectiveness and relevance, coherence, and the development dimension. ISO's **global relevance policy** details principles consistent with the WTO principles along with implementation guidelines to ensure that ISO standards are relevant to countries all around the world.

ISO and developing countries

Increasing the participation of ISO's developing country members and strengthening their standardization infrastructures is an ISO priority.

Consult **iso.org** for more information about ISO's efforts related to developing countries. The site also contains general information about training and technical assistance, which may include funding for delegates and

experts from developing countries to attend meetings. See **ISO Connect** for details about ISO’s sponsorship programme to support participation in technical work or contact tmb@iso.org.

Worldwide collaboration

ISO collaborates with its two sector-based international partners, the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and ITU (International Telecommunication Union). ISO also collaborates with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and commissions, particularly those involved in the harmonization of regulations and public policies.

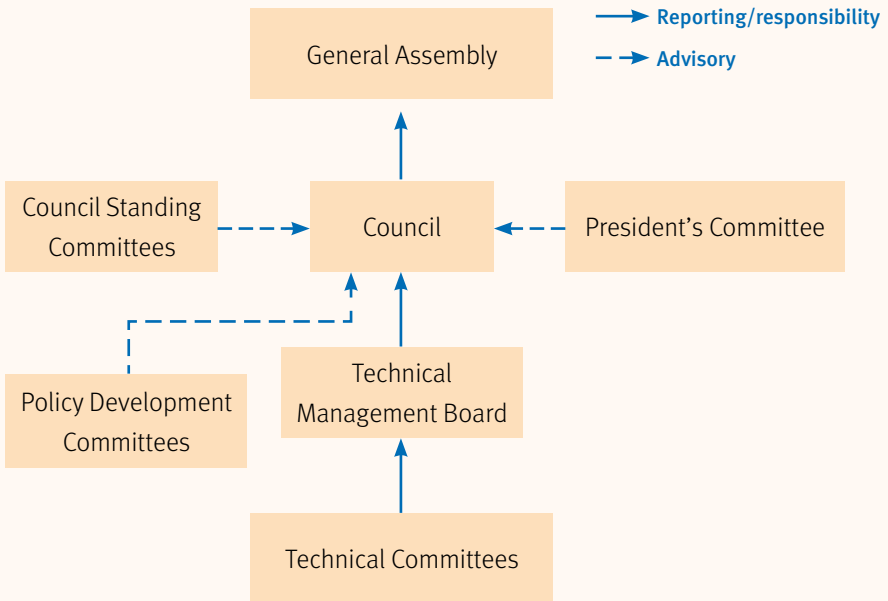
ISO’s technical committees have **liaisons** with hundreds of international organizations. Many of ISO’s members also belong to regional standards organizations. This makes it easier for ISO to coordinate with regional standardization activities throughout the world.

The ISO Council has recognized the following seven regional standards organizations :

- ACCSQ – ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality
- AIDMO – Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization
- ARSO – African Regional Organization for Standardization
- CEN – European Committee for Standardization
- COPANT – Pan American Standards Commission
- EASC – Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification
- PASC – Pacific Area Standards Congress

ISO signed an agreement on technical cooperation with the CEN (“**Vienna Agreement**”). Information about the Vienna Agreement, including the implementation guidance is available at www.iso.org/va.

ISO governance structure



The Secretary-General is a member of the President's Committee, reports to the President and to Council and receives advice from the policy and advisory groups (who also advise Council). The Central Secretariat is responsible for supporting the governance and policy and advisory structure and the operations of ISO.

The Principal Officers

The strategic management of ISO is in the hands of its members and ISO's **Principal Officers**: President, President-elect, Vice-President (policy), Vice-President (technical management), Vice-President (finance), Treasurer and Secretary-General.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is similar to a company's shareholder meetings and is attended by ISO's Principal Officers and delegates nominated by the member bodies. Correspondent members and subscriber members may attend as observers. The General Assembly meets every September and is usually hosted by an ISO member body.

The ISO Council

The ISO Council generally meets three times per year and governs the operations of ISO just as a board of directors governs the operations of a company. It is chaired by the ISO President and comprises 20 ISO members and the Chairs of ISO's Policy Development Committees. The Council appoints the Treasurer, the members of the Technical Management Board and the Chairs of ISO's Policy Development Committees: DEVCO (Committee on developing country matters), COPOLCO (Committee on consumer policy) and CASCO (Committee on conformity assessment) – who all report to it.

