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**Tackling Climate Change**

Climate change is a dominant environmental theme at the moment with national and international initiatives occurring around the world.

World Standards day this year was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> October and the theme for that was the very topical “Tackling Climate Change through standards”. (The aim of World Standards Day in general is to pay tribute to the efforts of thousands of experts worldwide that collaborate to develop voluntary International Standards that facilitate trade, spread knowledge and disseminate technological advances).

International standards support the fight against climate change with standards for the following aspects:

- Monitoring and measurement of greenhouse gas emissions
- Measuring the carbon footprint of networks and products
- Designing and building energy efficient homes and workplaces
- Benchmarking for good practices including environmental and energy efficiency labelling
- Promoting good practice for environmental management, design and for energy management
- Disseminating innovative technologies that promise to help reduce the effects of climate change
- Fostering the introduction of new energy-efficient technologies and services

The World Standards day message was signed by the leaders of the three principal international

standardisation organisations: Mr Jacques Regis, President of the International Electro-technical Commission, Dr Alan Morrison, President of the International Organisation for Standardisation, and Dr Hamadoun Toure, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union. The three leaders say, “The three global organisations are coordinating their work to ensure that government, business and society are provided with the necessary tools to help combat global climate change and to support the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency, while facilitating sustainable development.”

In the UK, the Department of Energy and Climate Change is launching a new campaign to fight climate change with its first ever direct public information announcement confirming the existence of climate change and its man-made origin. This is partly in response to research published by the Department that indicated that over 50% of people questioned do not believe climate change will affect them and only 18% of respondents think that climate change will take effect during their children’s lifetimes. However, over 40% of the UK’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the result of personal choices and so there is a real need for individuals to take action and change their behaviour to lower emissions.

Businesses have not been forgotten – the final details of the UK Government’s scheme to save organisations money on fuel bills and to reduce carbon emissions have been revealed recently. There is a new regulatory incentive to improve energy efficiency and large energy users in business and the public sector will be required to take part in the scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. For further information please contact [crchelp@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:crchelp@environment-agency.gov.uk).



## **New ISO file format to store online data**

The new standard *ISO 28500:2009, Information and documentation – WARC file format*, provides a file format (WRAC – Web ARChive) which offers a convention for concatenating multiple data objects into one long file. This could help ensure that information on the WEB is not lost when a page changes or disappears.

Clement Oury, a member of the working group that developed the standard, said “For a long time, keeping track of the staggering number of Web sites and pages posted is a difficult challenge for digital curators and archivists, and resulted in countless lost data. With WARC, ISO 28500 takes Internet archiving to the next level by enabling the effective management, structure and storage of billions of resources collected from the Web and elsewhere. Its standardisation offers a guarantee of durability, and will help Web archiving become part of the mainstream activities of heritage institutions and other branches by for example, fostering the development of new tools and ensuring interoperability between collections. For further information, please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

## **UK Ranks first for ‘value for money’ R&D**

According to recent research published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the UK ranks first among the G8 nations on the number of citations in relation to public R&D spend. It also continues to rank as second only in the world to the USA on leading scientific indicators.

Lord Drayson, Minister for Science and Innovation, said, “Once again, we have outperformed other nations in the G8 and secured our position as second in the world in scientific productivity. Supporting the science community and maintaining our excellent research base is critical to the UK’s future economic growth and prosperity. This is why the government will invest a record level of almost £6 billion in UK Science and Research by 2011”. The full report can be found at [http://www.dius.gov.uk/science/science\\_funding/science\\_budget/uk\\_research\\_base](http://www.dius.gov.uk/science/science_funding/science_budget/uk_research_base)

## **Companies Act**

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009, the final elements of the Companies Act 2006 were brought into force. Around 2.5 million British companies are set to benefit from a range of measures that simplify and strengthen the way they do business. From 1<sup>st</sup> October, new businesses will be able to save valuable time and money with simpler model articles, making it easier to start up and run companies. Key provisions of the Companies Act 2006 include:

- Creating separate and simpler model Articles of Association for small companies, reflecting how they operate
- Enabling greater use of electronic communications with shareholders, therefore avoiding unnecessary cost and time consuming administration
- Making it an offence to carry on business in the UK under a name that gives a misleading indication of the nature of activities of the business as to be likely to cause harm to the public.

Further information can be found from [www.betterregulation.gov.uk](http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk)

## **New guidance on Greenhouse Gases**

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has recently issued guidance on measuring and tackling greenhouse gas emissions for businesses and organisations together with guidance on what it means to be carbon neutral. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said, “Businesses have an opportunity to lead the way on the UK’s climate change agenda and this guidance helps them do that. Measuring your Greenhouse Gas emissions is an important first step in addressing the UK’s contribution to the UK’s total emissions. By reducing them, organisations can save money on energy costs and resource efficiencies – as well as maintaining a competitive edge through strengthening their green credentials”. Further information and access to the guidance please visit [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)



### **New ISO Report on Fire Safety Engineering**

The new report *ISO/TR 16738:2009, Fire-safety engineering – Technical information on methods for evaluating behaviour and movement of people*, provides information on engineering methods used for the evaluation of life-safety aspects of fire-safety engineering design for built environments, including structures such as tunnels, underground complexes, ships and vehicles. For further information, please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **ISO Meeting in Cape Town**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) was held recently in Cape Town. The theme of the meeting was “Energy – why International Standards are vital” and the presentations and discussions revolved around the point that meeting global energy challenges are central to building a sustainable future. Further information can be found at [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **EU Services Directive**

The EU Services Directive implementation comes into force at the end of the year. The aim of the Directive is to reduce the barriers and red-tape that can make it more difficult for service providers to enter new markets and compete outside of their home country. Sectors such as construction, business consultancy, leisure and hospitality, accountancy and legal services could potentially benefit. The Directive also requires EU member States to establish “web portals” so that service providers have a single point of contact to find out what legal requirements they must fulfil to operate in the country in question. This one-stop-shop must then allow service providers to apply electronically for any licence or permit they may need. The UK’s portal will be accessible to UK and European enterprises through the Business Link website [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

### **Music Standard**

Working like an ISBN number for documents, there is an International Standard Music Number (ISMN). This uniquely identifies editions of notated music and it has been updated in the revised standard ISO 10957:2009. It has been

increased from 10 to 13 digits and is thus in line with the ISBN which was increased to 13 digits in 2007. ISO 10957:2009 specifies the assignment of a unique ISMN on editions of notated music so as to distinguish one edition of a title, or one separate component of an edition, from all other editions. It also includes information on assignment of an ISMN and administration of the ISMN system.

However, it is not suitable for the identification of material in other media that are issued separately, such as sound or audiovisual products, including CDs and DVDs, for which other standards such as ISO 3901 (International Standard Recording Code) and ISO 15706 (International Standard Audiovisual Number) are applicable. For further information please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### **ISO 9004**

Following the revisions to the ISO 9001 standard last year, *ISO 9004 Quality management systems: Guidelines for performance improvement standard*, is being revised and will be available shortly. This standard goes further than the ISO 9001 requirements and considers the effectiveness and efficiency of the quality management system as well as the satisfaction of interested parties and not just customers.