SESEC VI
China Standardisation Newsletter

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Seconded European Standardisation Expert in China
(SESEC)

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Takeaways

China Charts 15th Five-Year Plan, Prioritizing Tech, Green Growth, and Opening Up

On March 13, 2026, Xinhua News Agency, authorized by the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), released the ***Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China*** (hereafter referred to as **the Outline**), which serves as the grand blueprint and action plan for China to fully build a modern socialist country during this period.

CEN-CLC JTC25 and TC609 Exchange on Data Standardization

A joint online technical exchange between CEN-CLC/JTC 25 'Data management, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge' and SAC/TC 609 'Data' took place on 20 March. The meeting brought together the leadership of both technical committees, with the participation of CCMC and SESEC expert Dr. Betty Xu, who also contributed to facilitating the discussions.

SESEC VI Webinar 01&02 Review & More Upcoming

On March 31, 2026, SESEC successfully hosted its first webinar of the SESEC VI phase, titled “China’s Product Carbon Footprint Policy and Standardization.” **The session attracted 132 registered participants** from the European stakeholder community, providing a comprehensive analysis of China’s rapidly maturing policy, standards, and certification framework for Product Carbon Footprint (PCF).

On 28 April 2026, the Seconded European Standardization Expert in China (SESEC) convened a thematic webinar on the Recent Development of China Standardization, **drawing more than 200 registered participants** from industry, government bodies, research institutes, and academia. Dr. Betty Xu, Director of SESEC, delivered a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the country’s standardization system and the often-overlooked new round of reform that began in 2025.

SESEC is having more upcoming webinars on China’s hydrogen energy standardization, updates to China’s Compulsory Certification (CCC), and Artificial Intelligence Standardization. If you would like to register, please proceed to Preview of SESEC VI Webinar in 2026 under SESEC Activity section for details and registration links.

Foreign Language Versions of 2613 Chinese National Standards Now Free to Access

On 14 March 2026, the National Standardization Administration (SAC) announced that the full texts of foreign language versions of Chinese national standards are now available for public preview and free download. A total of 2,613 national standards, covering 20 key areas including equipment manufacturing, overseas contracted projects, bulk commodities, information technology, and new energy, can now be accessed through SAC's National Public Service Platform for Standards Information. These standards are available in 11 languages: English, Russian, French, German, Japanese, Lao, Khmer, Mongolian, Burmese, Portuguese, and Vietnamese.

Official China Cybersecurity Labeling Measures Issued with Enhanced Enforcement

On April 10, 2026, The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) have jointly issued the final version of the ***China Cybersecurity Labeling Management Measures***. The document will take effect on July 1, 2026.

World Data Organization Launches in Beijing as “WTO for Data”

On March 30, 2026, the World Data Organization (WDO), the first professional international body dedicated to data development and governance, was formally established in Beijing. The event was attended by senior Chinese government officials, representatives from member countries, and international observers — including MUHAMMADOU M.O. KAH, Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Vice Chair of the UN Data Governance Working Group.

China Issues New Regulations on AI Ethics Review for Responsible Development

On 2 April 2026, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) jointly issued the ***Measures for the Administration of Review and Services of Artificial***

Intelligence Technology Ethics(Trial) (hereafter "the measures"), with 8 other government departments (a full list of issuing authorities is annexed at the end of this article). MOST leads the overall coordination of science and technology governance, while MIIT and other authorities are responsible for the implementation and supervision of AI-related ethics governance.

China Proposes Five Mandatory National Standards for Smart Home Interconnection

On March 16, 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) released a draft plan of the five mandatory national standard projects focusing on smart home interconnection and intercommunication, with a public consultation period from March 17 to March 23.