The President's Committee

The President's Committee is comprised of the Principal Officers. It advises Council on the implementation of its decisions. It also ensures effective communication and coordination between the ISO Council, the Technical Management Board and the four Council Standing Committees: the Strategy and Policy Committee (CSC/SP), the Committee on Finance (CSC/FIN), nominations for governance positions (CSC/NOM) and oversight of the Organization's governance practices (CSC/OVE). The President's Committee meets as often as needed throughout the year, usually 4-5 times.

The President's
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on the implementation
of its decisions.





The Technical Management Board (TMB)

The TMB reports to the ISO Council and is responsible for the overall management of the technical work. The TMB is comprised of a Chair and 15 member bodies and it decides on the establishment of technical committees and appoints their secretariats and Chairs. It also monitors the progress of the technical work and is responsible for the **ISO/IEC Directives**, which are the rules for the development of International Standards and other ISO **deliverables**. It has three physical meetings per year (February, June and September) and works by correspondence as needed between meetings.

The Secretary-General

ISO's day-to-day operations are managed by the Secretary-General, who is appointed for five-year terms and heads the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as its Singapore office.

ISO Strategic Plans

ISO is guided by a ten-year Strategic Plan (approved by the ISO General Assembly). The implementation of ISO's Strategic Plans is overseen by the ISO Council.



ISO committees – the basics

Structure

The development of International Standards and other ISO **deliverables** is carried out by ISO technical committees and their subcommittees, or by project committees. Technical and project committees are established by the Technical Management Board to develop International Standards or other ISO **deliverables** within their approved scopes.

A technical committee may set up one or more subcommittees. The scope of a subcommittee must be within the scope of the parent technical committee.

Technical committees, project committees and subcommittees can establish working groups to focus on specific tasks such as developing the first draft of a standard or deliverable.

Advisory groups, study groups, ad hoc groups and editing committees can also be set up to support the activity, as needed. Unlike technical committees and subcommittees, the above groups are disbanded after the fulfilment of their given task.

Technical committees must develop **strategic business plans**, which also address the activities of any subcommittees. The purpose of the strategic business plan is to analyse market needs and demonstrate how they will be addressed by the work of the technical committee. Standards can also be developed in project committees, which operate in the same way as technical committees. The only difference is that they are only mandated to develop one standard, after which the project committee is disbanded or transformed into a technical committee if there is a need for further standardization within its scope. By definition, a project committee cannot have subcommittees unless it is transformed into a technical committee.

Leadership

The committee secretariat and Manager

Each ISO technical committee, project committee or subcommittee is administratively supported by an ISO member body (the “secretariat”). The member body which is appointed by the Technical Management Board to hold the secretariat of a committee is also by default a participating member (P-member) in the committee.

The member body which holds the secretariat of a committee appoints a Manager, the person responsible for all administrative aspects of the committee. The Manager is however required to be neutral and to dissociate him/herself from his/her national positions. S/he works closely with the committee Chair in managing the work of the committee.



The committee Chair

Nominations for Chairs are submitted by the member body holding the secretariat of a committee. The Technical Management Board appoints Chairs of technical committees and project committees. Parent technical committees appoint the Chairs of their subcommittees. Chairs can be nominated for an initial maximum period of six years. Extensions are allowed, up to a cumulative maximum of nine years.

The role of the Chair is to help the committee reach an agreement that will be internationally accepted. This requires him or her to steer the committee towards consensus and recognize when it has been reached. The Chair must remain neutral and cannot therefore continue to be a national representative in the committee s/he is chairing.



Working group Convenors

Working group Convenors are appointed by the technical committee, project committee or subcommittee for up to three-year terms ending at the next plenary session of the parent committee following the term. Such appointments must be confirmed by the national body of the country where the Convenor is from or by the liaison organization who nominated him/her). The Convenor may be reappointed for additional terms of up to three years. There is no limit to the number of terms.

The role of the Convenor is to lead the work of the experts in the working group. S/he must also apply the principles of consensus. S/he can also be supported by a secretariat, as needed.

Note: You can find more information on the different roles and responsibilities of the committee leadership in the ISO brochure *Project Management Methodology Roles, responsibilities and capability requirements*.

The role
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Committee members

Technical committees, subcommittees and project committees

Full members

All ISO member bodies (also referred to as “full members”) are eligible for membership in any ISO technical committee, project committee or subcommittee as either participating members (P-members) or observers (O-members).

