



# SESEC V

## China Standardisation Newsletter

September - October 2023

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# Takeaways

## China Calls for Comments on Product Quality Law (Revision Draft 2023)

On 18 October 2023, China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) released the *Product Quality Law (Draft 2023)* for public comment. The submission channel for opinions will stay open until 18 November. To assist foreign stakeholders, SESEC translated the Draft into English (see Annex 1). If you or your organization wish to provide any feedback to the SAMR, you may send an email to SESEC with your input, and SESEC will help translate them into Chinese and submit them to the SAMR.

## China Issues Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative

At the third Belt and Road Forum held on 17 October in Beijing, China unveiled its "*Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative*". The initiative reflects China's approach to AI governance, which centers on prioritizing people's interests and respecting other countries' national sovereignty. It also stresses the core principles for countries to adhere to in AI governance, including, ensuring the security, reliability, controllability, and fairness of AI technology.

## China's National Data Bureau Inaugurated

On 25 October, 2023, the National Data Bureau was officially inaugurated. This governmental agency will be responsible for coordinating and promoting the establishment of data infrastructure, overseeing the planning and development of the "Digital China" plan, the digital economy, and the digital society.

## China Issues the Measures on Security Assessment of Commercial Cryptography Application

On 7 October 2023, the State Cryptography Administration (SCA) of China released the *Measures for the Administration of the Security Assessment of Commercial Cryptography Application*. Compared with the draft for comment released on 9 June 2023, the final, official version further clarifies several requirements. Specifically, Article 18 and 19 of the Measures added penalties for the operators of the important networks and information systems operators that violate the provisions of the Measures, as well as penalties for those that commit abuse of power, dereliction of duty, malpractice for personal gain or disclosure of business secrets and personal privacy during the administration and supervision of commercial cryptography security assessment.

## China's New Administration Measures for Commercial Cryptography Testing Institutions

On 12 October 2023, the State Cryptography Administration (SCA) of China released the *Measures for the Administration of Commercial Cryptography Testing Institutions*, which will be enforced from 1 November 2023. The Measures were developed in line with the requirements of the *Cryptography Law* and the newly-revised *Regulation on the Administration of Commercial Cryptography*. The purpose is to regulate relevant testing and certification bodies.

## China Balances the Regulation on Cross-border Data Transfer

On September 28, 2023, the Chinese government's Cyberspace Administration released the *Provisions on Regulating and Facilitating Cross-Border Data Flows (Draft for Comments)*, which will be open for feedback until October 15, 2023. This release represents a significant change in China's regulations regarding cross-border data. The Provisions aim to strike a balance between "regulation" and "promotion," indicating a clear adjustment in China's policy for cross-border data regulation based on the lessons learned from previous experiences.

## SAMR Answers Questions on FIEs Participating in China's Standardisation

Recently, the State Council issued the *Opinions on Further Optimizing the Foreign Investment Environment and Increasing Efforts to Attract Foreign Investment* (hereinafter referred to as the Opinions), with the aim to further attract and utilize foreign investment. To support the Opinions and FIE's participation in China's standardisation activities, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) provided answers to 10 most frequently asked questions – which were translated by SESEC team to increase the understanding of foreign stakeholders.

## **China Releases the Disposal Guidelines for Patents Related to Association Standards**

On 7 September 2023, the updated national standard *GB/Z 43194-2023 Disposal Guidelines for Patents Related to Association Standards* comes into effect. The revision aims to streamline the requirements for different stakeholders by eliminating unnecessary duties and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, removing the risk assessment requirement for standard implementers, as well as the emergency response requirement for associations. Furthermore, the entire text has been refined.

## **The 5th China Quality Conference Held in Chengdu**

Themed "quality evolution and cooperation in economic recovery", the 5th China Quality Conference was held on September 1-3 in Chengdu, Sichuan province. Hosted by State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), People's Government of Sichuan Province and People's Government of Chengdu City, the biennial conference is a platform on international exchange and cooperation of quality.

## **TC260 Issues Draft for Comment: Security Requirements for the Processing of Key Data**

On 25 August 2023, China's National Information Security Standardisation Technical Committee (SAC/TC260) published the draft for comments of the *Information security technology – Security requirements for the processing of Key Data*. This standard plays a crucial role in China's data grading management system which classifies data into three levels: core data, key data, and generic data. Each level has specific protection requirements and processing measures. The Security Requirements are specifically designed for the handling of key data.

## **China Invites Feedback on Data Security Risk Assessment Method**

On 21 August 2023, the National Information Security Standardisation Technical Committee of China (SAC/TC260) issued a notice seeking public input on the draft of the *Risk Assessment Method for Data Security in Information Security Technology*. This national standard aligns with the *Data Security Law* and aims to establish a methodology framework for stakeholders to conduct data security risk assessments and implement necessary preventive measures.

## **Updates on China's Office Devices Security Standard**

In April 2022, TC260 initiated a new standard proposal: *Information security technology – security specification for office devices*. The draft of the standard disclosed includes provisions that would rule out the possibility for overseas office devices providers to participate in government procurement in China. The latest development takes place on 25 August when SAC TC260 updated it again. The revised draft is much more feasible in general and discriminating articles are mostly removed.



# SESEC and Supported Events

## 1. SESEC in Recent Chinese Standardisation Events

#Standardisation Events

In early September, SESEC participated in a string of standardisation activities, promoting the European standardisation system and its best practices.

### a) China-EU Pump Energy Efficiency Standards Exchange

On 8 September 2023, the Resources and Environment Branch of the China National Institute of Standardisation (CNIS) convened the Green and Low-carbon Standardisation Technical Seminar on Motor and Pump System. The Seminar aimed at deepening the understanding of EU and Chinese standardisation stakeholders on each other's efforts in the standardisation of the energy efficiency of pumps.



More than 50 experts from CNIS Resources and Environment Branch, Zhongguancun Modern Energy and Environment Service Industry Alliance (CCEIA), Grundfos, SESEC, and pump industry attended the meeting. Specifically, experts from CNIS and Grundfos provided an update on various topics, including the progress of the climate adaptation and carbon peak and neutrality standards systems, domestically and internationally; China's energy saving standards system and pump energy saving standards; China's motor standards and systems; the EU's Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR); and the EU's pump energy efficiency grade calculation methods.

During the discussion session, participating experts shared and exchanged views on the coordination and cooperation path of energy efficiency standards of industrial equipment, such as motors and pumps; the feasibility of including pump products in the energy efficiency labeling system; the progress of energy efficiency tests of industrial equipment in use; and energy saving monitoring technologies and their applications of motor and pump systems.

Dr. Betty Xu, SESEC expert, also made a keynote speech, introducing the EU's standardisation system and how it supports EU's green transition agenda.

As pumps account for 20% of total energy consumption in China, enhancing their energy efficiency is attached significant priority. CNIS is working in this field by developing a number of mandatory energy efficiency standards. Communication and exchange activities will contribute to the mutual understanding between EU and China of their energy efficiency standardisation work, potentially paving the way for future energy efficiency standardisation cooperation.

### b) The Second China-Mongolia International Standardisation Forum

On 7 September 2023, the Second China-Mongolia International Standardisation Forum was held in Hohhot, capital of China's Inner Mongolia region. The theme of the Forum was "Standards facilitating green development and trade". Its aim was to further deepen standardisation cooperation and promote the mutual recognition of standards between China and Mongolia in the areas of S&T, food, modern husbandry, modern services, new energy, new materials, medical and health, talent cultivation.

Approximately 20 officers from the Mongolian Agency for Standardisation and Metrology took part in the Forum, together with a number of representatives of Mongolian enterprises and 200 Chinese standardisation experts. They shared good practices and insights into standardisation for green development and ecology protection, trade and customs facilitation, energy and resources, agricultural and husbandry products, quality and certification, and in medicine and health.

Invited by the organizer, Dr. Betty Xu, SESEC expert, also participated in the Forum. She made a presentation on the European standardisation system, and how it is working to support the EU's green deal policy portfolio.



### c) 2023 Forum on Conformity Assessment Serving Trade Facilitation

On 6 September 2023, the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA) and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) jointly organized the 2023 Forum on Conformity Assessment Serving Trade Facilitation, on the sidelines of the China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing.