China Launches First National Standards Working Group for Digital Product Passport

On March 27, 2026, the inaugural meeting and first plenary session of the National Standardization Working Group for Digital Product Passports (SAC/SWG41) was held in Beijing, marking the official establishment of China's first national technical standardization body dedicated to Digital Product Passports (DPP). T**he working group's secretariat is hosted by the GS1 China.**

MIIT Establishes Green and Low-Carbon Standardization Technical Committee

On March 5, 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) officially announced the establishment of the **Green and Low-Carbon Standardization Technical Committee**. The new committee, designated **MIIT/TC9**, is tasked with developing comprehensive and fundamental standards in the green and low-carbon sectors. Its scope covers standard formulation and revision across industrial fields under MIIT's jurisdiction.

UK-China Joint Workshop on Carbon Capture and Storage Held in China

On March 4, 2026, the Workshop of UK-China Joint Working Group on Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS), co-hosted by the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) and the British Standards Institution (BSI), was held in Beijing in a hybrid format.

China's Latest Energy Efficiency Push: Five Mandatory Standards Proposed and One Issued

On March 20, 2026, China called for public comment on 28 mandatory national standard projects until April 19, 2026. Among them, **five energy efficiency-related standards are proposed for development or revision**.

Major Updates from SAC/TC599 (Integrated Circuit) First Standards Week of 2026

From 7 to 10 April 2026, SAC/TC599 convened its annual plenary and inaugural Standards Week in Wuhan, bringing together officials, industry experts, and supply chain representatives. Yang Xudong, Director General of MIIT's Electronic Information Department and Chair of SAC/TC599, called for accelerating a full-chain standards system, issuing construction guidelines, and expediting foundational standards for advanced process nodes, advanced packaging, and core chips. He urged deeper international cooperation to translate Chinese technical solutions into global standards.

Major Standardization Updates of SAC/TC114 (Road Vehicles) in April 2026

SAC/TC114's sixth session signals accelerated standardization across China's automotive sector. New software and data working groups, alongside advancing carbon footprint standards for EVs and critical components, reflect deepening regulatory coverage. The publication of ICV operating system standards and launch of mandatory projects on post-crash safety, parking assistance, and vehicle data security underscore a shift toward binding requirements. Meanwhile, SC34's intensive work on automated driving standards highlights China's push to define the rules for autonomous vehicles. European stakeholders should monitor these developments closely, as compliance with emerging Chinese standards will increasingly shape market access and competitiveness.

China and Mozambique Sign MOU on Agricultural Standardization Cooperation

On April 21, 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries of Mozambique signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on agricultural standardization cooperation. The agreement was signed by SAMR Minister Luo Wen and Mozambican Minister Roberto Albino.

SESEC Activity

1. CEN-CLC/JTC 25 and SAC/TC 609 Exchange on Data Standardization

#EU-China Standardization Dialogue

A joint online technical exchange between CEN-CLC/JTC 25 'Data management, Dataspaces, Cloud and Edge' and SAC/TC 609 'Data' took place on 20 March. The meeting brought together the leadership of both technical committees, with the participation of CCMC and SESEC expert Dr. Betty Xu, who also contributed to facilitating the discussions.

The exchange provided a valuable platform for experts from both Europe and China to present the structures of CEN-CLC/JTC 25 and SAC/TC 609 respectively, as well as their approaches to standards development and the timelines of their work programmes. It also enabled participants to exchange views on current developments, share technical expertise, and explore opportunities for regular cooperation.

The dialogue emphasized the role of standards in ensuring trust in data systems and the importance of the works within ISO/IEC/JTC1 SC 38 'Cloud Computing and Distributed Platforms'.

The experts agreed to continue their technical exchanges through meetings twice a year, with the next exchange planned in the last quarter of 2026. This exchange represented a first step in fostering mutual understanding and sharing perspectives between the European and Chinese standardization bodies in the field of data, in view of cooperation within SC 38.

