Best Practice from UNECE

Standards-based, risk-based rule-making

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Why reference standards in regulations:

1. To prevent and eliminate technical barriers to trade
2. To increase transparency & accountability of legislative and regulatory work
3. To promote innovation and transfer of technology
4. For regulatory authorities to take full advantage of the knowledge and expertise contained in standards
UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

- Large and diverse membership (56 members)
- Large mandate encompassing Trade, Environment, Transport, Sustainable Energy, Forestry, Housing and Land Management, Statistics, etc.
- UNECE helps implement the Sustainable Development Goals by translating global goals into norms, standards and conventions, building capacity and engaging in partnerships with the private sector, the academia, and civil society
- UNECE has a global mandate in many of the areas it works on
Working Party on Reg Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

- Intergovernmental body
- Forum for authorities, regional & int'l organizations, standards-setting bodies, business, certification bodies, test houses, civil society

Mandate

- Standardization
- Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks
- Conformity Assessment
- Accreditation
- Metrology
- Market Surveillance
- Education on standards and standards related issues
- Regulatory Cooperation
- Gender responsive Standards

Activities

- Develop and share info & best practice
- Capacity-building (training and awareness-raising events)
- Develop and maintain a set of recommendations
- Implement a set of initiatives on specific industrial sectors
Reference to standards: UNECE work

- Only tool adopted by an intergovernmental body to recommend that policy makers «whenever possible make use of international, regional and national standards in regulatory work»
- Used by several countries as the basis for their laws on stds (i.e. Russian Federation)
- Successful event held with ISO and IEC in November 2015 at Palais des Nations

Reference standards in regulations: how to

Regulatory authorities should endeavour to apply “references to standards” methods that respect their voluntary nature, such as:

• Indicative reference, which retains the voluntary application of the standard.

• Only when indicative reference is considered unsuitable, regulatory authorities should make use of exclusive reference, which renders the standard or parts of the standard mandatory.

When choosing among the various methods of “reference to standards”, regulatory authorities should ideally adopt a method that would allow them to make optimal use of standardization work.

In regulatory, surveillance and legislative work, regulatory authorities should observe code of good practice
Authorities should:
(a) request information from national standardization bodies related to potentially relevant standards at international, regional or national level;
(b) participate in standards development;
(c) discuss with standardization bodies ways to facilitate the use of standards as reference in legislation (i.e. separately identified sections in a standard).
(d) agree on ways to ensure that referenced standards are made available to all potentially interested foreign and domestic parties.
Promoting Standards-based policies

Make standards relevant to policymakers by:

1. Showcasing how standards help reach policy objectives

2. Zoom into standards as mission-critical to manage societal risks

3. Making standards inclusive by design

4. Needs identification, capacity-building & education
Welcome to the UNECE Portal on Standards for the SDGs

This portal offers users a tool to identify standards that help to realise Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, a collection of case studies of countries, cities and regions that have successfully used standards for sustainability, as well as supporting online training materials.

We hope you will make good use of this portal and contribute to its further development.
Work carried out in UNECE since 2009 aimed at reinforcing the proportionality between risks and regulatory action at all levels:

- defining regulatory requirements on the basis of risk classes
- increased stringency of mechanisms for assessing the conformity of products to these requirements based on risk assessment
- use of RM best practice in carrying out market surveillance actions to remove from the market dangerous/non-compliant products

Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development

The Declaration calls on all standards bodies to:

• more gender-balanced standards development process,
• make the standards they develop gender responsive
• 60+ standards bodies are currently signatories including:
  • international standards bodies (such as ISO, ITU, IEC, ASTM International),
  • regional standards bodies (covering Africa, Europe and South Asia), and
  • national standards bodies from all world regions (including Britain, India, Thailand, Canada, Germany, Spain, Mexico, Senegal, Morocco).
Needs Identification, capacity building, education

Needs assessment studies
- Based on comprehensive methodology
- Identify bottlenecks in quality infrastructure
- Inform donors as to assistance required

“Recommendation I” (on Education on standardization)
- WP6 adopted “Recommendation I” (1970) to encourage governments to support education on standardization

Awareness-raising events – coming up
- High-level panel on Education on Standardization on 21/11

Development of online materials – also suitable for take up in Universities
- Risk management – Conformity assessment – Market Surveillance
Recent publications

- **Bringing Standardization in University Curricula: Making the Case**
  ECE/TRADE/440
  July 2018

- **Training Guide on Regulatory Frameworks and Market Surveillance**
  ECE/TRADE/441
  July 2018

- **Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals**
  ECE/TRADE/444
  November 2018

- **Gender Responsive Standards**
  ECE/TRADE/444
  May 2019
Upcoming events & meetings


- Meeting of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative
  - 20 November 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Thank you

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