With the theme of “conformity assessment: enhancing the resilience and stability of the global industrial chain”, the forum invited representatives from governmental departments, international organizations, conformity assessment bodies, experts, scholars and enterprises in conformity assessment-related fields to share their insights and advices on enhancing the role of conformity assessment in improving the management level and ensuring the stability and resilience of industrial chains.

In the keynote speech session, Michael Hart, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, and Hannane Taidi, director general of the Testing, Inspection and Certification Council, stressed the role of conformity assessment in enhancing supply chain resilience and enabling sustainability. On the Chinese side, experts from the Chinese Academy of Engineering, CCPIT, the China Certification and Accreditation Association (CCAA), the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Commission, and Huawei, made presentations on international conformity assessment activities, including its role in facilitating trade, adding value to industrial chains, driving the development of the Greater Bay Area, and supporting the high quality development of industries, respectively.



support the internal single market and its trade with other countries and regions.

Panel discussions were carried out subsequently, focusing on three key topics: (i) “how conformity assessment facilitates the coordinated development of regional foreign trade”, (ii) “how to promote conformity assessment and management innovation”, and (iii) “how conformity assessment supports high-quality development of advanced manufacturing industry”. Dr. Betty Xu, SESEC expert, joined the discussion on the first key topic. During her speech, she introduced the EU’s new legislation framework and the conformity assessment system established thereunder. She also shared the European practice and experience on leveraging standardisation and conformity assessment to

A number of reports were released during the Forum, including the report on international cooperation in China’s quality certification, selected cases of “featured and excellent” international cooperation projects in the conformity assessment field, and the Chinese version of ISO’s Delivering Supply Chain Confidence.

## 2. Fostering Collaboration: SESEC and SPEAC Project Join Forces for Consumer Safety

#Standardisation Cooperation

On 17 October, 2023, SESEC had the pleasure of hosting in its Beijing office a visit from the SPEAC project. SPEAC, which stands for "Safe Non-food Consumer Products in the EU and China", is an EU-funded initiative with the mission of safeguarding consumers through raising awareness on the EU's safety regulations for non-food consumer products and consumer protection in China. The visiting delegation included Mr. Gianluca Ghiara, the project's leader, and Ms. Niu Huiting, the project's advisor.

During the meeting, SESEC and SPEAC project experts shared detailed information of their tasks and recent initiatives. They engaged in fruitful discussions to explore potential areas for future cooperation, which encompass areas such as knowledge sharing, collaborative training programmes, event coordination, and strategies for strengthening ties between their respective parent organizations.



This exchange sets the stage for a promising and mutually beneficial partnership between SESEC and the SPEAC projects, signifying their shared dedication to enhancing awareness of EU regulations and standards in China, and their joint commitment to safeguarding consumers from potentially hazardous products.

## 3. Upcoming SESEC Webinars

# SESEC Events

### a) SESEC V Webinar 11: Quantum Standardization Development in China

China prioritizes frontier technologies as a strategic imperative for enhancing national competitiveness. As a result, the development of Quantum Information Technology (QIT) is of great significance to China, and various efforts have been put into place, ranging from national policies and project implementation to standardization. With comprehensive support from the government, China has made notable achievements and progress in the field, establishing itself as one of the leading countries in QIT development globally. To help foreign stakeholders to have a clear picture, SESEC is going to hold a SESEC V Webinar 11: Quantum Standardization Development in China. During the webinar, Dr. Betty XU will introduce and analyze key Chinese SDOs in quantum standardization and international cooperation.

Time and Date: 10:00 am – 11:00 am, 21 November 2023 (CET, Brussels); Presenter: Dr. Betty XU; Language: English  
Register at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JG\\_4bVPqQsWJkxwTTzT\\_w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JG_4bVPqQsWJkxwTTzT_w)

### b) SESEC V Webinar 12: China's Green Product Standards and Certification Scheme

In recent years, China has made significant progress in the development of green product standardization and certification. As a key component of sustainable development, green products play a crucial role in reducing environmental impact and promoting resource conservation. To update foreign stakeholders on recent development of relevant policies, SESEC is going to hold a dedicated SESEC V Webinar 12: China's Green Product Standards and Certification Scheme. During the webinar, Dr. Betty XU will provide her insights on China's green product standards and certification scheme.

Time and Date: 10:00 am – 11:00 am, 5 December 2023 (CET, Brussels); Presenter: Dr. Betty XU; Language: English  
Register at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PLPFRUdhTneAXEzOAXaM8Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PLPFRUdhTneAXEzOAXaM8Q)



# Horizontal Actions

## 4. China Calls for Comments on Product Quality Law (Revision Draft 2023)

# Law and Regulations

On 18 October 2023, China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) released the Product Quality Law (Revision Draft 2023) for public comments. The submission channel for opinions will stay open until 18 November. To assist foreign stakeholders, SESEC translated the Draft into English (please click here to download the English version). If you or your organization wish to provide feedback to the SAMR, you may send an email to SESEC with your input, which will be translated into Chinese and submitted to SAMR.

### Background

The current Product Quality Law in force was originally released in 1993. Unlike minor revisions made respectively in 2000, 2009, and 2018, the latest Revision Draft contains major changes addressing the evolved market needs (such as new type of economic operators), and consolidating well-established enforcement practices.

### General Introduction

The Draft has six chapters in total:

- Chapter I: General Provisions
- Chapter II: Product Quality Obligations for Economic Operators
- Chapter III: Product Quality Supervision
- Chapter IV: Quality Promotion and Quality Infrastructure
- Chapter V: Legal Liabilities
- Chapter VI: Supplementary Provisions

The structure of the Draft reflects some changes compared to the current Product Quality Law in force. Specifically, the new 'Chapter V: Legal Liabilities' results from the merging of the previous 'Chapter IV - Damage and Compensation' and 'Chapter V – Penalties'. Furthermore, the new 'Chapter II: Product Quality Obligations for Economic Operators' is now placed before 'Chapter III: Product Quality Supervision'.

### In terms of specific articles, the key highlights are summarized below:

1. The economic operators' obligations regarding product quality are clarified.

The Draft introduces new obligations for producers and sellers. These include reporting obligations for accidents related to product quality and safety (Article 16), obligations for recalling defective products (Article 17), obligations for ensuring product quality and safety traceability (Article 18), and obligations for product quality labeling (Article 14).

Furthermore, section IV of Chapter II of the Draft also includes obligations for other economic operators in addition to producers and sellers. These include operators involved in product storage and transportation, e-commerce third-party platform service providers, offline third-party operators, and service operators, among others. It is important to note that the revised Draft of the Product Quality Law is equally applicable to importers or authorized representatives of overseas producers: their obligations are equivalent to those of domestic producers and sellers.

2. The Draft introduces a special section dedicated to quality supervision of special consumer goods. These goods are used by special groups such as children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and the disabled. The authorities will publish a specific product catalogue, which will impose stricter standards and additional requirements for listed products in terms of safety assessment, third-party testing, labeling, and marking (Articles 49-53).

3. The Draft includes a new chapter on Quality Promotion and Quality Infrastructure.



This chapter clarifies the responsibilities of market supervision and administration departments at all levels of government, to encourage operators, colleges and universities, scientific research institutions, and financial institutions to undertake quality-related activities such as innovation, research, talent construction, evaluation, financing, and credit enhancement (Chapter IV).

4. The Draft is consistent with the Standardization Law of China.

The document replaces the wording previously used, "national standards and sector standard products to protect human health and personal and property safety", with "mandatory standards." These standards are the minimum requirement for product quality and safety and are the only mandatory ones (Article 83).

## 5. SAMR Publishes Q&A for FIEs Participating in China's Standardisation

### # Policy Explanation

Recently, the State Council issued the *Opinions on Further Optimizing the Foreign Investment Environment and Increasing Efforts to Attract Foreign Investment* (hereinafter referred to as the Opinions), with the aim to further attract and utilize foreign investment (Click [here](#) to find out SESEC's news on the Opinions). One of the measures outlined is dedicated to standardisation, specifically aimed at supporting foreign-invested enterprises (FIEs) to participate in the formulation of standards, in an equal and law-abiding manner.