P-members are required to play an active role in the work of a committee, as well as vote on all official committee ballots. They are also expected to base their positions on the consensus of national stakeholders, preferably through national mirror committees.

O-members follow the development of a standard, and possibly contribute to the work, without committing themselves to active participation.

Correspondent members may register as observers of committees. But unlike O-memberships, which are reserved for ISO member bodies, correspondent members that register as observers do not have the right to submit comments.¹⁾ Technical committees, subcommittees and project committees may establish liaisons. Category A liaisons allow international and broadly based regional organizations to actively participate in the work of a committee. However, they do not have the right to vote in formal committee ballots.

Subscriber members cannot participate in the technical work of ISO except under the Council pilot project.¹⁾



1) **NOTE:** Following Council Resolution 03/2013, correspondent and subscriber members were allowed to participate in a maximum of five committees for a two-year trial period (2014-2015). The pilot project has been extended for a further four years with the current rights but with increased training and support to members participating in this programme (Council Resolution 22/2015).



Working groups

Membership to working groups is limited to the experts that are nominated by the members that have agreed to actively participate in the project concerned (P-members and category A liaisons). There is also a special category of liaison (category C) reserved for working groups.

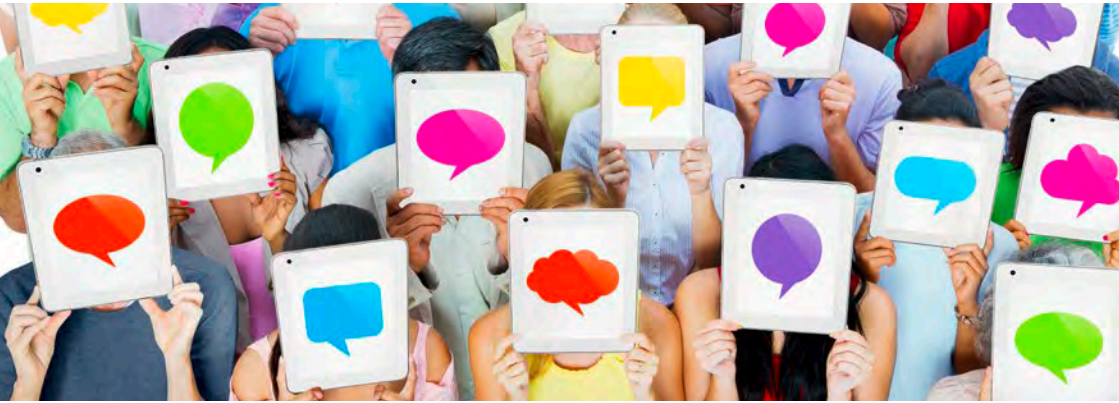
Whereas P-members of technical committees, subcommittees or project committees are required to represent

their national positions, working group experts do not formally represent the members who nominate them. They are selected based on their individual know-how and experience in a given subject and therefore act in a personal capacity. However, they should understand the positions of the member that appointed them and keep them informed of progress in the technical work.

Capacity building for ISO members

Helping ISO's members strengthen their standardization infrastructures and enhance their participation in the international standardization system by building their capacity is an ISO priority. Twinning arrangements are partnerships between two ISO members with the aim of sharing knowledge

and experience to build the capacity of the less experienced partner. A twinning arrangement can be established at the P-member, Convenor, Secretariat and Chair levels. For more information about twinning, see the *Guidance on Twinning* and the brochure *Twinning is winning* or contact tmb@iso.org.



Meetings

Committees use electronic means – e.g. e-mail or Web conferencing – to carry out their work whenever possible. Meetings are convened only when necessary to discuss matters of substance which cannot be settled by other means.

The official languages of ISO being English, French and Russian, the work of a committee by correspondence could be in any of these languages,

however, meetings are conducted in English by default. Delegates and experts without solid English skills will find it challenging to effectively participate in committee work.

There are generally two types of meetings – plenary meetings of technical committees, subcommittees and project committees, and working group meetings. The rules for each differ slightly, as explained next.

All final documents must be available
at least six weeks in advance
of the meeting.

Committee plenary meetings

Technical committee, subcommittee and project committee plenary meetings are planned well in advance, taking into account the advantage of grouping committee meetings dealing with related subjects, improving communication and limiting the burden of attendance at meetings by delegates. The date and place of a meeting is subject to agreement between the Chair, the Manager, the ISO Central Secretariat and the national standards body acting as host. Decisions at meetings are taken by way of resolutions and are posted in the committee's electronic folder within 48 hours after the meeting.

