



Secretariat of ISO/TC 176/SC 2

Date: 30 April 2013

To the Members of
ISO/TC 176/SC 2 -
Quality Management and
Quality Assurance/
Quality Systems

ISO/TC176/SC2 Activities and Work Programme – An update from the Chairman

March and April 2013 have been very busy months for our SC2 Working Groups, so I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on recent activities since our last Plenary Meeting in November 2012

1) Strategic Planning

The last planning meeting was in St Petersburg, but since that time there has been communication primarily by electronic means. Current topics that are under discussion are as follows:

a. SC2 Objectives in support of the TC176 Strategic Goals

SC2's objectives for 2013/2014 are currently under preparation, to be based on the TC176 Strategic Plan that was distributed for approval earlier this month.

b. Systematic Review of SC2 standards

We are currently preparing the preliminary analysis of four important standards that come under SC2's responsibility, and which are scheduled to begin their Systematic Review in 2014. These are:

ISO 10005 *Quality management systems – Guidelines for quality plans*

ISO 10006 *Quality management systems – Guidelines for quality management in projects*

ISO 10007 *Quality management systems – Guidelines for configuration mgmt.*

ISO 9004 *Managing for the sustained success of an organization – A quality management approach*

We are tentatively planning several SC2 "Ad-hoc" groups to work electronically over the coming months to make suggestions to SC2 at our upcoming Plenary Meeting in Oporto later this year, and will be contacting SC2 members shortly with requests to nominate experts to take part in those groups.

2) Ongoing work of SC2 Working Groups and Task Groups

• Joint SC2/SC1 TG on the Quality Management Principles

The ballot on the revised QMPs was comprehensively approved by SC2 Member bodies earlier this year, with 47 "approvals"; 3 "disapprovals" and 8 "abstentions" (see SC2/N1141). I had the pleasure of taking part in the group's recent meeting in Tokyo, which was aimed at addressing the comments received during the ballot, and to begin

work on the revised QMP Brochure. The outputs of the work of this joint group have already provided important inputs into the work of WG24 (see below), and we are currently discussing the most appropriate publication date for the revised QMP Brochure.

- **WG24 (Revision of ISO 9001)**

I was pleased to participate in the very productive meetings that were held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in March. Experts nominated by our Member Bodies worked hard to improve on the first (very rough) working draft that had been developed in St Petersburg, and the output of the Belo Horizonte meeting is currently being “tidied up” by the WG24 Coordination Group, before its distribution as a Committee Draft for Ballot and Comment by early June. This will be the first opportunity for the draft standard to be scrutinized by a wider audience, and we look forward to receiving comments on it from SC2’s membership. These will then be addressed during the meeting in Oporto in November. Work is currently on schedule according to the Project Plan that was approved by SC2 Member Bodies last year.

WG23 (Communications and Product Support)

WG23 also met in Belo Horizonte, in parallel with WG24, to enable the two groups to liaise and to ensure that users of ISO 9001 will be kept informed about the upcoming changes to the standard.

WG 22 (Interpretations)

WG22 continues to meet electronically, as needed, to address requests for interpretation according to the previously agreed process. There are currently very few requests for interpretation for ISO 9001:2008, but this situation will no doubt change once the new revision of ISO 9001 is published in 2015.

We are always willing to consider nominations of new experts to WG22, to complement the existing “pool” from which ad-hoc groups are drawn, to deal with individual requests for interpretation. The work-load is not a heavy one, and can be reconciled with other activities within SC2. Member bodies interested to nominate additional experts should contact the SC2 Secretary.

- **TG Input to ISO/TMB/TAG13-JTCG**

The JTCG met in November 2012 to review the results of a feedback survey it had conducted among the TC/PC/SCs that use Annex SL. As a result, it agreed the need to provide additional guidance on the use of Annex SL and established a new Task Group (no.4) to develop this. TG4 met in March to progress its activities, and expects to publish the guidance by the end of the year.

I look forward to the very exciting times ahead as we continue to build consensus on the revision to our flagship ISO 9001 standard, and hope that our member bodies will be able to engage proactively with the stakeholders in your countries and organizations to ensure that the end result will contribute to achieving our SC2 Vision – that “SC2’s products are recognized and respected worldwide, and used by organizations as an integral component of sustainable development initiatives.”

NIGEL CROFT

Chairman

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