To support the Opinions and FIE's participation in China's standardisation activities, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) provided answers to 10 most frequently asked questions – which were translated by SESEC team to increase the understanding of foreign stakeholders.

**Q1: Which laws, regulations and policy documents of the state guarantee the participation of FIEs in China's standardisation activities?**

**A:**

- a) In November 2017, the Standardisation Administration of China, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Commerce issued the *Guiding Opinions on Foreign-invested Enterprises Participating in the Standardisation Work of China*, which provided clear guidance on the subject, involving the scope of participation, patent protection, rights and obligations of FIEs participating in China's standardisation work. The Guiding Opinions are of great significance for guiding and regulating FIEs' participation in China's standardisation activities.
- b) In March 2019, the 13th National People's Congress of China issued the *Foreign Investment Law*, which stipulates that the state ensures that FIEs have equal participation in the formulation

of standards according to law, while strengthening the information disclosure and social supervision of the formulation of standards. Compulsory standards formulated by the State are equally applicable to all FIEs.

- c) In December 2019, the State Council issued the *Regulation for Implementing the Foreign Investment Law*, clarifying that FIEs are allowed to put forward standard project proposal to the relevant standardisation administrative departments. In addition, FIEs are allowed to submit opinions and suggestions during the initiation, drafting, technical review, implementation feedback and evaluation of standards; they are also allowed to participate actively in standard drafting, technical review and foreign language translation of standards in accordance with the provisions.
- d) In December 2019, the State Administration of Market Regulation issued the *Measures for the Administration of Mandatory National Standards*, emphasizing that mandatory national standards apply equally to all domestic entities and FIEs, and that they enjoy equal treatment when participating in the formulation and revision of mandatory national standards, in accordance with the law.
- e) In October 2021, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council issued the *National Standardisation Development Outline*, clearly proposing to promote the institutional opening-up in the field of standardisation and ensure the participation of FIEs in the formulation of standards, in accordance with the law.
- f) In July 2023, the State Council released the *Opinions on Further Optimizing the Foreign Investment Environment and Increasing Efforts to Attract Foreign Investment*, which further emphasize the support for FIEs to participate in

the formulation of standards, on an equal basis according to law. The Opinions outline a series of specific tasks to be completed, including:

- Promoting the disclosure of information about the whole process of standard formulation and revision, and ensuring the participation of FIEs in standardisation technical committees and standard formulation activities on an equal basis, in accordance with the law;
- Encouraging FIEs to formulate enterprise standards, independently or in collaboration with other enterprises, and provide standardisation services;
- Carrying out national trials for the standardisation of the service sector in national comprehensive demonstration zones dedicated to the opening up of the service sector.

**Q2: How can FIEs participate in China's standardisation activities?**

**A:**

- a) Participate in the drafting of national standards and the translation of national standards into foreign languages.
- b) Put forward opinions and suggestions at all stages of the standard development project, e.g. during establishment, calling for comments, standard implementation, etc.
- c) Participate in a national standardisation technical committee as a member or observer.
- d) Provide standardisation services.
- e) Participate in the relevant activities of the international organizations for standardisation, in accordance with relevant regulations.

**Q3: How can FIEs put forward proposals for establishing mandatory national standards?**

**A:**

- a) According to paragraph 2 of Article 10 of *Measures for the Administration of Mandatory National Standards*, social organizations, enterprises, institutions and citizens may put forward proposals for establishing mandatory national standards. Proposals shall be submitted to the standardisation administrative department under the State Council, which in turn decides, jointly with other relevant departments, if the proposal can be turned into a standardisation project.
- b) FIEs can submit mandatory national standard project proposals online, through the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information.

**Q4: How can FIEs put forward proposals for project establishment of recommended national standards?**

According to paragraph 1 of Article 18 of the *Measures for the Administration of National Standards*, government departments, social organizations, enterprises, public institutions and citizens may, in accordance with the relevant development plans of the State and socio-economic development needs, submit project proposals for national standards to the relevant administrative departments under the State Council, or directly to the standardisation administrative department under the State Council. Furthermore, according to paragraph 2 of the same article, project proposals for recommended national standards may be submitted to national standardisation technical committees.

Therefore, FIEs may use either one of these channels to propose project establishment of recommended national standards, namely: (i) submission to national standardisation technical committees, or (ii) submission to the relevant administrative departments under the State Council or the standardisation administrative department. Representatives of FIEs that are active members of national standardisation technical committees can submit project proposals through the National Standardisation Operation Management Platform, after logging in their personal accounts.

**Q5: How can FIEs participate in the drafting of national standards?**

FIEs can apply to participate in the drafting of national standards by contacting the specific organization responsible for coordinating the drafting work. During the publicity period, relevant information on national standards projects being established or planned is available through National Public Service Platform for Standards Information; the 'executive unit', in the 'basic information' column, is the organization responsible for coordinating the drafting of the standard project.

The intellectual property rights of FIEs are protected during the formulation of national standards projects, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Where patents of FIEs are involved, they shall be handled in accordance with the *Interim Provisions on the Administration of National Standards Involving Patents*.

Representatives of FIEs who participate in the formulation and revision of national standards shall have certain standardisation working experience,

corresponding professional capacity, and proficiency in written and spoken Chinese.

**Q6: How can FIEs participate in the translation of national standards into foreign languages?**

According to the *Measures for the Administration of Foreign Language Versions of National Standards*, national standardisation technical committees are responsible for the establishment of projects for the formulation of foreign language versions of recommended national standards; they are also responsible for identifying the specific unit that will undertake the translation work. For mandatory national standards, the responsibility belongs to the relevant administrative departments of the State Council. Furthermore, the standardisation administrative department of the State Council may also organize relevant units to carry out the translation of foreign language versions of national standards based on the needs of economic and trade development and international cooperation.

FIEs may apply to national standardisation technical committees, the relevant administrative departments of the State Council or the standardisation administrative department of the State Council to participate in the translation of the foreign language versions of national standards. Relevant information on translation projects being established or planned is available through National Public Service Platform for Standards Information

**Q7: How can FIEs provide opinions and suggestions during the different stages of standardisation projects, i.e. during project establishment, solicitation of opinions, and standard implementation?**

Before the official project announcement and establishment, national standards and their foreign language versions projects to be established will be released for public opinions. Representatives of FIEs may submit opinions and suggestions through the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information, after registering with their real names and logging in their personal accounts.

Once the national standardisation project is initiated, a draft for comment will be formed. During this stage, opinions will be publicly solicited through the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information. Representatives of FIEs may submit comments and suggestions through the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information, after registering with their real names and logging in their personal accounts.

The standardisation administrative department of the State Council will collect all the opinions and suggestions received from relevant parties on the implementation of national standards, and provide timely feedback to the drafting bodies. Representatives of FIEs may provide opinions and suggestions on the implementation of current national standards through the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information, after registering with their real names and logging in their personal accounts.

**Q8: How can representatives of FIEs participate in the work of national standardisation technical committees?**

Representatives of FIEs can participate in the work of national standardisation technical committees as members or observers, and enjoy corresponding rights and perform corresponding obligations in accordance with the *Measures for the Administration of the National Standardisation Technical Committees* and other relevant provisions.

Relevant information on the establishment and election of a national standardisation technical committee are publicly published on the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information; calls for membership are also announced through the platform. More specifically, the information of calls for membership are available in the column 'Publicity of Open Calls for Members' on the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information. During the publicity period, representatives of FIEs can register with their real names and log in to their personal accounts, click 'I want to join' button, and fill in the relevant personal information before finally submitting the application.

Once a technical committee has already been established, eligible representatives of FIEs may also apply to join national standardisation technical committees that have already been established or elected, by submitting relevant application materials to the corresponding secretariat. The national standardisation technical committee will deliberate on the addition of new members after a vote of all members of the committee, and eventually submit the adjusted list of members to the Standardisation Administration of China for official approval.

Based on work needs, a national standardisation technical committee may also welcome observers. Observers are eligible to access to internal information and documents, attend internal meetings, express

opinions and make suggestions, but do not enjoy voting rights. Qualifications to be an observer are normally stipulated in the charter / articles of association of the technical committee. Representatives of FIEs can contact the secretariat of the technical committee to obtain the relevant information of the qualification requirement; those eligible can apply to become observers.

