ISO/TMBG/JTFEC
Joint Task Force on Effective Collaboration between ISO, IEC and ITU

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TG1 - Marketing Text

Document type:	Other committee document
Date of document:	2018-02-05
Expected action:	INFO
Background:	Presented at 2018-02-02 Webex session
Committee URL:	https://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/open/tmbgjtfec

In recent year, global markets have become increasingly globalized. But more recently, market players have been discussing how digitization can further advance these globalized markets. First and foremost, the main beneficiaries will be the manufacturing industry, customers and supporting service providers. Transparency about the current legal regulation of the flow of goods of the participating countries, which is ideally based on standards and conformity assessment, is vital for the globalised exchange of goods and the expansion of markets.

The standards of ISO, IEC and ITU form the technical backbone of the international exchange of goods and services and provide a globally recognized base for product trading. Bilateral or regional trade agreements refer to and rely on these recognized rules of technology. But the global business community has long since ceased to think in terms of products; increasingly complex systems in converging technology areas requiring corresponding standards are being developed that blur the traditional boundaries of these three standardization organizations.

As a result, the three organizations are developing mechanisms and procedures to improve the efficiency of their work and avoid duplicative efforts. High level representatives of the three organizations are working to evaluate the issues and to effectively coordinate work on all sides. The aim is to make the projects of the three organizations in the common thematic areas more transparent and coordinated, thus making engagement in these standards development efforts more resource-efficient for the relevant experts/stakeholders. While IEC elaborates the electrotechnical aspects of a system, mechanical and process aspects must be worked out in coordination with the ISO. The standardization of the associated communication technology that enables this system is developed in ITU-T. The resulting standards must be complimentary to support the increasingly complex systems being advanced by industry.

Only if responsibilities and contents are coordinated and described transparently can standardization and certification remain a solid global basis for national or regional regulation in the future, and for the human and financial resources of market participants in the standardization bodies to be used responsibly.