



SESEC V Translation

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

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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.

Before the revised measures officially take effect, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) has released an official explanation to help enterprises and the public prepare for the upcoming changes. SESEC has translated the original article for European stakeholders to ensure that those actively engaged in business with China are also kept informed.

Here is the link to the original article from SAMR:

https://www.samr.gov.cn/xw/tp/art/2025/art_b3f0769601ed489fa5a411ff37b46eb8.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.

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

1. Background

- The “Outline for National Standardization Development” and the “Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China” put forward requirements regarding the applicability and effectiveness of adopting international standards, as well as quantitative targets, which must be implemented in accordance with the principle of law-based administration.
- International standardization organizations such as ISO and IEC have revised their requirements for member countries regarding the adoption of international standards, and compliance with their copyright policies is now required.
- China's economic development has entered a new stage of high-level openness. As the integration of domestic and international trade and the deepening of standardization reform advance, it is necessary to align with the demands of socio-economic development and reform-driven innovation.

2. Definitions

- **International Standards:**
Refer to standards developed by ISO, IEC, ITU.
- **Adoption of International Standards:**
Refers to using international standards directly, identically, or with modifications when formulating national standards.
- **National Standards Adopted from International Standards**
Refers to national standards formulated through the adoption of international standards.

Scope of Applicable International Standards for Adoption:



Types of Chinese Standardization Documents into Which International Standards Can be Converted:

- Mandatory National Standards (GB)
- Recommended National Standards (GB/T)
- National Standardization Guiding Technical Document (GB/Z)

3. Principles for Adopting International Standards

- **In combination with China's national conditions**
Compliant with relevant Chinese laws and regulations, while ensuring technical advancement, economic feasibility, and safety and reliability.
- **Alignment with the international standards system**
A national standard adopted from international standards should, where possible, adopt a single international standard. If multiple international standards must be adopted due to practical needs,

efforts should be made to ensure that the national standards system remains as aligned as possible with the international standards systems.

- **Priority adoption**

Foundational international standards such as those on terminology, symbols, classification, and general test methods, should be given priority in adoption.

- **Minimizing differences**

The identical adoption of international standards is encouraged, taking into account China's national conditions. Reasonable and necessary modifications may be made when developing adopted national standards to address needs such as protecting personal health and safety, property, national security, ecological and environmental safety, as well as differences in climate, geography, and technology.

4. Degree of Adoption

The degree of adoption of international standards is classified into: Identical Adoption and Modified Adoption

Identical adoption (Code: IDT)

Refers to a national standard adopted from an international standard whose technical content and textual structure are the same as the original, with only editorial modifications made.

Modified adoption (Code: MOD)

Refers to a national standard adopted from an international standard that differs in technical content or textual structure, but retains most of the content and key provisions, with the differences and their justifications clearly stated.

5. Division of Responsibilities

Governance of International Standard Adoption

- **The standardization administrative department under the State Council** shall centrally manage the adoption of international standards.
- **Relevant administrative departments under the State Council** shall, in accordance with their respective responsibilities, be responsible for the adoption of international standards within their respective departments and industries.
- **Relevant industry associations** shall carry out the adoption of international standards within their respective industries in accordance with national regulations.

6. Formulation Procedures

Procedural Stages	Responsible Parties and Key points
Proposal	<p>National technical counterparts: responsible for monitoring and studying the latest developments and trends of relevant international standards, and informing relevant stakeholders accordingly.</p> <p>The standardization administration department under the State Council and the relevant administrative departments under the State Council shall organize research and analysis on the applicability of relevant international standards in the context of China's national conditions.</p> <p>Technical committees shall, based on needs, carry out validation of the technical requirements, testing, and inspection methods of existing international standards.</p>

Project Approval	<p>Relevant administrative departments under the State Council and technical committees shall submit project proposals for the development of national standards adopted from international standards.</p> <p>The standardization administrative department under the State Council shall organize an evaluation and give priority to the project approval.</p>
Drafting	<p>Relevant administrative departments under the State Council and technical committees shall draft the national standards adopted from international standards. The drafting shall comply with the rules for developing national standards based on international standards as specified in GB/T 1.2 Directives for standardization - Part 2: Drafting rules for standardizing documents based on ISO/IEC standardizing documents. The structure of the standards should correspond to that of the international standards, and the wording of provisions and expressions should conform to standard Chinese linguistic practices.</p>
Public Consultation	<p>Relevant administrative departments under the State Council and technical committees shall publicly solicit comments.</p>
Technical Review	<p>Relevant administrative departments under the State Council and technical committees shall conduct technical reviews.</p>
Approval and Publication	<p>The standardization administrative department under the State Council shall approve, assign a standard number, and publish the standard, or authorize its publication in accordance with delegated authority.</p>

***Development Timeline:**

For the adoption of existing international standards, the time from the issuance of the project plan to the submission of approval materials for the national standard adopted from the international standard shall generally **not exceed twelve months**.

7. Encourage Participation in Development and Implementation

Responsible parties: Standardization administrative departments and relevant administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level



Create favorable conditions for stakeholders within their respective regions and industries to participate in the development and implementation of national standards adopted from international standards.

8. Implementation and Application

Work Content	Responsible Parties	Work Requirements	
Statistical Analysis	The standardization administrative department under the State Council and relevant administrative departments under the State Council	Organize, in accordance with their respective responsibilities, comparative analyses between domestic and international standards in key areas, compile statistics on the adoption of international standards, and collect and analyze information on the implementation of national standards adopted from international standards.	
Evaluation of implementation effectiveness	The standardization administrative department under the State Council	Organize and carry out unified evaluations of the implementation effectiveness of national standards adopted from international standards in key areas.	For identified issues, promptly provide feedback and proposed revisions to the relevant international standardization organizations.
	The relevant administrative departments under the State Council	Organize, in accordance with respective responsibilities, evaluations of the implementation effectiveness of national standards adopted from international standards within their departments and industries, and report the findings to the standardization administrative department under the State Council.	
Updating Standards	The standardization administrative department under the State Council and relevant administrative departments under the State Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize, in accordance with respective responsibilities, ongoing research on the applicability of updates to adopted international standards, including amendments and revised editions. If the content changes are minor and applicable in China, timely modifications shall be made through a national standard amendment sheet; if the changes are significant, the standard shall be revised or withdrawn in a timely manner based on the evaluation of its implementation effectiveness and other relevant factors. 	

9. Exceptional Circumstances:

Q: Can standards published by other international or foreign organizations be adopted?

A: Yes, they can be adopted under **2 preconditions**:

Precondition 1: there is a clear need of the standard, but the relevant international standardization organizations have not yet developed corresponding standards, or the standards they have issued are not applicable in China.

Precondition 2: Comply with relevant Chinese laws and regulations on copyright.

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).