**Q9: Where can information of national standardisation technical committees be found?**

Basic information such as the number, name, members and specialized field of a national standardisation technical committee can be easily found on the National Public Service Platform for Standards Information, together with information on the committee's secretariat such as the name and title

of the current secretary-general, the unit where the secretariat is hosted, contact details.

**Q10: What are the access channels and working platforms of standardisation information?**

The National Public Service Platform for Standards Information: <https://std.samr.gov.cn/>

This is the unified entrance to all information on standards, including national standards, sector standards, local standards, association standards, enterprise standards, international standards, foreign standards, demonstration pilots, and technical committees. As mentioned earlier, the platform also hosts information related to all stages of standard establishment, formulation, implementation and revision. The platform thus represents a one-stop, all-round public information service.

## 6. China Introduces Legislative plan of the 14th NPC Standing Committee

### # Legislative Plan

On October 19th, 2023, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee held a press conference, during which Mr. Yang Heqing, spokesman of the Legislative Affairs Commission, introduced the Legislative Plan of the 14th NPC Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan"). This year marks the first year of activities of the 14th NPC Standing Committee. Drawing up the legislative plan and making overall arrangements for the legislative work in the next five years is of great significance for advancing law-based governance in an all-round way. Therefore, the Plan was drafted, formulated, and completed in a meticulous and careful way. Mr. Yang Heqing commented that the Plan prioritizes the urgent needs of the country, while focusing on long-term planning.

The legislative plan is composed of numerous projects to be completed. These can be divided into three categories:

- 79 projects involving draft laws which have reached a certain degree of maturity to be now submitted for discussion and approval.
- 51 projects involving draft laws which are not yet mature and for which further refinement is needed before they can be submitted for discussion and approval;
- Unidentified legislative projects on which further research is needed.

Among the 130 projects of the first two categories, 60 involve new basic, comprehensive, and dominant laws formulated for the first time, while the remaining 70 are revision of laws involving institutional adjustments, reforms, as well as prominent problems reflected by relevant parties.

The followings are examples of key legislative projects for each category, for which the support of standardisation activities will be particularly prominent:

First category:

- *Cybersecurity Law (revision)*
- *Anti-Unfair Competition Law (revision)*
- *Metrology Law (formulation)*

Second category:

- *Telecommunications Law (formulation) (Please note that the Radio Spectrum Resources Law will be considered together)*
- *Digital Economy Promotion Law*

- *Tendering and Bidding Law (revision) (Please note that the revision of Government Procurement Law will be considered together)*
- *Energy Conservation Law (revision)*

Third category:

- *Legislative projects on climate change and carbon peaking*
- *Legislative project on data ownership and network governance*

## 7. China Releases the Disposal Guidelines for Patents Related to Association Standards

### #Patents in Standards

On 7 September 2023, China's National Public Service Platform for Standards Information updated the status of the national standard *GB/Z 43194-2023 Disposal Guidelines for Patents Related to Association Standards*, from "under development" to "released". The official enforcement of the standard begins from the day of the release. However, the draft of the standard is not yet available on the platform. According to the main drafter, the reason is that the draft is undergoing final proofreading and typesetting, and soon the official text will be put online.

To assist foreign stakeholders in understanding the latest developments and revisions of the standard, SESEC has compared the latest draft for approval with the previous draft for comment. In general, the revision aims to streamline the requirements for different stakeholders by eliminating unnecessary duties and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, removing the risk assessment requirement for standard implementers, as well as the emergency response requirement for associations. Furthermore, the entire text has been refined.

More specifically, the key revisions are summarised below:

- Changing one of the key principles of the standard, from "pursuit of win-win results and mutual benefit" to "spur innovation". This reflects China's positive attitude towards achieving innovation and socio-economic benefits. (Article 3)
- Enhancing the duties of the associations involved in standard formulation. This includes activities such as tracking Standard Essential Patent (SEP)-related policies and documents issued by the international community, administrations and industries, as well as supervising the implementation of the SEP management rules, etc. (Article 2.1.1)
- Removing *Annex B – Example of Licensing Agreement, and Annex C – Example of Transfer Agreement of the Patent Involved in Association Standards*.
- Improving patent disclosure requirements at different phases:
- In the standard drafting phase: adding one key section for determining the essentiality of the patent, and another section to determine the next steps in cases where alternative solutions exist. (Article 7.5.2.3)
- In the technical review phase: adding one key section for determining the next steps in cases alternative solutions exist. (Article 7.5.2.5)

For the SESEC's analysis on the previous draft for comment, click [here](#).

## 8. The 5th China Quality Conference Held in Chengdu

### #Quality

Themed "quality evolution and cooperation in economic recovery", the 5th China Quality Conference was held on September 1-3 in Chengdu, Sichuan province. Hosted by State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), People's Government of Sichuan Province and People's Government of Chengdu City, the biennial conference is a platform on international exchange and cooperation of quality.

The conference was attended by more than 800 representatives from 40 countries and regions, 7 international and regional organizations, as well as related departments, enterprises, research institutes, universities and technical

institutions. Through in-depth communication, participants shared experience in quality governance in different countries, to promote advanced quality management methods and innovative achievements, facilitate the interaction of quality infrastructure, and boost high-quality development. Noting that the global economy is still in a difficult recovery facing various challenges, countries should joint hands in reaching higher-level quality transformation and cooperation, fueling the global economic recovery, prosperity and sustainable development. Chengdu Quality Initiative, released at the event, puts forward the following suggestions: First, contributing to economic and social development with quality transformation. Second, improving the quality of people's lives through quality upgrading. Third, promoting the constant innovation of quality technology, management and system. Fourth, building higher-level quality infrastructure. Fifth, serving the sustainable development of quality in small and medium-sized enterprises. Sixth, promoting global participation and shared benefits.

During the event, eight sub-forums and an exhibition of China's quality management and innovation achievements were held, which comprehensively demonstrated China's quality work.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023



## Digital Transition

### 9. China Issues Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative

# AI

At the third Belt and Road Forum held on 17 October in Beijing, China unveiled its “*Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative*”. The initiative reflects China’s approach to AI governance, which centers on prioritizing people’s interests and respecting other countries’ national sovereignty. It also stresses the core principles for countries to adhere to in AI governance, including, ensuring the security, reliability, controllability, and fairness of AI technology.

In the initiative, China acknowledges the widening divide in global AI governance, placing a strong emphasis on supporting developing countries. This strategic move has the potential to yield additional economic benefits for China, particularly in the global south, thereby bolstering Beijing’s leadership among developing countries.

The initiative aligns with China’s consistent proposition in the governance of emerging digital technologies, with a particular focus on security and controllability. However, it also embraces a spirit of global cooperation in developing AI norms, standards, and regulatory frameworks through broad consensus

among nations, international organizations, enterprises, research institutes, civil organizations, and individuals.

During the second TC260 Standards Week in 2023, which was held from 1~4 November, Mr. Gao Lin, director of the Cybersecurity Coordination Bureau of CAC, proposed his considerations for implementing and promoting Global AI Governance Initiative in practice, including:

- Refer to the initiative as a guiding framework for the development of standards
- Incorporate the initiative as a key component of international cooperation and exchanges
- Organize research activities and discussions on the initiative at major events
- Promote the initiative across various platforms and occasions.

The full text of the Global AI Governance Initiative, offered by CAC in both Chinese and English, can be accessed from the following link:

[http://www.cac.gov.cn/2023-10/18/c\\_1699291032884978.htm](http://www.cac.gov.cn/2023-10/18/c_1699291032884978.htm)

### 10. China’s new National Data Bureau Inaugurated

# Government Organisation Reform

On 25 October, 2023, the National Data Bureau was officially inaugurated. This governmental agency will be responsible for coordinating and promoting the establishment of data infrastructure, overseeing the planning and development of the “Digital China” plan, the digital economy, and the digital society.

