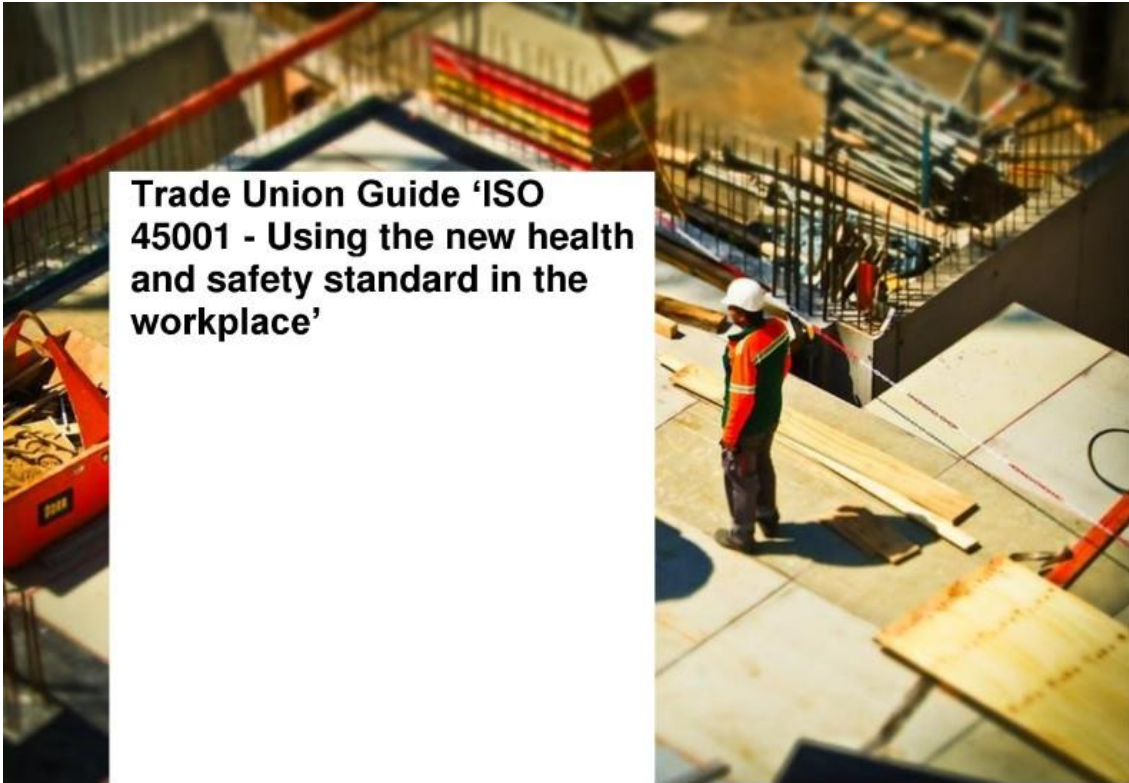


ETUC standardisation newsletter - August 2018

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

**ETUC Guide on using the new ISO 45001 health
and safety standard in the workplace**



Trade Union Guide 'ISO 45001 - Using the new health and safety standard in the workplace'

JULY 2018

ETUC

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

**CONFÉDÉRATION
SYNDICAT
EUROPÉEN
TRADE UNION**

ISO 45001 is an international standard for occupational health and safety management systems and is structured to be consistent with existing ISO standards, such as quality management (ISO 9001) and environmental management (ISO 14001). Effectively managing health and safety is not just about having a safety management system. The success of whatever system is in place depends on

what the employer does in practice and that of course is the process of risk assessment and risk elimination and reduction, along with promoting a positive safety culture, including worker engagement. In Europe, ISO 45001 has no legal status. This standard also does not guarantee that the employer is complying with health and safety regulations or any other legal requirements, and employers cannot rely on achieving ISO 45001 certification as a way of automatically fulfilling their legal obligations. Employers must ensure that they follow the requirements of all national laws and collective agreements as well as the Framework Directive and all regulations made under it. ISO 45001 is an “add-on” which an employer may use to try to raise standards. Nor should national enforcing authorities consider that ISO 45001-certified organisations are automatically in compliance with national law. All it means is that they have done what they need to do to implement the management system that is laid down in the standard. However, if an employer decides to meet the standard, trade unions should seek to be fully involved to ensure it is applied in a way that guarantees the top priority is protecting workers – not gaining a certificate. This ETUC Guide provides background information on how to use ISO 45001, if that standard is implemented in your company or organisation. More information and free copies of the ETUC guide are [here](#)

Standardising whistleblowing



ISO/TC 309 'Governance of organisations' is preparing a new international standard on whistleblowing management systems. It will provide organisations with guidelines for implementing, managing, evaluating, maintaining and improving a robust and effective management system for whistleblowing within an organisation. This International Standard will guide organisations in managing how concerns about wrongdoing are identified and reported, how they are assessed and addressed, and eventually how whistleblowing cases are closed.