The **ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1** require that the meeting notice, draft agenda and all basic documents be made available by the committee secretariat at least four months before the date of a technical committee, subcommittee or project committee meeting. A final agenda and all other documents, especially those related to action items, must be available at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.

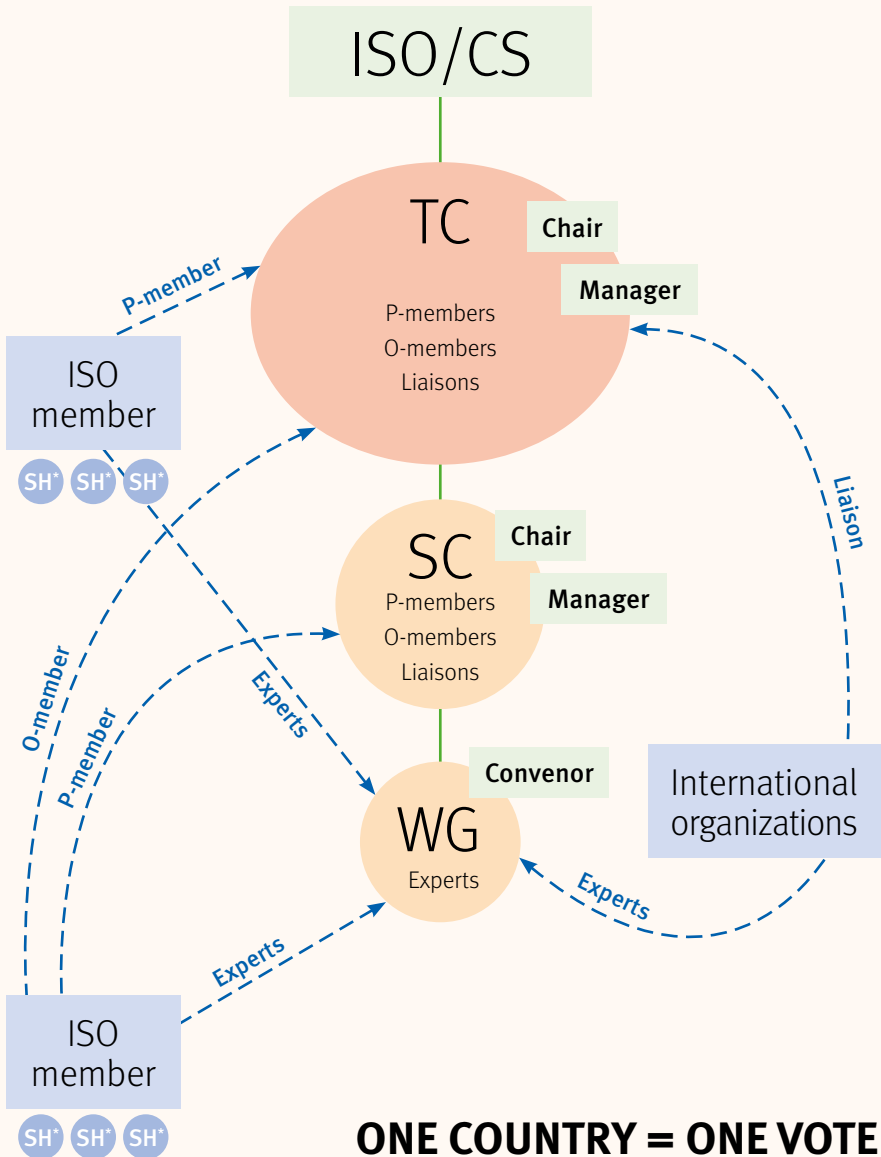
P-members are usually represented by delegations from their national mirror committees. Delegates attending a technical committee, subcommittee or project committee meeting must be accredited by their member bodies, and must be registered via **Meetings**. A head of delegation is the official spokesperson for a delegation. S/he ensures that members of the delegation represent their country's position. A delegate to a committee meeting may be the same individual who has been nominated by an ISO member body to be an expert in a working group.

Representatives of category A liaisons may attend and participate in plenary meetings. However, liaison representatives cannot vote on committee matters.

Working group meetings

Working group meetings are attended by the experts appointed by P-members and liaison organizations. Convenors must notify the experts of a meeting at least six weeks in advance of the meeting.

How does it all fit together? Below is a diagram of how the various elements of the ISO committee structure fit together.