The National Data Bureau, which operates under the management of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), has incorporated certain responsibilities previously held by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) and the NDRC itself, including:

- Responsibilities previously managed by CAC:

including formulating plans for advancing the “Digital China” plan, coordinating the advancement of informatization of public services and social governance, promoting smart city development, coordinating the development and utilization of vital national information resources, and facilitating cross-industry and cross-departmental interconnection of information resources.

- Responsibilities previously overseen by the NDRC: including coordinating the development of digital economy, implementing China’s big data strategy, promoting the development of fundamental systems of data elements, and advancing the

deployment and construction of digital infrastructure.

Liu Liehong, the Director-General of the National Data Bureau, served as CAC's Deputy Director-General in July 2018, and later as the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) in June 2020. In his role at MIIT, he supervised several departments, including information and communication development, information and communication management, and network security management. In August 2021, Liu Liehong assumed the position of Chairman and Party Secretary of telecom giant China Unicom.

China is the first country to classify data as a factor of production – yet it is still in the early stages of implementing such productivity in practice. Challenges exist in areas such as asset status, ownership rights, data circulation, pricing, profit distribution, security, and privacy. Many companies have expressed concerns about issues like the difficulty of sharing and trading data, the lack of established pricing and profit-sharing mechanisms, the siphonic effect and monopolistic behavior of data platforms, and the disorderly distribution of benefits. Overcoming these obstacles will depend on the work of the National Data Bureau in the future.

# 11. SCA Issues the Measures on Security Assessment of Commercial Cryptography Application

## # Law and Regulations

On 7 October 2023, the State Cryptography Administration (SCA) of China released the *Measures for the Administration of the Security Assessment of Commercial Cryptography Application* (hereinafter referred to as the Measures). The Measures are based on the pilot trials organized by SCA since 2017, which demonstrated to relevant authorities, operators and assessment bodies the validity of the rationale as well as the basic requirements of the security assessment. Compared with the draft for comment released on 9 June 2023, the final, official version further clarifies several requirements. Specifically, Article 18 and 19 of the Measures added penalties for the operators of the important networks and information systems operators that violate the provisions of the Measures, as well as penalties for those that commit abuse of power, dereliction of duty, malpractice for personal gain or disclosure of business secrets and personal privacy during the administration and supervision of commercial cryptography security assessment.

### Background

According to the *Cryptography Law*, cryptography is divided into core cryptography, common cryptography and commercial cryptography. Unlike core cryptography and common cryptography which are used to protect state secret information, commercial cryptography is used to protect information that is not classified as a state secret. Citizens, legal persons and other organizations can use commercial cryptography to protect network and information security in accordance with the law.

In this regard, the security assessment plays an important role in strengthening and regulating the application of commercial cryptography applications. The *Cryptography Law* mandates the establishment of a system for the security assessment of commercial cryptography applications, based on which the assessment agencies for the security assessment are incorporated into the unified management of commercial cryptography testing agencies. In line with the *Cryptography Law*, specific details are outlined in the *Regulations on the Administration of Commercial Cryptography* (released in May 2023), specifically in Article 38 and Article 41. The Measures, with its 21 articles, further refine the requirements by comprehensively defining the scope of the assessment, the responsible entities, the principles of work, the procedures, and the implementation standards.

### Main contents of the Measures

- a) General requirements:
  - Defining the concept of security assessment for commercial cryptography applications. According to the Measures, it refers to the activities of testing, analyzing, assessing and verifying the compliance, correctness, and effectiveness of commercial cryptography technology, products, and services used in networks and information systems, based on relevant laws, regulations, and standards.
  - Regulating the administration system, by specifying responsibilities for the supervisory and administration authority of cryptography administration departments at or above the



- county level, government agencies, and units involved in commercial cryptography.
- Clarifying the qualification requirements for institutions engaged in the security assessment of commercial cryptography applications, as well as providing support and safeguards for the development of the industry.
  - Determining the scope of the security assessment.
- b) Procedures and content requirements:
- Overall requirements for the “three synchronizations and one assessment” approach, which refers to the requirement of simultaneous planning, construction, and operation of commercial cryptography assurance systems while periodically carrying out the assessment.
  - Procedural requirements for the security assessment of commercial cryptography applications during the planning, construction, and operation phases of important networks and information systems.
  - Specific content requirements for the security assessment of commercial cryptography applications for two different types of entities: application schemes and networks and information systems.
- c) Implementation specifications:
- This includes the general code of conduct for performing security assessment of commercial cryptography applications, as well as the supporting obligations of operators who entrust institutions to perform assessment.
  - The basic requirements and code of conduct are also defined for operators who independently perform security assessment of commercial cryptography.
  - A system for record-filing of the results of security assessment is established.
  - The relevant content for operators to perform emergency response is specified.
- d) Supervision, inspection, and legal liability:
- This section indicates the supervisory and inspection authorities in charge of cryptography administration departments at or above the county level, government agencies, and units involved in commercial cryptography.
  - It also clarifies the situations in which operators may be considered in violation of the law and their legal liabilities.
  - Furthermore, it stipulates the responsibilities and obligations of management personnel in charge of the security assessment of commercial cryptography.
- e) Other matters: Transitional arrangements and the effective date of the implementation are included. The Measures will be enforced from 1 November 2023.

## 12. SCA Unveils New Administration Measures for Commercial Cryptography Testing Institutions

# Law and Regulations

On 12 October 2023, the State Cryptography Administration (SCA) of China released the *Measures for the Administration of Commercial Cryptography Testing Institutions* (hereinafter referred to as the Measures), which will be enforced from 1 November 2023. The Measures were developed in line with the requirements of the *Cryptography Law* and the newly-revised *Regulation on the Administration of Commercial Cryptography*. The purpose is to regulate relevant testing and certification bodies. In addition, the Measures include provisions regulating and managing the operations of institutions performing security assessment of commercial cryptography applications, thus providing support to the *Measures for the Administration of the Security Assessment of Commercial Cryptography Application*.

In general, the Measures put forward clear requirements for the accreditation, supervision and management of testing institutions. These are highly significant for standardizing market access and professional behavior of testing institutions, and thus promoting the healthy development of the commercial cryptography testing industry. The following is the summary of main content of the Measures:

### a) General requirements:

- Definition of the scope of application, including the accreditation, supervision and management of commercial

cryptography product testing institutions and commercial cryptography application security assessment institutions.

- Definition of the regulatory system. The SCA is responsible for the accreditation, supervision and management of commercial cryptography testing institutions across the country. Local cryptography administration departments at or above the county level shall be responsible for the supervision and administration of commercial cryptography testing institutions within their respective jurisdictions.
- b) **Conditions and procedures for accreditation**, specifically including:
- Legal basis for the accreditation of commercial cryptography testing
  - Requirements for accreditation.
  - Procedures for accreditation, including application, acceptance, review, decision, and certification.
  - Other relevant requirements such as accreditation change, continuation and cancellation.
- c) **Practicing specifications**:
- Code of conduct that commercial cryptography testing institutions and related practitioners should abide by.
  - Specific requirements for testing activities, including test reports, data and sample management, information submission, and testing behavior.
- d) **Supervision and inspection, and legal liability**:
- Requirements for cryptography administration departments in terms of supervision, inspection and disclosure of results (i.e., publicizing the supervision and inspection results, uploading the penalty information and submitting the supervision and inspection result to the SCA).
  - Illegal situations and legal responsibility of commercial cryptography testing
  - Responsibilities and obligations of commercial cryptography testing institutions in supervising and managing the information publicity and personnel.
- e) **Other matters**, including the implementation timeline of the Measures.

## 13. China Balances the Regulation on Cross-border Data Transfer

### # Law and Regulations

On September 28, 2023, the Chinese government's Cyberspace Administration released the *Provisions on Regulating and Facilitating Cross-Border Data Flows (Draft for Comments)*, which will be open for feedback until October 15, 2023. This release represents a significant change in China's regulations regarding cross-border data. These provisions have been developed based on the experience gained from cross-border data regulation work in the past year and outline the general direction of future regulation policies.

Despite consisting of only 11 articles, the document signifies a substantial shift in the regulatory approach of the authorities. The Provisions aim to strike a balance between "regulation" and "promotion," indicating a clear adjustment in China's policy for cross-border data regulation based on the lessons learned from previous experiences. This adjustment acknowledges the feedback from businesses, recognizing that the previous regulations imposed excessive compliance costs and impeded the effective implementation of regulatory measures.