Source: https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-events/news/2026/brief-news/2026-03-24-sac-tc-609-exchange-on-data-standardization/

2. SESEC VI Webinar 01 Review: China's Product Carbon Footprint Policy and Standardization

#Product Carbon Footprint Standardization

On March 31, 2026, SESEC successfully hosted its first webinar of the SESEC VI phase, titled "China's Product Carbon Footprint Policy and Standardization." **The session attracted 132 registered participants** from the European stakeholder community, providing a comprehensive analysis of China's rapidly maturing policy, standards, and certification framework for Product Carbon Footprint (PCF).

The webinar was presented by Dr. Betty Xu, SESEC's director. She highlighted that China has fully integrated carbon footprint management into its national "1+N" policy system, with 2025 marking a critical turning point from top-level design to operational implementation. Key milestones include the official release of electricity carbon footprint factors (now updated annually) and the launch of a mandatory PCF reporting pilot for electric vehicle (EV) traction batteries, which will become fully mandatory by January 2027.

A major focus of the webinar was China's PCF standardization progress. Since adopting ***GB/T 24067-2024 Greenhouse gases — Carbon footprint of products — Requirements and guidelines for quantification*** (modified from ISO 14067 Greenhouse gases — Carbon footprint of products — Requirements and guidelines for quantification) as its general framework, China has published **17 national PCF standards** and has another **96 under development**. According to the Guidelines for the Development of Product Carbon Footprint Accounting Standards, China aims to publish 100 national PCF standards by 2027 and 200 by 2030. These standards would focus on a wide range of sectors, including raw materials, energy, high-energy-consuming industries, consumer goods, and the "New Three" exports (EVs, lithium batteries, and photovoltaics).

The session also explored China's new PCF certification pilot. Currently, **17 product categories**, including lithium batteries, steel, and cement, are part of the pilot, with **26 certification bodies** operating across **25 provinces**. A dedicated case study on EV traction batteries revealed critical methodological differences between the EU and China—particularly in green power recognition, lifetime calculation, and recycling accounting. While both systems share the same core logic, European stakeholders should prepare for these

divergences by adjusting their green power strategies, leveraging long-life battery technologies, and building data verification capacity ahead of China's 2027 mandatory declaration deadline.

As China accelerates the development of its PCF system, European stakeholders face an evolving regulatory landscape. This webinar provided a timely overview of China's latest PCF policies, standards, and certification pilots. It also examined key methodological differences between the EU and Chinese frameworks, offering European businesses a clearer understanding of compliance requirements, upcoming mandatory declarations, and potential areas for engagement in China's green transition. SESEC will continue to bridge EU-China standardization cooperation and help businesses stay ahead of these critical developments.

The webinar slides are now available for download on the SESEC website. Download them from here.

If you would like to request for the recordings, please send an email to assistant@sesec.eu

3. SESEC VI Webinar 02 Review: Recent Development of China Standardization

#China Standardization

On 28 April 2026, the Seconded European Standardization Expert in China (SESEC) convened a thematic webinar on the Recent Development of China Standardization, **drawing more than 200 registered participants** from industry, government bodies, research institutes, and academia. Dr. Betty Xu, Director of SESEC, delivered a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the country's standardization system and the often-overlooked new round of reform that began in 2025.

Dr. Betty Xu provided a detailed review of China's 2021 *National Standardization Development Outline*, assessing its implementation after four years. She highlighted that standards are no longer merely technical tools but have become instruments of political and economic leverage for China, reflecting the country's ambition to transition from a standards adopter to a standards leader on the international stage.

Dr. Betty Xu then examined the ongoing internal restructuring led by SAC, which aims to streamline the multi-tier standards framework, eliminate redundant local and association standards, and reduce fragmentation. Key measures include a drastic 40 % cut in local standards, the elimination of nearly 2,000 "zombie standards" with no real-world adoption, and the cancellation of multiple legacy schemes. SESEC interprets this as a primarily pragmatic, internal power rebalancing between SAC and line ministries—a shift from volume-driven targets toward fewer, more impactful standards developed with limited resources.