*National stakeholders

International Standards and other ISO deliverables

While ISO is best known for its International Standards, it has other deliverables. Below are the five types of deliverables developed by ISO committees. More information about these deliverables is available on [iso.org](https://www.iso.org) or in the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1](#).

International Standards (IS)

An International Standard provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or for their results, aimed at achieving the optimum degree of order in a given context. It can take many forms. Apart from product standards, other examples include: test methods, codes of practice, guideline standards and management systems standards.

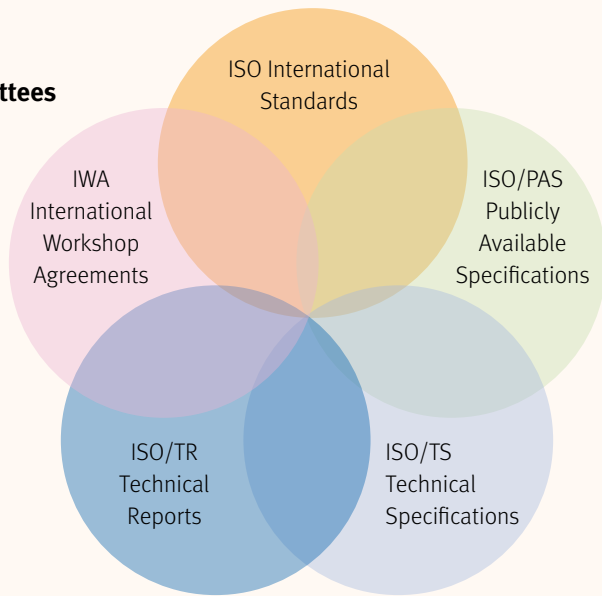
Technical Specifications (TS)

A Technical Specification addresses work still under technical development, or where it is believed that there will be a future, but not immediate, possibility of agreement on an International Standard. A Technical Specification is published for immediate use, but it also provides a means to obtain feedback. The aim is that it will eventually be transformed and republished as an International Standard.

Technical Reports (TR)

A Technical Report contains information of a different kind from that of the previous two publications. It may include data obtained from a survey, for example, or from an informative report, or information on the perceived “state of the art”.

ISO deliverables created by committees



Publicly Available Specifications (PAS)

A Publicly Available Specification is published to respond to an urgent market need, representing either the consensus of the experts within a working group, or a consensus in an organization external to ISO. As with Technical Specifications, Publicly Available Specifications are published for immediate use and also serve as a means to obtain feedback for an eventual transformation into an International Standard. Publicly Available Specifications have a maximum life of six years, after which they can be transformed into an International Standard or withdrawn.

International Workshop Agreements (IWA)

An International Workshop Agreement is a document developed outside the normal ISO committee system to enable market players to negotiate in an “open workshop” environment. International Workshop Agreements are typically administratively supported by a member body. The published agreement includes an indication of the participating organizations involved in its development. An International Workshop Agreement has a maximum lifespan of six years, after which it can be either transformed into another ISO deliverable or is automatically withdrawn.

For more details,
see also [iso.org](https://www.iso.org).

Rules for developing standards – the basics

Following the Directives

The **Directives** are the core procedures for standards development work in both ISO and the IEC. They contain the rules which guide the progression of ISO deliverables, including the development of a new International Standard (or other ISO deliverable) or the revision or amendment of an existing ISO standard.

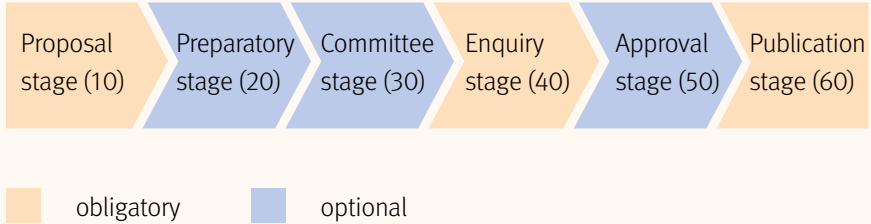
Part 1 of the Directives is particularly important as it indicates the required standards development procedures to be followed. ISO also has unique procedures which are not applicable to the IEC. These are contained in the **Consolidated ISO Supplement**, which consolidates the **ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1** and the ISO specific rules.

Part 2 of the Directives contains rules for the structure and drafting of standards. It also covers the way in which terms are used and the accepted use of units, tolerances, symbols and probability statements. Working group Convenors have the primary responsibility for following Part 2.

