



## Governing Body

319th Session, Geneva, 16–31 October 2013

GB.319/INS/INF/1

Institutional Section

INS

**FOR INFORMATION**

## Further developments in relation to the International Organization for Standardization, including in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH)

**Summary:** This document communicates the Agreement concluded between the ILO and ISO on a pilot basis under the terms authorized by the Governing Body in March 2013, and contains information on developments in ISO relating to occupational safety and health management systems.

**Author unit:** Office of the Deputy Director-General for Policy (DDG/P)

**Related documents:** GB.317/INS/13/7; GB.316/INS/15/7(Rev.); GB.316/PV(&Corr.); GB.310/PV; GB.309/PV; GB.298/15/5; GB.298/PV.



1. At its 317th Session (March 2013), the Governing Body set out conditions authorizing the conclusion of an Agreement between the ILO and ISO on their respective competencies and specific collaboration in the field of occupational safety and health management systems (OSH–MS). As requested in that decision, this document informs the Governing Body of subsequent developments.

## **Developments concerning an Agreement between the ILO and ISO**

2. The Governing Body decided in March 2013 that, if the ILO and ISO reached an understanding that contained elements that it considered necessary before its 318th Session (June 2013),<sup>1</sup> the Agreement could be concluded on a pilot basis, subject to communication of the Agreement to the Governing Body for information at its next session and to a review of its implementation at its 320th Session (March 2014). The Governing Body further authorized the Office to use such an Agreement, if concluded, for specific collaboration between the ILO and ISO in the field of OSH–MS, subject to communication of any development on the matter for information at its 319th Session (October 2013).
3. On 13 June 2013, ISO’s Technical Management Board (TMB) gave its support to an Agreement between the ILO and ISO that contained the elements required in the March decision of the Governing Body. In accordance with that decision, and following further consultation with the Officers of the Governing Body, the Agreement between the ILO and ISO was concluded on a pilot basis and is appended to this note. A document reviewing its pilot implementation will be submitted to the Governing Body for discussion at its 320th Session (March 2014).

## **Developments in relation to OSH–MS**

4. At its June 2013 session, in addition to supporting the ILO–ISO Agreement, the ISO’s TMB approved the formation of a new project committee on occupational health and safety management systems (OHSMS), based on the largely affirmative results of a ballot vote by the national standards bodies that constitute ISO’s voting members in 112 countries. The TMB decision was communicated to the ILO in the spirit of the cooperation envisaged between the two organizations under the Agreement.
5. Pursuant to the TMB’s decision, ISO established a Project Committee, ISO/PC 283 Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements, serviced by the British Standards Institution (BSI). The first meeting of the Project Committee will take place from 21 to 25 October 2013 in the United Kingdom.
6. In accordance with the Governing Body’s March 2013 authorization, the Office has established a liaison with ISO/PC 283 under the specific terms of the ILO–ISO Agreement. The preparatory work and discussions are being undertaken in consultation with the constituents and with particular regard to relevant ILO standards and guidelines, as well as

<sup>1</sup> As in the past, in specific fields, ILO–ISO cooperation needs to ensure the conformity of ISO standards with relevant ILO standards or guidelines, and effective ILO presence within the relevant ISO committee/body. See GB.317/INS/13/7 (March 2013), para. 4; GB.316/PV(&Corr.), para. 320; GB.310/PV, para. 262; GB.309/PV, para 363; GB.298/PV, para. 295.

to related action.<sup>2</sup> Any developments regarding this matter will be included in the document on implementation of the Agreement to be submitted to the Governing Body at its 320th Session (March 2014).

## Further developments

7. At its 316th Session (November 2012), the Governing Body reviewed ISO's action on human resource management (HRM). In so doing, it reiterated the need for a clear and shared understanding of respective competencies<sup>3</sup> in the nature of the ILO–ISO Agreement, which has now been concluded on a pilot basis. Since that time, ISO's standardization work in the field of HRM has progressed and the organization is currently developing three draft standards. This work is being done within ISO/TC 260, with which the ILO does not have liaison status.
8. The relevance of HRM standardization and other ongoing work of ISO to the ILO is the subject of an Office review, which will inform the document presented to the Governing Body at its 320th Session (March 2014).

Geneva, 2 September 2013

<sup>2</sup> See GB.317/INS/13/7 (March 2013), para. 4. The ILO's *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems, ILO–OSH 2001* offer non-binding guidance on how to implement relevant international labour standards on occupational safety and health at the national and organizational levels.

<sup>3</sup> GB.316/INS/15/7(Rev.), para. 3; GB.310/PV, para. 262.

