FOREIGN TRAVEL TRIP REPORT

Subject

International Standards Organization (ISO) Working Group 11 (WG 11) meeting

Dates of Travel and Countries/Organizations Visited

February 23-25, 2011
Berlin, Germany
ISO/WG 11 held its periodic meeting at VDE Verlag, Bismarkstrasse 33, 10625 Berlin, Germany

Author, Title and Agency Affiliation

John Jankovich, Team Leader
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
john.jankovich@nrc.gov
301-415-7904

Sensitivity

Non-sensitive

Background/Purpose

The purpose was to participate, as NRC delegate and technical expert, in the activities of ISO/Working Group 11 to update three ISO standards, used by NRC staff and NRC licensees, regarding radioactive sources and devices (ISO-2910, ISO 3925, and ISO-7205)

Abstract: Summary of Pertinent Points/Issues

The function of ISO/WG 11 is to maintain a number of ISO standards at the level and practice of current technology in the area of radioactive sources and devices. Maintenance is achieved through periodic updates which are developed from inputs from representatives of the international user community. The goal of NRC participation in ISO/WD 11 is to assure that the standards represent NRC perspectives regarding licensing and registration and express the use of these standards in the U.S. The meeting addressed three ISO standards; the following are the key highlights for each:

1. ISO 2919, "Radiation Protection – Sealed radioactive sources – General requirements and classification"
    - The draft standard, developed in previous meetings, was circulated to the national standardization organizations for review. The review resulted in 68 comments;
    - The meeting resolved all 68 comments;
    - The update with the resolutions will be presented by the convener (i.e., chairman) of WG 11 to the ISO plenary session to be held in Niagara Falls/Canada in April 2011 for acceptance and to be issued as final.

2. ISO 3925, “Unsealed radioactive substances – Identification and certification”
    - At the request of the ISO Secretariat, the group reviewed ISO 3925;
    - The group concluded that this standard is used infrequently, but is open to making updates to the standard;
    - WG 11 identified those sections of the standard that need updating and those that need harmonization with other relevant standards;
    - The changes will be circulated by ISO Secretariat to the national standardization organizations for review as a draft international standard (DIS).

3. ISO 7205, “Radionuclide gauges – Gauges designed for permanent installation”
    - WG 11 members described the current use of this standard in various regions of the world, i.e., Asia (China, India, Japan), Europe (inc. European Community’s relevant standards and Scandinavia), and North America (Canada, Mexico, U.S.);
    - WG 11 concluded that ISO 7205 should not be withdrawn and that the standard is important and relevant;
    - WG 11 reviewed an analogous standard recently updated by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC): IEC 62598 has been approved and is expected to be published in 2011, it replaces IEC 60405. WG 11 compiled an extensive list of differences between ISO 7205 and IEC 62598;
    - WG 11 concluded that harmonization is needed with the other analogous standards, i.e., IEC 60405 and ANSI N43.8.
    - WG 11 developed a request for guidance from ISO Secretariat regarding the stage and timing for the update of this standard and its harmonization with the other analogous IEC and ANSI standards.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC

The staff will continue to participate in follow-up activities, such as responding to electronic communication requesting comments and recommendations. No date has been scheduled for further meetings. Further action, i.e. start updating ISO 7205, will commence only upon direction from the ISO Secretariat.

Points for Commission Consideration/Items of Interest

None

Attachment

None attached. Meeting Minutes, Attendance List, business cards are available from John Jankovich.