Stages for developing ISO deliverables

The full details of all of the stages of development for ISO deliverables are summarized here, followed by a brief explanation. For more detail, see also [iso.org](https://www.iso.org). For tips on writing standards, see [How to write standards](#). For an overview of the elements of conformity assessment that standards writers should know, see [Conformity assessment for standards writers – Do's and don'ts](#). An explanation of the link between conformity assessment and various ISO deliverables is available on [iso.org](https://www.iso.org).

Stages for developing ISO standards



Proposal stage (10)

This first step is to confirm that a new International Standard in the subject area is really needed ([see ISO's global relevance policy](#)). A New Work Item Proposal (NP) is submitted to the committee for vote using Form 4. The electronic balloting portal should be used for the vote. The person being nominated as project leader is named on the Form. If there are possible complications around copyright, patents or conformity assessment, they should be raised at this early stage.

This stage can be skipped for revisions and amendments to ISO standards that are already published.

Preparatory stage (20)

Usually, a working group is set up by the parent committee to prepare the Working Draft (WD). The working group is made up of experts and a Convenor (who is usually the project leader). During this stage, experts continue to look out for issues around copyright, patents and conformity assessment.

Successive WDs can be circulated until the experts are satisfied that they have developed the best solution they can. The draft is then forwarded to the working group's parent committee that will decide which stage to go to next (Committee stage or Enquiry stage).

The [ISO/TC](#) (also referred to as eCommittees) platform can be used for sharing documents at this and other stages of a standard's development.



Committee stage (30)

This stage is optional. For guidance on when it can be skipped, see [Annex SS of the Consolidated ISO Supplement to the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1](#).

During this stage, the draft from the working group is shared with the members of the parent committee.

If the committee uses this stage, the Committee Draft (CD) is circulated to the members of the committee who then comment and/or vote using the electronic balloting portal. Successive CDs can be circulated until consensus is reached on the technical content.

Enquiry stage (40)

The Draft International Standard (DIS) is submitted to the ISO Central Secretariat (ISO/CS) by the Committee Manager. It is then circulated to all ISO members who get 12 weeks to vote and comment on it. The DIS is approved if two-thirds of the P-members of the committee are in favour and not more than one-quarter of the total number of votes cast are negative.

If the DIS is approved, the project goes straight to publication. However, the committee leadership can decide to include the approval (FDIS) stage if needed. (The Submission Interface should be used when sending the draft to ISO/CS.)

See the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Subclauses 2.6.3 and 2.6.4](#) for more information.

Approval stage (50)

This stage will be automatically skipped if the DIS has been approved. However, if the draft has been significantly revised following comments at the DIS stage or has technical changes (even if the DIS has been approved), committees must carry out this stage (FDIS is no longer optional). (See the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Subclause 2.6.4](#) for more information.)

If this stage is used, the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) is submitted to the ISO Central Secretariat (ISO/CS) by the committee Secretary. The FDIS is then circulated to all ISO members for a two-month vote to decide whether the standard is suitable for publication. (The Submission Interface should be used when sending the draft to ISO/CS.)

The standard is approved if two-thirds of the P-members of the committee are in favour and not more than one-quarter of the total number of votes cast are negative. (See the [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Subclause 2.7](#) for more information.)



Publication stage (60)

At this stage, the Manager submits the final document for publication through the Submission Interface. After the FDIS, only editorial corrections are made to the final text. It is published by the ISO Central Secretariat as an International Standard. Committee Managers and project leaders get a two-week sign-off period before the standard is published.

What happens after publication?

It is not enough to simply publish a standard or other deliverable – we have to make sure they remain current and relevant. ISO has a process through which it ensures that ISO deliverables remain up to date. This is referred to as the “systematic review” process, in which committee members have an important role to play. You will find more information about the systematic review in [Subclause 2.9 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1](#).

Project management

When embarking on a new project, committees must decide within which time frame – referred to as “tracks” – the project will be developed. There are four possible standards development tracks (SDT):

SDT 18

- 8 months to produce the DIS
- 18 months to publication

SDT 24

- 12 months to produce the DIS
- 24 months to publication

SDT 36

- 24 months to produce the DIS
- 36 months to publication

Standards and other ISO deliverables are intended to meet a market need. Also, the longer a project takes to develop, the more resources are required. Committees are therefore under pressure to respect the time frames of the tracks they select. Limited extensions are granted by exception only.