The reform points to a leaner, more efficient system. While short-term ambition may be tempered by economic headwinds and geopolitical uncertainty, strengthening China's influence in international standardization remains a persistent long-term priority.

The session sparked a lively Q&A, with particular interest in whether mandatory GB standards would receive a new regulatory status and, crucially, how China might reposition itself in international standard-setting once the internal overhaul advances.

The webinar slides are now available for download on the SESEC website. Download them from here.

If you would like to request for the recordings, please send an email to assistant@sesec.eu

4. Preview of SESEC VI Webinar in 2026

I. Upcoming SESEC Webinar 04: China Hydrogen Energy Standardization

Date: Tuesday, **30th June 2026**
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am CET
Speaker: Dr. Betty Xu, Director of SESEC
Language: English

As hydrogen takes center stage in the global energy transition, China is rapidly building out its policy and standardization framework to support large-scale industrial deployment. This session examines China's hydrogen

policies, standards systems, technical committees, and key standards in progress—and where they meet or diverge from EU approaches.

Key Takeaways:
- National hydrogen strategy: policy architecture and "15th Five-Year Plan" orientations
- China's hydrogen standards system: framework, coverage, and development roadmap
- Technical committees in focus: SAC/TC 309, SAC/TC 342, and their work programs
- EU-China comparative analysis: divergent pathways and convergence prospects

Register now:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SyOyIVfIT5u9viPnLQK_Sw

II. Upcoming SESEC Webinar 05: China CCC as of September 2026

Date: Tuesday, **15th September 2026**
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am CET
Speaker: Dr. Betty Xu, Director of SESEC
Language: English

China's Compulsory Certification (CCC) scheme continues to evolve as a cornerstone of market access regulation. As of September 2026, there are significant shifts in product coverage, certification modalities, and enforcement timelines. This webinar seeks to provide European manufacturers and exporters a timely update on the CCC landscape, with practical guidance for addressing recent and upcoming changes.

Key Takeaways:
- Recent adjustments to the CCC product catalogue (2025 – 2026)
- From self-declaration to third-party certification: the 16-product transition
- New entrants: EV charging equipment, power banks, and other expanded categories
- Transition timelines, implementation deadlines, and compliance strategies

Register now:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RS26CjhvSjCUAxn-BBKgKQ

III. Upcoming SESEC Webinar 06: China AI Standardization

Date: Tuesday, **20th October 2026**
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am CET
Speaker: Dr. Betty Xu, Director of SESEC
Language: English

As artificial intelligence reshapes industries globally, China continues to advance its standardization framework to guide sectoral development. By October 2026, the country has progressed further along its AI standardization roadmap—with updates expected across policy instruments, technical committee mandates, and national standard development. This session offers European businesses, standards bodies, and policymakers a systematic briefing on China's evolving AI standardization landscape as of late 2026.

Key Takeaways:
- Strategic policy directions: "AI+" initiative and sectoral implementation roadmaps as of October 2026
- Updates on national standard development: volume, coverage, and priority domains
- Technical committee developments: SAC/TC 28/SC 42, SAC/TC 260, and emerging standardization priorities
- China – EU AI governance frameworks: comparative observations

Register now:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kc16bDfFRKyHl8bHPbc2eQ

Horizontal Actions

5. China and Mozambique Sign MOU on Agricultural Standardization Cooperation

#International Cooperation

On April 21, 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries of Mozambique signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on agricultural standardization cooperation. The agreement was signed by SAMR Minister Luo Wen and Mozambican Minister Roberto Albino.

The MOU is designed to implement the cooperation initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, which calls for the "development of 100,000 mu (approximately 6,667 hectares) of agricultural standardization demonstration areas" in Africa. It aims to provide institutional support for advancing the China-Mozambique agricultural (fisheries) standardization cooperation demonstration zone.

Under the agreement, both sides will develop and promote standardization systems for Mozambique's distinctive livestock and aquaculture sectors, guide local farmers toward standardized agricultural production, jointly set a benchmark for China-Mozambique agricultural standardization cooperation, and inject new vitality into building a China-Mozambique community with a shared future in the new era.

