International and regional items of interest for August 2020 are as follows:

1. WTO Members adopt report on food safety, animal and plant health, paving way for new work

   More>>

2. WTO members push for increased transparency on COVID-19 measures in farm trade

   More>>

3. WTO Members stress role of IP system in fighting COVID-19

   More>>

ISO items of interest for August 2020 are as follows:

4. International Workshop Agreement for the safety, security and sustainability of cannabis facilities and operation

   More>>

5. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Reference Materials

   More>>

6. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Laboratory Design

   More>>

IEC items of interest for August 2020 are as follows:

1. Setting standards for the future of quantum computers

   More>>

2. Experts responsible for JPEG standards tackle 'fake' media

   More>>

* For further information about any article please email: mail@standards.org.au

International

1. [WTO Members adopt report on food safety, animal and plant health, paving way for new work](#)

WTO members have adopted the Report of the Fifth Review of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), paving the way for the organisation to tackle new work and continue existing activities related to food safety and animal and plant health.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO Members push for increased transparency on COVID-19 measures in farm trade](#)

At a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture on 28 July, WTO members posed a record number of questions about each other's farm measures. Australia and other members called for enhanced transparency on COVID-10 measures. In the subsequent information session dedicated to COVID-19, members heard from several international organisations about their research work. India was queried about its subsidies for rice in 2018-19. At the end of the meeting, Ms Maria Escandor (the Philippines) was elected as the new chair of the Committee.

Learn more [here.](#)

3. [WTO Members stress role of IP system in fighting COVID-19](#)

At the meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on 30 July 2020, WTO members highlighted the merit of the multilateral intellectual property (IP) system in incentivising innovation in medical technologies and research and in enhancing the response of the global community to the COVID-19 pandemic. WTO members also discussed new proposals on the transfer of technology to least-developed countries (LDCs) and electronic commerce. They elected Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter of South Africa as the new chair.

Learn more [here.](#)

ISO

1. International Workshop Agreement on the Safety, Security and Sustainability of Cannabis Facilities and Operations

The proposal to establish a workshop aims to develop and publish three documents to cover the safety, security and sustainability of buildings, facilities, equipment and systems utilised for the cultivation, production, processing, transportation and sale of cannabis and cannabis products.

To learn more about the work or provide feedback, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

2. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Reference Materials

ISO member bodies are invited to review and vote on a proposal for a new ISO Technical Committee on reference materials

This proposal centres on standardisation in the competent production and use of reference materials, including the concepts, terms and definitions related to reference materials.

To learn more about the proposal or provide feedback, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

3. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Laboratory Design

A proposal to establish a new ISO Technical Committee on laboratory design has been submitted by China (SAC). ISO member bodies are invited to review and vote on the proposal.

This proposal focuses on standardisation in the field of laboratory design including site selection, design of internal layout of space and services with the objective to provide functional, safe, energy efficient and sustainable laboratories, whilst also taking into account environmental impact, the practical division of experimental and support areas and layouts plus model selection of laboratory furniture.

To learn more about the proposal or provide feedback, please contact us at sem@standards.org.au.

IEC

1. Setting standards for the future of quantum computers

Quantum computing is a relatively young technology that promises to spearhead a wave of disruption that will transform the way we live and work. Governments, universities and corporations are investing billions into developing the technology. International standards can underpin their work.

Learn more here.

2. Experts responsible for JPEG standards tackle 'fake' media

IEC, ISO and ITU experts are evaluating the use of standards to address the growing emergence of 'fake' media. Unlike the murky world of fake news, the intentions behind fake media can be either good or bad.

Learn more here.

IEC