According to the current version of the Provisions, the following notable changes are identified:

- a) Clarification of certain issues: Cross-border data transfers that do not involve personal information and key data will not require prior approval for overseas transfer. Data processors are not required to undergo a security assessment for outbound data that has not been designated as key data by relevant departments or publicly announced as such.
- b) Exemptions for common outbound scenarios: Exemptions are granted for fulfilling contractual obligations in cross-border e-commerce, payment institutions, and business travel platforms. The management of human resources, following multinational companies' unified arrangements and judgments of necessity, is also exempt. Additionally, exemptions are provided for emergency situations to protect individual interests.
- c) Increased threshold for security assessment: The security assessment is only mandatory when providing

- personal information to overseas recipients exceeding one million individuals within a year. For cross-border personal information transfers ranging from ten thousand to less than one million individuals, standard contract filing or certification is sufficient. Quantities below ten thousand individuals are exempt from such requirements.
- d) Allocating space for special regulations in free trade zones: The pilot free trade zones are required to create a separate list of regulations (referred to as the Negative List) which outlines the circumstances under which cross-border data transfers will require a security assessment, a standard contract, or personal information protection certification. Data that does not fall within the scope of the Negative List can be transferred abroad without undergoing a security assessment, establishing a standard contract, or obtaining personal information protection certification.
  - e) Striking a balance between pre-regulation and post-regulation: Instead of prioritizing pre-regulation over in-process regulation or post-regulation, the Provisions aim to achieve a balanced approach to regulation throughout various stages. In certain scenarios outlined in the Provisions where pre-regulation measures are not required (such as security assessments, standard contracts, or certifications), the Provisions do not exclude the possibility of in-process regulation or post-regulation.

However, while understanding these measures aimed at reducing burdens, foreign stakeholders should not interpret them as signals of decreased data protection requirements. On the contrary, the purpose of these regulatory adjustments is to ease compliance burdens for businesses while maintaining data protection requirements, thus promoting the comprehensive implementation of regulatory measures. Exemptions for certain scenarios or the streamlining of prior approvals are not intended to weaken regulatory intensity regarding cross-border data activities by businesses. Rather, they are based on the varying security risks present in different scenarios. Differentiated regulation is employed to encourage businesses to comply with regulations.

Policy adjustments are still ongoing, and the official document may undergo changes. Although the new draft indicates the general direction of regulatory policy adjustments, specific policies are still being refined. Further modifications may be made after the official documents are issued to reconcile any conflicts between the Provisions and existing legislation and to provide further clarification on certain issues.

## 14. TC260 Issues Draft for Comment: Security Requirements for the Processing of Key Data

### # Data Security

On 25 August 2023, China's National Information Security Standardisation Technical Committee (SAC/TC260) published the draft for comments of the *Information security technology – Security requirements for the processing of Key Data* (hereinafter referred to as the Security Requirements). This standard plays a crucial role in China's data grading management system which classifies data into three levels: core data, key data, and generic data. Each level has specific protection requirements and processing measures. The Security Requirements are specifically designed for the handling of key data. The draft is open for public comments until 24 October 2023.

The Security Requirements consist of six main parts: application scope, reference documents, terminology and definition, device security, security of data processing activities, and security of operations and management. It applies not only to entities processing key data but also serves as a reference for supervising authorities, evaluation bodies, and other stakeholders involved in the oversight and evaluation of key data processing activities.

Foreign stakeholders, particularly those engaged in cross-border data transfers, should pay attention to Article 5.4.6 of the Security Requirements. This section outlines the obligations for transferring key data to overseas entities. The requirements include

- a) Reporting to the Cyberspace Administration of China, and pass the data cross-border security assessment;
- b) Implementing technical and management measures to carry out cross-border data transfer, commensurate with the established purpose, scope, method, data type scale, etc. of the transfer. Transfer activities will not be allowed if they are inconsistent with the report submitted to the Cyberspace Administration of China for security assessment;
- c) Receiving and handling user complaints related to cross-border data transfer;

- d) Keeping the relevant cross-border data transfer log for more than three years;
- e) Presenting information in plain text and readable form to the competent department or law enforcement department where they are verifying the type and scope of key data to be transferred overseas;
- f) Ceasing transfer activities and taking effective measures to protect the security of the data transferred overseas,
- g) when the competent authorities do not authorize the transfer;
- h) Refraining from providing key data stored in China to foreign judicial or law enforcement agencies without the prior approval of the competent authorities of China.

When handling data collected from China, it is crucial for foreign stakeholders to evaluate whether it falls under the category of key data. The *Cyber Security Standards Practice Guide – Guidelines on Classification and Classification of Network Data* (hereinafter referred to as the Guide), issued by SAC/TC260, provides guidelines for classifying and categorizing network data. It is important to determine the data's classification by referring to the key data catalogs released by public authorities at the national or industrial level. In cases where catalogs are unavailable, data processors should refer to the key data grading rules and standards that are currently being developed. They should also assess the potential impact of cross-border data transfer on different entities, as outlined in Form 1 from the Guide.

Data Grading	Impact Objects			
	National Security	Public Security	Personal Legitimate Rights	Legitimate Rights of Organizations
Core Data	Ordinary damage or Serious Damage	Serious Damage	/	/
key data	Minor Damage	Ordinary Damage or Minor Damage	/	/
General Data	No Damage	No Damage	No damage, Minor Damage, Ordinary Damage or Serious Damage	No damage, Minor Damage, Ordinary Damage, or Serious Damage

**Form 1: Framework for Data Grading**

The impact objects are divided into four categories: national security, public interest, personal legitimate rights, and legitimate rights of organizations. Additionally, the level of impact is categorized as serious damage, ordinary damage, minor damage, or no damage. If the data, when tampered with, destroyed, leaked, or illegally obtained or used, has the potential to cause minor damage to national security or ordinary to minor damage to public security, it will be considered key data.

## 15. China Invites Feedback on Data Security Risk Assessment Method

### # Data Security

On 21 August 2023, the National Information Security Standardisation Technical Committee of China (SAC/TC260) issued a notice seeking public input on the draft of the *Risk Assessment Method for Data Security in Information Security Technology* (referred to as the "Draft" hereafter). This national standard aligns with the *Data Security Law* and aims to establish a methodology framework for stakeholders to conduct data security risk assessments and implement necessary preventive measures.

The Draft draws upon the *Cybersecurity Standard Practice Guide—Guidelines for the Implementation of Network Data Security Risk Assessment* (hereinafter referred to as the Practice Guide), which provides specific and practical recommendations for implementation. Notably, Article 8.4 of the Draft focuses on the security of data processing activities and outlines seven key areas for conducting risk assessments in data collection, storage, transfer, usage and

processing, supply, disclosure, deletion, and other related activities. The Draft explicitly instructs stakeholders to consult the Practice Guide for detailed action plans, as it provides concrete guidelines rather than abstract requirements.

Foreign stakeholders are advised to pay close attention to the supplementary relationship between the Draft and the Practice Guide, especially as the latter contains specific requirements in terms of risk assessment for cross-border data transfer.

## 16. Updates on China's Office Devices Security Standard

# Data Security

On 16 April 2022, the China Electronic Standardisation Institute (CESI), the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China (CNCERT), the National Information Security Research Center (NISRC), and three domestic manufacturers of office devices, jointly submitted to TC260/WG5 a new standard proposal: *Information security technology – security specification for office devices*.

The proposal aims to replace two currently effective standards that are used to ensure the information security of office devices, namely *GB/T29244-2012 Information security technology – Basic security requirements for office devices*, and *GB/T 38558-2020 Information security technology – Security test method for office devices*. Both standards had been adopted by the IT Product Information Security Certification owned by the China Cybersecurity Review Technology and Certification Centre.

The draft of the standard disclosed includes provisions that would rule out the possibility for overseas office devices providers to participate in government procurement in China. For this reason, since its publication of the draft proposal, the project incurred a great deal of opposition from overseas office devices enterprises. Since then, rounds of discussions and changes were made.