The signing of this MOU builds on the outcomes of the 2024 FOCAC Summit. As an important part of the "China-Africa Quality Improvement Plan" proposed at the Summit, China committed to **establishing 100,000 mu of agricultural standardization demonstration areas in Africa**, alongside three other integrated initiatives: **setting up a China-Africa Standardization Cooperation and Research Center, a China-Africa Trade Digital Mutual Trust Verification Platform, and a capacity-building program for conformity assessment**. These initiatives aim to enhance the level of quality infrastructure in African countries through cooperation in metrology, standards, certification, and accreditation, thereby reducing the institutional transaction costs of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.

Prior to this, China had already launched pilot standardized planting demonstrations for crops such as wheat and maize in Zambia. The signing of this MOU with Mozambique marks the official implementation of the above-mentioned top-level design in Mozambique and provides institutional guarantees for the development of the China-Mozambique agricultural (fisheries) standardization cooperation demonstration zone.

Using the China-Mozambique MOU on agricultural standardization as a lens, China-Africa trade is shifting from commodity exchange to rule alignment. Through various initiatives, China is promoting its standards across Africa. In Mozambique, this may gradually reduce the traditional advantages of European enterprises, which have relied on European standards to access local markets. For European firms to remain in the agricultural and fishery supply chains in Mozambique and similar markets, they may need to study emerging China-Africa rules and consider tripartite cooperation with Chinese and local partners.

Source:
https://www.sac.gov.cn/xw/scjgyw/art/2026/art_a283e826cbb94abdbd86a768731dc48c.html

6. SAMR Releases 2026 Legislative Agenda

#Laws and Regulations

On 19 March 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation of China (SAMR) released its legislative agenda for 2026 to enhance market system. The agenda comprises 18 distinct work items organized across 4 strategic priorities: market rules, e-commerce, quality infrastructure and safety bottom line for food, drugs, and other important industrial products.

Particularly, three revision plans under quality infrastructure will take place:

1. ***Measures for the Administration of Compulsory***

Product Certification Institutes and Laboratories (CCC related)

2. ***Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Inspection and Testing Institutions***
3. ***Measures for the Administration of Commodity Barcodes***

In 2025, SAMR tabled an expansive 27-item legislative agenda encompassing market entry reforms, broad product quality legislation, and other aspects. Among them, 6 specific items spanned safety supervision, metrology, conformity assessment frameworks, and the adoption of international standards. Taken together, these items represent a broad, horizontal approach to level up administrative frameworks for standards and quality infrastructure across industrial sectors.

The 2026 legislative tasks takes a more targeted approach. Following severe accidents involving power banks in the previous year, this year's focus is on refining regulatory rules for testing and certification bodies. The revision will address systematic loopholes and raise standards for relevant bodies to ensure product safety and public trust in certification system. It is evident that the reform will begin with CCC, one of the most critical and foundational areas.

Additionally, following the announcement of the 2026 legislative tasks, SAMR officially promulgated the new ***Measures for the Administration of Commodity Barcodes***. The measures are revised to strengthen unified management of commodity barcodes, reduce compliance burden on enterprises, and assign formal status to product digital identifiers, and highlight their new full-lifecycle functionality to enhance traceability. Its full-lifecycle approach is similar to Digital Product Passport, yet it differs as the identifiers carry a more limited set of information. For more information, please visit China Revises Barcode Regulations to Enhance Traceability and Ease Corporate Compliance in this newsletter.

In light of the imminent introduction of the new commodity barcode measures, SESEC strongly recommends that European stakeholders operating in China consult with relevant stakeholders and undertake timely adjustments prior to the effective date. SESEC will also continue to monitor the progress of China's legislative movement in 2026 and provide timely updates.

