

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

1. WTO issues new report on worldwide trade in COVID-19 medical products

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2. WTO launches call for proposals for 2020 Public Forum

[More>>](#)

ISO items of interest for April 2020 are as follows:

1. Establishment of two Technical Committees: ISO/TC 327 Natural stones and ISO/TC 328 Engineered stones

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2. Proposal for a New Field of Technical Activity on Child Care Articles

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3. Proposal to establish an ISO Project Committee on Managing Risk for Youth and School Trips

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4. Strengthening Communities at Challenging Times

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IEC items of interest for April 2020 are as follows:

1. Can AI be used to fight the Covid-19 virus?

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2. Applying standards to the circular economy

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3. New standard under development seeks to minimize facial recognition errors

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

International

1. [WTO issues new report on worldwide trade in COVID-19 medical products](#)

The WTO Secretariat has released a new report on trade in medical products critical for the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report traces trade flows for products such as personal protective products, hospital and laboratory supplies, medicines and medical technology while providing information on their respective tariffs.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [WTO launches call for proposals for 2020 Public Forum](#)

The WTO has issued a call for proposals for this year's Public Forum, whose theme is 'Building on 25 Years of the WTO'. Participants interested in organizing sessions at the Forum, scheduled to take place from 29 September to 2 October, are invited to submit their proposals by 1 June 2020.

Learn more [here](#).

ISO

1. [Establishment of two Technical Committees: ISO/TC 327 Natural stones and ISO/TC 328 Engineered stones](#)

These Technical Committees will consider the definitions, requirements and test methods related to natural or engineered stones intended for use in buildings, monuments and interior or exterior surfaces. Standards Australia is currently an observing member on both committees.

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

2. [Proposal for a New Field of Activity on Child Care Articles](#)

A proposal to establish a new ISO technical committee on child care articles has been submitted by AFNOR (France). The proposal includes the standardisation of horizontal requirements of a range of products for children up to 4 years old including those intended for sleeping, feeding and bathing.

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

3. [Proposal to establish an ISO Project Committee on Managing Risk for Youth and School Trips](#)

A proposal has been submitted to establish a new ISO project committee to manage risk for youth and school trips for both domestic and international travel. The proposal intends to establish a new ISO standard to address risk management for schools and tour operators as well as safety and security for minors from typical risks including weather and behavioural breaches.

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

4. [Strengthening Communities at Challenging Times](#)

We are all feeling the impact of COVID-19, but some people are at greater risk than others. How can communities identify those who are vulnerable and ensure they get the help they need? Structured guidance on how to do that can provide a lifeline to communities already stretched to their limits.

Learn more [here](#).

IEC

1. [New IEC and ISO Standard will enable big data adoption across industry sectors](#)

The IEC and ISO joint technical committee which develops international standards for artificial intelligence (ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 42) has published part 3 of a series of standards for big data.

Learn more [here](#).

2. [Applying standards to the circular economy](#)

The circular economy is a broad concept that includes social and economic aspects that are beyond the scope of IEC standardization work. However, the IEC can address aspects related to the use and preservation of materials, i.e. aspects related to material efficiency.

Learn more [here](#).

3. [New standard under development seeks to minimize facial recognition errors](#)

Biometric AI application use continues to grow as diverse industries adopt the technology. From border controls, unlocking smart devices and enhancing retail security, to trials by some credit card companies for authenticating payments and hotels for checking in, the number of applications using facial recognition will continue to increase. IEC and ISO work together to develop international standards for ICT through their joint technical committee (ISO/IEC JTC 1). Subcommittee 37 covers biometrics and has begun work on the new ISO/IEC 24358 standard.

Learn more [here](#).