The latest development takes place on 25 August when SAC TC260 released the *Information security technology—Security specification for office devices (draft for comments)*. The channel for submitting comments is open until 24 October 2023.

For foreign office devices suppliers, the revised draft is much more feasible in general and discriminating articles are mostly removed. Specifically, compared with the previous draft discussed during the meeting in May 2023, additional changes were made in the

revised draft, specifically:

- a) The number of organizations participating in the drafting process, as specified in the standard text, was reduced. The number of FIEs, however, remains the same.
- b) The requirement for mandatory compliance with *GB/T 29829-2022 Information security technology—Functionality and interface specification of cryptographic support platform for trusted computing* is removed from article 6.1.3 “firmware security”. However, it is not clear whether this will remain the same in the final text. FIEs mainly object the inclusion of mandatory compliance with GB/T 29829 as it would require excessive costs for replacing TPM (Trusted Platform Module) with TCM (Trusted Cryptography Module) used in medium and high level of office devices.
- c) The requirement for ensuring the stable and diversified laser scanning unit procurement source is removed from article 6.2.4 “supply chain security”.
- d) Politically sensitive elements are removed, for instance the requirement that “the third party technologies supply disruption shall not take place because of political or diplomatic factors” is deleted.

In general, modifications in the chapter “6. Security technology requirement” are relatively marginal compared with the amount of changes made in the chapter “7. Testing and verification method”.

### In Conclusion:

- a) The modification and draft for comments reflected the lobby and objections from overseas manufacturers.
- b) The provision that rules out overseas supply chain is deleted.
- c) Politically sensitive elements are removed: requirement: “the third-party technologies

- supply disruption shall not take place because of political or diplomatic factors” is deleted.
- d) The application scope is expanded from office devices used by government procurement and critical information infrastructure to all office

devices.

For further revising details, please contact us via [assistant@sesecc.eu](mailto:assistant@sesecc.eu)

## 17. New Establishment of China’s Robot Standardisation Working Group

### # Robot

China’s national standardisation working group on intellectualization and information safety of robots (SAC/TC 591/WG 1) was officially set up during the Robot Standardisation and Core Technology Sub-forum on August 18, which is a part of the World Robot Conference (WRC) 2023, the largest international conference in global robotic industry held for eight consecutive years, attracting enterprises to display their latest scientific and technological achievements.

The sub-forum was jointly hosted by People’s Government of Beijing Municipality, MIIT, and China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and organized by the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machinery Industry Co., Ltd. and National Engineering Research Center for

Manufacturing Automation.

Wang Weiming, Director of the First Equipment Industry Division of MIIT, and Su Guobin, Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology, inaugurated the working group. The working group will work on the development and revision of national standards on common intelligent technologies in key fields, industrial robot intellectualization, service robot intellectualization, intelligent application of subdivided scenarios or industries, as well as robot information security technology and other application of subdivided scenarios or industries.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023



## Green Transition

### 18. China Releases the Blue Book of Belt and Road Environmental Policies, Regulations and Standards

# Environmental Standards

On 20 August 2023, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Green Innovation Conference (2023) was held in Shenzhen, with the main theme of “High-quality Development Promoting the Construction of the Green Belt and Road Initiative.” The conference was organized by the Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen), and sponsored by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the BRI International Green Development Coalition, the Ecology Environment Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, and the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences. Nearly 200 participants and delegates from the above organizations attended the event, during which the *Blue Book of Belt and Road Environmental Policies, Regulations, and Standards* was officially released to the public.

The Blue Book, which focuses on renewable energy, provides a detailed introduction of more than 110 environmental policies, regulations and standards; it also offers case studies and analytical studies of key actors in the field, including Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Brazil, and United Arab Emirates (UAE), illustrating their overall national profile and especially their environmental policies, regulations, standards, green technology, trade and investment, and renewable energy priorities.

The main argument of the Blue Book is that the cooperation over the topics in the following appears the most feasible and have the highest potential:

- Nigeria: solar photovoltaic power generation
- Kenya: wind power
- Ethiopia: wind power and solar power generation
- Brazil: hydropower, wind power and solar power generation
- UAE: solar power generation

Foreign stakeholders may refer to the Blue Book to understand China’s views as well as investment priorities and directions in these fields and with these key partner countries, and possibly identify development and cooperation opportunities.

### 19. SAMR: Leverage Quality Certification to Achieve Carbon Peak and Neutrality Goals

# Certification

On 17 October, 2023, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) released the *Implementation Plan for the Coordinated Use of Quality Certification in Achieving Carbon Peak and Neutrality Goals*. The Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to advance the development of the certification system for carbon peak and neutrality strategy, thus serving as a catalyst for the realization of its goals.

Specifically, the document sets a goal for China’s quality certification system to attain by 2025: “(China shall) have primarily established by 2025 a robust carbon peak and neutrality certification system that comprises both direct and indirect carbon-related certifications, including those developed by the state and private entities. (China shall) gradually establish a direct carbon-related certification system including products’ carbon labeling certification, carbon-related management and service certification, etc. (China shall also) improve the indirect carbon-related certification system containing green product certifications, energy management system certifications, and environmental management system certifications.” The ultimate objective is to foster a collaborative framework for diverse certifications, establish a well-regulated certification market, expand their scope of application, and promote

their international recognition, thereby offering sound, fair, accurate, and efficient certification service in support of carbon peak and neutrality goals.”

To achieve this objective, the document outlines eight key tasks, including:

- a) Accelerating the development of the direct-carbon related certification system based on emission verification. This involves creating a nationally unified certification for product carbon labeling, with unified certification catalogs, implementing rules, and certification marks. Product carbon footprint and other carbon labeling certifications will be gradually carried out.
- b) Coordinating and harmonizing indirect carbon-related certifications. This includes refining existing green product certification, energy management system certification, and environmental management system certification.
- c) Further clarifying the requirements for registration and filing with the relevant authorities of carbon-related certifications, and their quality assessment.
- d) Promoting research and development of carbon-related certification technologies and developing green and low-carbon certification schemes that meet market demands.
- e) Initiating carbon footprint and carbon neutrality certification pilot programs and demonstration projects.
- f) Establishing an effectiveness evaluation mechanism for the carbon peak and neutrality certification system, periodically assessing its development and implementation through quantitative indicators of advancement and applicability.
- g) Leveraging interdepartmental coordination to promote the adoption of carbon peak and neutrality certification results at government, industry, and society levels.
- h) Strengthening international exchanges and cooperation in carbon peak and neutrality certification, actively participating in the development and alignment of international carbon-related certification standards and related certification rules.

This document reflects China’s intention and determination to leverage quality certification to achieve its carbon peak and neutrality goals. Particularly noteworthy are the key tasks of establishing a unified product carbon labeling certification and the gradual introduction of product carbon footprint and other carbon labeling certifications. These warrant continuous monitoring and observation by international stakeholders.





## Others

### 20. CNIS Undertakes Chinese expert working group of ISO/ESG CC

# China's International Standardisation Activities

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) refer to three dimensions of a framework that helps stakeholders understand how an organization manages risks and opportunities created by changing conditions, which gains increasing attention.

The Chinese expert working group for ESG Coordinating Committee of ISO (ISO/ESG CC) has been recently approved to be established, whose secretariat will be held by CNIS.

The main responsibility of the working group is to gather ESG experts, collect their opinions of research on ESG standards, carry out research, and organize international exchanges in related fields such as environmental management, climate change, energy conservation, social responsibility, organizational governance, as well as green and sustainable finance. The working group will contribute Chinese wisdom to ESG international standardisation work.

Set up in September 2022, ISO/ESG CC aims at coordinating ISO's internal and external ESG activities and promoting the implementation of ESG strategy, so as to reduce the deviation of international market disorder and avoid the "greenwashing" phenomenon. ISO/ESG CC is composed of more than 50 representatives from relevant ISO technical committees, including 1 Chinese expert from the Branch of Resource and Environment, CNIS.

