



SESEC V Translation

Translation of China's Administrative Measures for the Adoption of International Standards

April | 2025



INTRODUCTION:

Starting June 1, 2025, China will implement a revised version of the *Administrative Measures for the Adoption of International Standards*, aiming to enhance alignment between national and international standards developed by **ISO, IEC, and ITU**. The new rules established a full process tracking mechanism, prioritize standard adoption projects, and tighten copyright compliance throughout the standard development process. The measures also promote openness, support domestic-international trade integration, and require responsible bodies to monitor international standardization trends and report implementation progress.

SESEC has translated the revised Administrative Measures for European stakeholders' reference in order to keep informed with the changes in China's standardization landscape.

Here is the link to the original revised measures:

https://www.samr.gov.cn/zw/zfxgk/fdzdgknr/fgs/art/2025/art_f32bbf79511348699d385a86cf1ffa0.html

DISCLAIMER:

This English version is an unofficial translation of the original Chinese document, produced by SESEC for reference purposes only. In the event of any discrepancies between the English and Chinese versions, the Chinese version shall prevail. SESEC accepts no responsibility or liability for any errors, inaccuracies, or misunderstandings arising from this translation.

Administrative Measures for the Adoption of International Standards

(Promulgated in order No. 102 of the State Administration for Market Regulation, and shall come into force on March 25, 2025)

Article 1 These Measures have been formulated in accordance with the *Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China* and the *Regulations for the Implementation of the Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China*, with reference to the relevant provisions of the World Trade Organization and the international standard organizations and in light of the actual situation of China. The purpose is to regulate the adoption of international standards, improve the consistency of China's standards with international standards, steadily expand the opening up based on the standards system, and develop the domestic and foreign trade as a unity.

Article 2 The adoption of international standards and their supervision and administration within the territory of the People's Republic of China shall be subject to these Measures.

The "international standards" mentioned in these Measures refers the standards drafted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (hereinafter referred to as the "international standard organizations").

The term "adoption of international standards" that is used in these Measures refers to the equivalent or modified conversion of the contents of international standards into China's national standards.

The term "adopting national standards" that is used in these Measures refers to national standards formulated by adopted international standards.

Article 3 The administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council shall manage the adoption of international standards.

Relevant administrative departments under the State Council shall, in accordance with their responsibilities, be in charge of the adoption of international standards in their respective departments and sectors.

Relevant sector associations shall carry out the work of adopted international standards in their respective sectors in accordance with related national regulations.

Article 4 The adoption of international standards shall fully considerate China's actual conditions, comply with the laws and regulations of China. The adoptions should be technologically advanced, economical and rational, safe and reliable.

The adopting national standard shall be encouraged to be drafted correspondently from one international standard; in case where one national standard shall adopt multiple international standards due to practical needs, the national standard system shall be ensured to be harmonized with the international standard system as far as possible.

Priority shall be given to the basic international standards, including those on topics such as terminology, symbol, classification and general test methods etc.

Article 5 The extent of adoption of international standards in China falls into two categories: identical adoption and modified adoption.

Identical adoption, designated as IDT, refers to the adopting national standard is the same as the adopted

international standards in technical contents and text structure, while only a few editing modifications are allowed.

Modified adoption, designated as MOD, refers to: the adopting national standard has differences in technical content or text structure comparing with the adopted international standards, while most of the content and important clauses retained, and meanwhile those differences and the reasons are clearly indicated.

Article 6 Identical adoption is encouraged in terms of adoption of international standards in consideration of China's actual conditions.

In the need of protecting human health and the safety of people and property, safeguarding national security, and ecological security, or if differences exist in circumstances on basic climate, geographic factors or technological problems, etc., reasonable and necessary modifications shall be made in the formulation of adopting national standards in the adoption of international standards.

Article 7 Organizations, which take on the responsibilities of being mirror groups that of international standard organizations in China (hereinafter referred to as "the technical mirror groups in China") shall track and study the latest progress of international standards and development trends. Within 30 days after the completion of any phase of drafting international standards, they shall notify the formulating progress and other information to the corresponding parties such as national standardization technical committees.

Article 8 The administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council and relevant administrative departments under the State Council shall organize national technical committees and the technical mirror groups in China to analyze the applicability of relevant international standards within their respective sectors in the following aspects:

- (1) Whether they are in line with the laws, administrative regulations and mandatory standards of China;
- (2) Whether they are in line with the plannings or policies of relevant sectors;
- (3) Whether they conform to natural conditions such as the basic climate and geography of China;
- (4) Whether they conform to the social conditions such as China's cultural traditions, customs and habits;
- (5) Whether their technology level is advanced; whether their the technical contents are conformed to the direction of technological development in China; whether their operability of its application fit China; whether the relevant technical requirements are coordinated with China's standards;
- (6) The expected economic, social and ecological benefits that the standard implementation shall deliver, including the role in promoting industrial development, promoting service quality, regulating social governance and facilitating the domestic and international trade.

Article 9 National standardization technical committees are encouraged to organize technical committees or experts to carry out verification on the existing international standards, including the technical requirements, testing and inspection methods, etc. They shall verify whether the technical requirements are adaptable to the application environment, production processes, and equipment, etc., together with whether the test and inspection conditions may be met, whether the method may be operated, and whether the results are easy to be reproduced etc.

Article 10 The relevant administrative departments under the State Council shall, in accordance with their responsibilities, submit the application for the project establishment of an adopted mandatory standard of China.

National standardization technical committees submit applications for the project establishment of adopted voluntary national standards in accordance with relevant national regulations. Where a national standardization technical committee has not been founded, relevant administrative departments under the State Council may, in accordance with its responsibilities, directly submit an application for the project establishment of an adopted voluntary national standard.