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## Appendix

### **Agreement between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO), established in 1919, is a specialized agency of the United Nations that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to jointly develop international labour standards, policies and programmes to promote decent work for all, notably in areas relating to rights at work, employment, social dialogue, and social protection (including social security, occupational safety and health, and the working environment). The ILO adopts international labour standards in the form of international treaties referred to as Conventions and other international instruments including Recommendations (ILS) as a fundamental means of achieving its constitutional mandate. The ILO promotes their ratification and implementation in its member States through governments and employers' and workers' organizations and supervises their application, through a unique mechanism at the international level, in order to monitor the progress of member States in giving effect in law and practice, including policies and programmes.
2. ISO is an international, non-governmental organization that establishes voluntary international standards on a multitude of subjects and developed consistent with World Trade Organization principles, decisions and recommendations on international standards. ISO's mission is to develop high-quality voluntary international standards which facilitate international exchange of goods and services, support sustainable and equitable economic growth, promote innovation and protect health, safety and the environment. In cases where ISO's international standards relate to public policy, ISO's interest is to complement and not conflict with such policies, recognizing that the development of public policies, regulation, and international treaties are the role of governments or treaty organizations.
3. To date the ILO and ISO have cooperated on a case-by-case basis, such as through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on social responsibility and liaison arrangements with ISO committees. This Agreement between the ILO and ISO provides the following framework for cooperation on any proposed new work in the ILO or ISO that may be of mutual interest as specified below.
4. Given the broad mandate and action of the ILO to promote social justice and decent work, and ISO's broad mission, ISO standards that relate to issues within the ILO's mandate (ILO issues) should respect and support the provisions of ILS and related ILO action, including by using ILS as the source of reference with respect to ILO issues in case of conflict.
5. The ILO and ISO will consult when either organization identifies any proposed ISO international standard or field of work within ISO relating to ILO issues in order to avoid that these conflict or contradict with ILS or other ILO action, and to enhance complementarity in the exercise of the ILO's mandate and ISO's mission.
6. The following steps will be undertaken by the ILO and ISO in the context of work within ISO relating to ILO issues:

- (a) ISO Central Secretariat (ISO/CS) will share with the ILO any proposals for new work not within the scope of an existing committee<sup>1</sup> that may address ILO issues before the relevant proposals are submitted to a vote within the ISO membership. ISO/CS will also include the ILO in its monthly dispatch of the list of new work item proposals (NWIPs) introduced by ISO committees. The ILO will notify ISO/CS of any proposals of concern that may address ILO issues; upon receipt, ISO/CS will share with the ILO the particular NWIPs of concern.
  - (b) The ILO will have ten working days to provide ISO/CS with comments on the proposals referenced in 6(a), which may include an analysis of how relevant ILS and related ILO actions relate to the proposed ISO work.
  - (c) For work not within the scope of an existing committee, ISO/CS will annex any ILO comments to the proposal when it is submitted to a vote within the ISO membership. For NWIPs within existing technical committees, the ISO technical committee secretary will transmit the comments of the ILO upon receipt to the voting P-members of the technical committee. The TMB may at its discretion invite the ILO to the meetings of the TMB in which such proposals are discussed.
  - (d) At the ILO's request, a liaison status arrangement will be automatically afforded to the ILO under this Agreement to participate in both new and existing ISO technical and project committees (including their working groups or like structures) related to ILO issues. In addition, upon the ILO's request and timely transmission to ISO/CS, ISO/CS will annex ILO comments to either the relevant draft international standard (DIS) or the final draft international standard (FDIS) ballot materials of these committees, at ILO's choice, for submission to the ISO membership. ILO comments will only address how the DIS or FDIS relate to relevant provisions of ILS and related ILO action.
7. Reciprocally, ISO will be invited to attend, with special list observer status and in accordance with the ILO rules of procedure, relevant ILO meetings on matters of direct interest dealing with the corresponding subject, or with any new subject determined to be of mutual interest.
  8. To facilitate cooperation, the ILO and ISO/CS will exchange information and documents concerning matters of common interest.
  9. For any transmission or notification under this Agreement, the contact points are:
    - (a) For the ILO: Office of the Legal Adviser, jur@ilo.org.
    - (b) For ISO: TMB secretariat, tmb@iso.org.
  10. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to grant or imply the endorsement by ILO of any ISO deliverable, or by ISO of any ILO deliverable.
  11. The English version of this Agreement is the original and shall govern and prevail over any translated version.
  12. The parties shall make every effort to resolve amicably by direct informal consultations any disagreement or dispute which may arise from this Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> Proposals for new fields of activity (TS/P) to be developed under a new ISO technical committee, or a single new work item proposal (NWIP) to be normally developed under a new project committee.

13. This Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of the last signature by the parties and may be amended by both parties together in writing. Termination may occur at any time subject to 90 days' advance written notification of one party to the other.

For ILO:

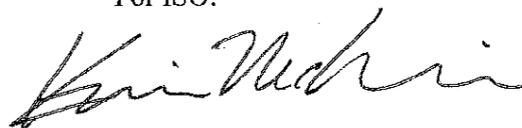


Sandra Polaski  
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Date:

6 August 2013

For ISO:



Kevin McKinley  
Deputy Secretary-General

Date:

6 August 2013