Source:
https://www.cnca.gov.cn/xwjj/scjgyw/art/2026/art_c85d1bb40dd24595a0778d6ffb0c6a71.html

7. SAMR Releases 53 Metrology Work Priorities in 2026 to Strengthen National Quality Infrastructure

#Metrology Work

On 28 February 2026, the General Office of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) officially released the ***Key Points for National Metrology Work in 2026*** to the public. The document, devised by the Metrology Department of SAMR, sets out a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen China's national measurement infrastructure, focusing on 6 major areas: regulatory reform, infrastructure upgrading, innovation support, and international cooperation. It aims to build a modern, advanced metrology framework to underpin high-quality development, industrial upgrading, and the transition towards a digital and low-carbon economy.

The policy places strong emphasis on improving top-level design and governance. Key tasks include advancing the revision of the *Metrology Law*, issuing phased targets under the *Metrology Development Plan (2021–2035)*, and updating sector-specific regulations such as those governing energy metering and retail weighing. In parallel, China plans to strengthen its institutional framework by establishing new technical committees aligned with emerging industries. These measures signal a continued effort to modernize the legal and regulatory basis of metrology, ensuring it remains fit for purpose in rapidly evolving technological contexts.

Infrastructure and capability building form another major pillar. The document highlights upgrade to national measurement standards, the development of quantum metrology capabilities, and forward-looking initiatives in artificial intelligence and bio-metrology. It also promotes the integration and utilization of metrology data to support digital transformation across industries. Talent development is prioritized through expanded certification, training programs, and the establishment of national training centers. Together, these efforts aim to enhance China's measurement accuracy, technological autonomy, and long-term innovation capacity.

The policy also introduces new approaches to supervision, with a shift towards digital and intelligent regulatory models. Planned actions include piloting

non-on-site and data-driven supervision, deploying smart platforms to monitor electronic pricing scales, and strengthening oversight in areas such as electric vehicle charging, fuel dispensers, and public utilities. These initiatives are intended to improve market transparency, prevent fraud, and protect consumers, particularly in sectors closely linked to daily life.

In terms of industrial support, metrology is positioned as a key enabler of "new quality productive forces". The policy promotes deeper integration between metrology systems and industrial value chains, including through the establishment of industrial metrology centres and targeted projects in high-end instrumentation.

Notably, carbon metrology is identified as a priority area, with measures to enhance measurement capabilities for emissions monitoring and support the implementation of China's dual carbon goals. These developments are expected to play an important role in standardizing measurement practices and ensuring the credibility of carbon markets.

International cooperation is another important dimension. China plans to expand bilateral and multilateral engagement, enhance participation in international mutual recognition systems, and develop metrology cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. These efforts aim to reduce technical barriers to trade and strengthen China's influence in global measurement governance.

China's 2026 metrology priorities signal a shift towards a more digitalized, data-driven, and strategically integrated measurement system, with direct implications for European stakeholders. Companies should expect stricter and more continuous compliance requirements, particularly through smart supervision systems and enhanced scrutiny in sectors such as EV charging, utilities, and retail measurement.

Meanwhile, the growing emphasis on carbon metrology, industrial integration, and emerging fields such as AI and biotechnology is set to reshape technical requirements and market expectations. While European firms generally demonstrate strong capabilities in data transparency and traceability, the key challenge will lie in ensuring compatibility with China-specific regulatory frameworks, data interfaces, and supervision platforms. Companies are therefore advised to closely monitor developments in China's regulatory and carbon accounting systems and to engage proactively with local testing, certification, and innovation ecosystems. Such efforts will be essential to maintaining market access and sustaining competitiveness in China.

Source:
https://www.samr.gov.cn/zw/zfxxgk/fdzdgknr/jls/art/2026/art_4a2a02ce8f8d4bebbacda76852fe450b.html

8. China Charts 15th Five-Year Plan, Prioritizing Tech, Green Growth, and Opening Up

#15th Five-Year Plan

1. Introduction

On March 13, 2026, Xinhua News Agency, authorized by the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), released the ***Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China*** (hereafter referred to as **the Outline**), which serves as the grand blueprint and action plan for China to fully build a modern socialist country during this period.