The project application shall include project application and standard draft. The project application shall include declarations on developing stages, the applicability, and the extent of adoption of the corresponding international standard. For the modified adoption of international standards, the standard draft shall specify the main technical differences with the international standard to be adopted.

Article 11 The administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council shall organize professional evaluation agencies for national standards to assess the applied projects where international standards will be adopted into standards of China. The assessment shall include the following contents:

- (1) Whether it meets the basic requirements for the standard project establishment in China;
- (2) Whether the project complies with the intellectual property right policies of international standard organizations.
- (3) Whether the applicability and extent of adoption is reasonable.

When the adoption originates from an under-formulating international standard, a feasibility assessment shall be carried out on making it an adopting national standard simultaneously.

Article 12 The administrative department in charge of standardization shall prioritize the project establishment of adopting national standards.

Article 13 When existing international standards are adopted, the time period, from the planning to submitting draft for approval, shall not exceed 12 months. If an extension is truly necessary due to special scenarios, an application shall be made to administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council 30 days in advance. The extension period shall not exceed six months.

When the adoption originates from an under-formulating international standard, it is encouraged that the adopting national standard shall be drafted and implemented simultaneously with the international one.

Article 14 The drafting of the adopting national standards shall comply with the formulation requirement stipulated in relevant national standards which is based on international standards, and the standard structure shall correspond to the international standard. The rhetorical methods of articles shall be in line with Chinese expression.

Article 15 The application materials for the adopting national standard shall conform to the requirements of national standard applications, and provide the translation of the adopted international standards. For modified adoption of international standards, the specification shall be presented on the modifications of the corresponding international standards; testing and verification materials shall also be provided when such activities are carried out.

Article 16 The administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council shall entrust professional evaluation agencies of national standards to review the approval materials. The review shall include the following contents:

- (1) Whether the applicability analysis is carried out comparing international standards with the reality of China;
- (2) Whether it follows the formulation requirement stipulated in relevant national standards which is based on international standards;
- (3) Whether it complies with the relevant regulations of the international standard organizations regarding the adoption of their standards.

Those that pass the review will be coded and published in accordance with the relevant regulations on the formulation of national standards.

Article 17 When international standards are adopted identically, the number of the adopted international standard shall be stated after with the number of the corresponding adopting national standard.

When it is a modified adoption, the number of the adopted international standard shall not be indicated after the number of the adopting national standard.

Article 18 For making the standard text public, it shall comply with the requirements of relevant laws and regulations in China, as well as with the intellectual property rights policy of the international standard organizations.

Article 19 In light of the actual situation, the administrative departments for standardization of the people's government at or above the county level, together with the relevant administrative departments, shall create favorable conditions for relevant parties, including the manufacturers, operators, users, consumer organizations and stakeholders of the region and the sector, to participate in the development and implementation of the national standards for adoption.

Article 20 The administrative department in charge of standardization and the relevant administrative departments under the State Council, in accordance with their responsibilities, shall compare the domestic standards and the international standards in key fields, count the adoption of international standards, and also collect and analyze information on the implementation of national standards adopted from the international standards.

Article 21 The administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council shall uniformly organize and carry out an assessment of the implementation effect of adopting national standards in key areas. Relevant administrative departments under the State Council shall, in accordance with their responsibilities, organize and carry out the assessment of the implementation effect of adopting national standards within their respective departments and sectors, and notify the administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council. If the assessment discovers that issues exist within international standards, the issues and revision suggestions shall be promptly fed back to the international standard organizations.

Article 22 After the publication of the adopting national standards, relevant administrative departments under the State Council, entrusted by the administrative department in charge of standardization under the State Council, shall organize national standardization technical committees and the technical mirror groups in China to continue the research on the applicability of the amendments, revisions and other updates to the adopted international standards.

When a small number of technical requirements of the adopted international standards are adjusted and it is applicable to China, supplemented or deleted and such changes are applicable in China, the national standards adopted from the international standards should be revised timely via a amendment to the national standard. When the content of the adopted international standards went through a big change, the corresponding national standard should be reviewed timely based on the implementation effect and the assessment, and be revised or abolished as soon as possible.

Article 23 When there is a need and the international standard organizations have not formulated relevant standards or the corresponding international ones are not applicable, national standards of China may be formulated by adopting other standards drafted by other international and foreign organizations.

When national standards are formulated by adopting standards that are drafted and published by other international or foreign organizations, the relevant provisions on copyright in China's laws and regulations shall be complied.

Article 24 For matters that are not covered within these Measures for the developing, organizing, implementing, and supervising process of the national standards adopted from the international standards, the *Measures for the Administration of Mandatory National Standards* and the *Measures for the Administration of National Standards* shall be implemented.

If it is necessary to adopt international standards into sector standards, the provisions stipulated in the *Measures for the Administration of Sector Standards* shall apply.

Article 25 These Measures shall come into force on 1 June 2025. The former *Administrative Measures for the Adoption of International Standards*, published by the former State General Administration of the People's Republic of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine on 4 December 2001 shall be repealed.

Introduction of SESEC Project



The Seconded European Standardization 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 Standardization 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 standardization information exchange and EU-China standardization cooperation.

The SESEC project supports the strategic objectives of the European Union, EFTA and the European Standardization 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 standardization bodies;**
- **Improve the visibility and understanding of the European Standardization System (ESS) in China;**
- **Gather regulatory and standardization intelligence.**

The following areas have been identified as sectoral 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).