DEVELOPING ISO STANDARDS AND THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

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HISTORY OF ISO:

- The ISO story began in 1946 when delegates from 25 countries met at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London and decided to create a new international organization 'to facilitate the international coordination and unification of industrial standards'. In February 1947 the new organization, ISO, officially began operations.

- Since then, they have published over 19 500 International Standards covering almost all aspects of technology and manufacturing.

- Today they have members from 162 countries and 3 368 technical bodies to take care of standard development. More than 150 people work full time for ISO's Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

WHAT ARE STANDARDS?

- International Standards make things work. They give world-class specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency. They are instrumental in facilitating international trade.

- ISO has published more than 19 500 International Standards covering almost every industry, from technology, to food safety, to agriculture and healthcare.

ISO International Standards impact everyone, everywhere.

INTRODUCTION :

- International Standards bring technological, economic and societal benefits.
- They help to harmonize technical specifications of products and services making industry more efficient and breaking down barriers to international trade.
- Conformity to International Standards helps reassure consumers that products are safe, efficient and good for the environment.

POPULAR STANDARDS

- **ISO 9000 - Quality management**

Make sure your products and services meet customers' needs with this family of standards.

- **ISO 14000 - Environmental management**

Improve your environmental performance with this family of standard

- **ISO 3166 - Country codes**

Avoid confusion when referring to countries and their subdivisions with this standard.

- **ISO 22000 - Food safety management**

Inspire confidence in your food products with this family of standards.

- **ISO 45001 - Occupational Health and Safety**

Reduce workplace risks and create safer working environments.

POPULAR STANDARDS

- **ISO 31000 - Risk management**

Manage risks that could be negative for your company's performance with this standard.

- **ISO 4217 - Currency codes**

Avoid confusion when referring to world currencies with this standard.

- **ISO 639 - Language codes**

Describe languages in an internationally accepted way with this standard.

- **ISO 20121 - Sustainable events**

Manage the social, economic and environmental impacts of your event with this standard.

- **ISO 27001 - Information security**

Ensure your organization's information is secure with this family of standards.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR BUSINESS :

- International Standards are strategic tools and guidelines to help companies tackle some of the most demanding challenges of modern business. They ensure that business operations are as efficient as possible, increase productivity and help companies to access new markets.

Benefits include:

- Cost savings
- Enhanced customer satisfaction
- Access to new markets
- Increased market share
- Environmental benefits

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SOCIETY :

ISO has over 19500 standards touching almost all aspects of daily life.

When products and services conform to International Standards consumers can have confidence that they are safe, reliable and of good quality.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT :

ISO standards draw on international expertise and experience and are therefore a vital resource for governments when developing public policy.

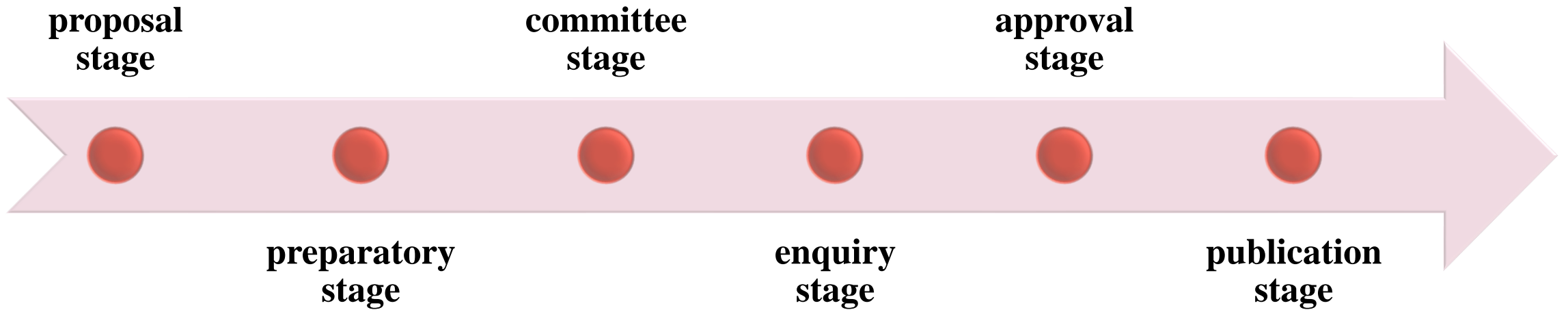This has a number of benefits, including:

- **Expert opinion** .
- **Opening up world trade** .

WHO DEVELOPS ISO STANDARDS?

- ISO standards are developed by groups of experts, within technical committees (TCs).

- TCs are made up of representatives of industry, NGOs, governments and other stakeholders, who are put forward by ISOs members.

- Each TC deals with a different subject.

- for example there are TCs focusing on clothes, shipping technology, food products .....ETC.

- ISO's full members (member bodies) can decide if they would like to be a participating member (P-member) of a particular TC or an observing member (O-member).

- P-members participate actively in the work and have an obligation to vote on all questions submitted to vote within the technical committee.

- O-members follow the work as observers; they receive committee documents and have the right to submit comments and to attend meetings, but cannot vote.

DEVELOPING ISO STANDARDS

proposal
stage

committee
stage

approval
stage

preparatory
stage

enquiry
stage

publication
stage

DEVELOPING ISO STANDARDS

- **Proposal stage :**This first step is to confirm that a new International Standard in the subject area is really needed. This stage can be skipped for revisions and amendments to ISO standards that are already published.

- **Preparatory stage :**Usually a working group (WG) to prepare the working draft (WD). The WG is made up of experts and a Convener (usually the Project leader). Successive WDs can be circulated until the experts are satisfied that they have developed the best solution they can. the WG's parent committee who will decide which stage to go to next (Committee stage or Enquiry stage).

- **Committee stage:** This stage is optional, During this stage the draft from the working group is shared with the members of the parent committee.
- **Enquiry stage:** The Draft International Standard (DIS) is submitted to ISO Central Secretariat by the committee secretary. It is then circulated to all ISO members who get 3 months to vote and comment on it. If the DIS is approved the project goes straight to publication.

- **Approval stage** : This stage will be automatically skipped if the DIS has been approved

- **Publication stage** : Only editorial corrections are made to the final text. It is published by the ISO Central Secretariat as an International Standard.

Committee secretaries and project leaders get a two-week sign off period before the standard is published.

One of the strengths of ISO standards is that they are created by the people that need them.

Getting involved in this process can bring significant advantages to your business by:

1. Giving early access to information that could shape the market in the future

2. Giving your company a voice in the development of standards

3. Helping to keep market access open.

4. Getting involved in standards development brings your concerns and needs to bear on a process that will affect you in the future.

Thank you…..