CNIS has undertaken mirror committees of over 10 ISO technical committees that are directly related to ESG, such as ISO/TC 207, ISO/TC 301 and ISO/TC 322. With a great deal of research on ESG standardisation, CNIS has contributed to approximately 20 ISO international standards on ESG, covering carbon emission management, new and renewable energy, etc. More efforts will be put into the communication and cooperation of domestic technical experts, as well as the comprehensive participation of Chinese experts and organizations in ESG international standardisation activities, sharing Chinese experience with oversea partners in this field.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023.

### 21. Chinese Teams Stand out in the 18th International Standards Olympiad

# China's International Standardisation Activities

The 18th International Standards Olympiad was held on August 21-23 in South Korea, which attracted 40 teams made up by 120 middle and high school students from China, Peru, Russia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Rwanda, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia.

On behalf of China, three teams from the middle school and the high school of Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, and the Beijing 101 Middle School, won the Gold Award, Silver Award and Special Award respectively. The tasks of the Olympiad are to develop international standard document and prepare for argument in one day, with the topics of "safety

requirements for electric vehicles" and "performance evaluation method of facial recognition systems".

It not only evaluates the participants' standardisation knowledge from a theoretical perspective, but also integrates creativity, scientific knowledge, and technology, creating an opportunity for them to explore the world of standardisation and solve problems with standardisation.

Since 2006, the event has been annually hosted by Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), and organized by Korean Standards Association (KSA),

in order to promote the next generation's awareness on the importance of standardisation, and enhance their scientific creativity and communication by offering an opportunity to explore new methods of standardisation.

Directed by SAMR (SAC), China Association for Standardisation has organized Chinese teams to attend the Olympiad since 2018.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023.

## 22. Chinese Delegation Attends the 21st Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation Forum

# China's International Standardisation Activities

Led by Wei Hong, Deputy Director-General of Standards Technical Management Department, State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), the Chinese delegation attended the 21st Northeast Asia Standards Cooperation Forum held during July 24-26 in Tokyo of Japan.

All participants summarized the cooperation achievements of the forum, shared the standardisation development status in China, Japan and South Korea, as well as listened to the report on the latest progress of existing cooperation projects in the three countries. They also discussed the proposals for 21 new cooperation projects, and reached a consensus on further strengthening the standardisation cooperation in professional areas.

Meetings of the China-Japan-South Korea standards cooperation standing committee and standards cooperation study group, as well as China-Japan and China-South Korea bilateral meetings on standardisation cooperation were held to carry out

standardisation cooperation in the areas such as regional integrated energy system, quantum information technology, sharing economy, emergency food, and aerospace materials, and make in-depth discussions on the cooperation of specific international standards projects under the framework of ISO and IEC.

The Chinese delegation included 41 representatives from SAMR, China Association for Standardisation, Jilin Administration for Market Regulation, and relevant research institutes and enterprises.

The forum is a standardisation cooperation framework among China, Japan and South Korea. Since its inauguration in 2002, the forum has been annually held to provide opportunities to stakeholders of international standardisation in the three countries for enhancing standardisation cooperation in specific areas.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023.

## 23. China Releases Association Standard on Education Services for the Elderly

# Standardisation for Education

Elderly education is an important measure for China to actively deal with the aging population, improve the life quality of the elderly, meet their diversified learning demands, realize the modernization of education, and build a learning society, which is highlighted by the State Council for many times.

The association standard *T/CAS 754-2023 Specification of education services for the elderly in communities*, has been published recently, which is jointly developed by 8 organizations, such as Zhejiang Provincial Department of Education, Zhejiang Open University and China Jiliang University.

The standard is the latest practical result of Zhejiang province's promotion of "the pioneer of common prosperity with Chinese characteristics and provincial modernization". As an important theoretical result of the Zhejiang Education Alliance for the Elderly, it takes the first step in the standardisation of education services for the elderly in communities, filling the gap of domestic standards in related fields, and serving as an example to carry out elderly education services in communities across the country.

Zhejiang Open University and China Jiliang University have worked together to conduct research on the status quo, existing problems and service contents

that need to be standardized in education for the elderly in many cities across the country.

On the basis of summarizing the work of Zhejiang province, the drafting group learned from the successful experience of other provinces and cities, and took nearly 10 months to perfect the draft.

The standard specifies seven aspects of education for

the elderly in communities, including the overall requirements, service providers, service management, service content, service types, service processes, evaluation and improvement. It provides a replicable education service model for the elderly, and further promotes the high-quality development of elderly education in China.

Source: China Standardization Magazine, issue 5 in 2023

## Introduction of SESEC Project



The Seconded European Standardisation Expert in China (SESEC) is a visibility project co-financed by the European Commission (EC), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) secretariat and the three European Standardisation Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI). Since 2006, there has been four SESEC projects in China, SESEC I (2006-2009), SESEC II (2009- 2012), SESEC III (2014-2017), SESEC IV (2018- 2022) and SESEC V (2022-2025). Dr. Betty XU is nominated as the SESEC expert and will spend the next 36 months on promoting EU-China standardisation information exchange and EU-China standardisation cooperation.

The SESEC project supports the strategic objectives of the European Union, EFTA and the European Standardisation Organizations (ESOs). The purpose of SESEC project is to:

- Promote European and international standards in China;

- Improve contacts with different levels of the Chinese administration, industry and standardisation bodies;
- Improve the visibility and understanding of the European Standardisation System (ESS) in China;
- Gather regulatory and standardisation intelligence.

The following areas have been identified as sectorial project priorities by the SESEC project partners: Internet of Things (IoT) & Machine-to-Machine(M2M) communication, communication networks & services, cybersecurity & digital identity, Smart Cities (including transport, power grids & metering), electrical & electronic products, general product safety, medical devices, cosmetics, energy management & environmental protection (including eco-design & labeling, as well as environmental performance of buildings).

### SESEC V China Standardisation and Technical Regulation Bimonthly Newsletter

SESEC V China Standardisation and Technical Regulation Bimonthly Newsletter is the gathering of China regulatory and standardisation intelligence. Most information of the Monthly Newsletter was summarized from China news media or websites. Some of them were the first-hand information from TC meetings, forums/workshops, or meetings/dialogues with China government authorities in certain areas.

### In this Bimonthly Newsletter

In this Bimonthly Newsletter, some news articles were abstracted from Chinese government organizations. All new published standards, implementation or management regulations and notice are summarized; original document and English version are available.

## Abbreviations

<b>SAMR</b>	State Administration for Market Regulation	国家市场监管总局
<b>CAS</b>	China Association	中国标准化协会
<b>CCC</b>	China Compulsory Certification	中国强制认证
<b>CCSA</b>	China Communication Standardization Association	中国通信标准化协会
<b>CEC</b>	China Electricity Council	中国电力企业联合会
<b>CEEIA</b>	China Electrical Equipment Industrial Association	中国电器工业协会
<b>CELC</b>	China Energy Labeling Center	中国能效标识中心
<b>CESI</b>	China Electronic Standardization Institute	中国电子标准化研究所
<b>CMDSA</b>	Center for Medical Device Standardization Administration	医疗器械标准管理中心
<b>CNCA</b>	Certification and Accreditation Administration of China	中国国家认证认可监督管理委员会
<b>CNIS</b>	China National Institute of Standardization	中国国家标准化研究院
<b>CNREC</b>	China National Renewable Energy Center	中国国家可再生能源中心
<b>EPPEI</b>	Electric Power Planning and Engineering Institute	电力规划设计总院
<b>IEC</b>	International Electrotechnical Commission	国际电工委员会
<b>ITEI</b>	Instrumentation Technology and Economy Institute	机械工业仪器仪表综合技术与经济研究所
<b>MEE</b>	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	中国生态环境部
<b>MIIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of People's Republic of China	中国工业和信息化部
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health	卫生部
<b>MoHURD</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development	住房与建设部
<b>MOT</b>	Ministry of Transport	中国交通运输部
<b>MOST</b>	Ministry of Science and Technology	中国科学技术部
<b>NDRC</b>	National development and reform commission People's Republic of China	中国国家发改委
<b>NIFDC</b>	National Institute of Food and Drug Control	中国食品药品检定研究院
<b>SAC</b>	Standardization Administration of China	国家标准化管理委员
<b>SGCC</b>	State Grid Corporation of China	国家电网
<b>TC</b>	Technical Committee for Standard Development	标准化技术委员会