The ETUC has been [working on whistleblowing](#) for some time to ensure workers are protected from all forms of retaliation when they blow the whistle. The ETUC will therefore follow the preparation of the standard. We strongly believe trade unions should be at least consulted in this work. We therefore call upon national trade unions to contact their respective [National Standardisation Body](#) and to participate in the respective national mirror committees, to ensure that the trade union view is reflected in each country's position on the ISO process. For more information or help in getting involved at national level, do not hesitate to contact us.

Jean-Claude Juncker goes to Washington and talks about standards and norms



At their meeting at the White House on 25 July, the European Commission President and the US President announced a "new phase" in EU-US relations. They decided to “work together towards zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies on non-auto industrial goods”. To do so, both administrations are [“launching a close dialogue on standards in order to ease trade, reduce bureaucratic obstacles and slash costs”](#). Standards are the “hidden”, underlying tool of (trade) agreements and other certification labels. Now they are coming to the political forefront. The ETUC has several permanent committees, one of them specifically dedicated to “standardisation”. Along with its experts we aim to influence the standard-setting, i.e. those standards which have a direct or indirect impact on workers.

Voice your opinion on draft 2019 Rolling plan on ICT Standardisation



The Commission has launched the 2019 revision cycle of the Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation. The revision includes the update of the respective chapters in the Rolling Plan and suggests new areas of standardisation. The plan is updated every year to identify ICT standardisation activities in support of (new) EU policies. More traditional areas such as health, training, construction, etc. are also covered by the plan. The Rolling Plan was developed with the support of the [Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation \(MSP\)](#). The MSP represents ICT standardisation stakeholders and advises the Commission. The ETUC is a member and will provide its comments and suggestions on the draft Rolling Plan.

ETUC proposes to make the standards drafting process more transparent

The ETUC and >100 other stakeholders have subscribed to the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) with a view to adapting the European Standardisation System to meet the challenges of a changing economy. The Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) covers numerous actions. JIS 'Action 8' examines how high-quality standards can be published and referenced in the Official Journal of the European Commission in a timely manner. One of the JIS 8 discussion topics is the 'standards development process', making the process more efficient – and quicker. To make it 'quicker', we see more and more activities taking place 'upstream', before the formal start of the standards-writing process is announced on the websites of the standardisation bodies. This is detrimental for any interested party from industry, society, authorities and the standardisation bodies themselves (who fail to attract new expertise and income).

In JIS 8, The ETUC called for the standardisation process to be more transparent, by making the upstream standardisation activities visible on the different websites. The JIS 8 participants, mainly CEN-members, did not perceive a direct need to act. Nor does JIS 8 appear to be the right place to address this question. The ETUC request was referred for further discussion to another internal CEN-working group (to which the ETUC is not invited). Currently, about 850 CEN standardisation projects are registered at an early stage (preliminary work items) and not visible to the wider public.

Upcoming seminars to raise trade union awareness of standardisation

Together with the national trade unions and standards institutes, the ETUC is organising two more information seminars to raise awareness among trade unionists about standardisation. Following the first seminar, which took place in Riga, Latvia, the next two will be organised in Lithuania and the Netherlands. On 18 October, the LPS (Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation), LSD (Lithuanian Standards Institute) and ETUC are co-hosting the event in Vilnius, Lithuania. The seminar will be attended by several speakers, who will present their perspective and experiences from working on standardisation. The focus will be on better collaboration between the Lithuanian trade unions and LSD. The last session of this year will take place on 25 October in Utrecht, Netherlands. Together with FNV (Netherlands Trade Union Confederation) and NEN (Dutch Standards Institute), the ETUC will organise a half-day seminar. The event will shed light on why standards are important for workers and why trade unions should be involved in the making of them. More [information as well as the registration](#) details are online.

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Our mailing address is: standards@etuc.org

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