

THE WORLD OF ISO: NEW BUSINESS PROPOSAL-STARTING STANDARDS
DEVELOPMENT-


International Affairs Department

In the No.170 newsletter of December 2015, I reported a plenary meeting of ISO/TC 275: Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal. This time, I will only write about the development process of ISO standards.

 A scheme of ISO

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is an international standard-setting body for electrical, electronic, and related technologies. Each Technical Committee (TC) handles a specific industry or theme in ISO. Since TC is numbered in order of establishment, ISO/TC 275 is the 275th Technical Committee. ISO/TC 1 was for Screw threads, for your information. Some TC has subcommittees (SC) and working groups (WG) inside SC or TC.

Since ISO has one member per country, the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) is the national representative of ISO. But, any individual or organization can join in the practical operation of the "standard" developments. For example, industry organizations or experts in Japan often handle the process. JS organizes discussions and acts as a liaison to TC and WG as a Secretariat in ISO/TC 275 with the endorsement of JISC.

 Start with TC

You can join any of your favorite TC if your country is a member of ISO. There are two-member categories: One is P-member, and the other is O-member. P-members participate actively in the "standard" developments. O-members follow the work as observers; they have the

right to submit comments and attend meetings but cannot vote within the committee. ISO/TC 275 has P-members of 19 countries, including Japan, and O-members of 11 countries, as of February 2016.

The start of new standard developments

An industry, theme, or discipline that TC or SC deals with is called "Scope." To develop a new standard, you should propose it to TC/SC with a targeted range. The Proposal is called "NP" (New work item Proposal.) Your NP should include its purposes, levels of standardization, development period, the outline of the standard, etc. Your NP will be put on the ballot by P-members for three months. Your NP will be officially approved if you;

- ① won most P-members, and
- ② In TC consisting of fewer than 16 countries, more than four countries are required to send experts to meetings. In TC, comprised of over 17 countries, more than five countries are expected to ship experts.

For example, ISO/TC 275, which consists of 19 countries, needs expert dispatch of more than five countries. When NP is officially approved, standards development finally starts. You've already had enough information about ISO, haven't you? I'll talk about actual operations of standards development some other time.

Table of Abbreviations

ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JISC	Japanese Industrial Standards Committee
NP	New work item Proposal
O-member	Observing member
P-member	Participating member
SC	Subcommittee
TC	Technical Committee
WG	Working Group