The Outline comprises 18 parts, 62 chapters and 171 sections structured into three segments. The first segment (Part 1) serves as a general introduction, outlining guiding principles and **20 key targets**. The second segment (Part 2 to 17) delineates major strategic tasks across **16 areas**: **industrial development, scientific and technological innovation, digital-intelligent development, domestic market, deepening reforms, opening up, rural revitalization, urban-rural coordination, cultural development, population development, public wellbeing, green development, security development, national defense, democracy and the rule of law, and "one country, two systems"**. The third segment elaborates on mechanisms to ensure effective implementation.

The Outline reviews the major achievements made during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceeding 140 trillion-yuan, R&D expenditure intensity reaching 2.8%, and the value added of core digital economy industries accounting for more than 10.5 percent of GDP. Building on this momentum, the Outline sets **20 key targets** across **five**

priority areas to be achieved by 2030:

- **Economic Development** (3 anticipated targets): GDP growth kept within reasonable range, with annual targets set as conditions warrant, laying groundwork for doubling per capita GDP by 2035.
- **Innovation-Driven Development** (3 anticipated targets): R&D spending to grow over 7% annually, with high-value invention patents exceeding 22 per 10,000 people and core digital economy value added reaching 12.5% of GDP.
- **Public Wellbeing** (7 targets, including one binding target): Average education years for working-age population to reach 11.7 years.
- **Green and Low-Carbon Development** (5 binding targets): **Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP cut by 17 percent**, non-fossil energy to account for 25% of total consumption, $PM_{2.5}$ density in cities at prefecture level and above below 27 micrograms per cubic meter, high-quality surface water at 85%, and forest coverage at 25.8%.
- **Security Guarantees** (2 binding targets): Grain production capacity at 725 billion kilograms, and energy production capacity at 5.8 billion tons of standard coal.

2. Strategic Policy Priorities

The Outline aims to modernize the industrial system and consolidate the real economy through smart, green, and integrated development, optimizing traditional industries while cultivating both strategic emerging sectors—such as **next-generation IT, new energy, new materials, intelligent connected new energy vehicles, robotics, biomedicine, high-end equipment, and aerospace**—and future industries like **quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen and fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied AI, and 6G**, positioning them as new engines of economic growth. It seeks to advance high-level technological self-reliance to foster new quality productive forces, strengthening original innovation and reinforcing enterprises' role in R&D.

Digital development features prominently, with the Outline committing to enhance computing power, algorithms and data supply while fully implementing an "AI+" action. Domestically, it envisions a robust unified market to boost consumption and investment. Institutionally, it outlines reforms to stimulate business vitality, improve factor allocation and refine macroeconomic governance.

On external engagement, the Outline pledges to expand high-standard opening up, enhance trade and investment cooperation, and steadily advance institutional opening aligned with international rules. Green transition targets include steadily pushing toward carbon peaking, improving environmental quality and enhancing ecosystem stability. The Outline also prioritizes national security modernization, safeguarding economic security and strengthening public safety governance.

To translate the strategic intent, objectives, tasks and policy priorities of the Five-Year Plan into concrete, actionable, assessable and implementable projects and action lists, the Outline identifies **109 major projects across six categories**.

- **Leading the development of new quality productive forces** (28 projects): These span four areas: enhancing industrial foundation, cultivating new industries, advancing frontier technologies, and strengthening innovation infrastructure. Key initiatives include emerging industries like integrated circuits, embodied AI, and frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum technology, with national laboratory systems receiving significant focus. Innovation-driven projects account for over 25 percent of the total.
- **Building modern infrastructure** (23 projects): Covering comprehensive transport networks, new energy systems, water networks, new-type infrastructure and opening-up platforms. Transport priorities include completing the "eight vertical and eight horizontal" high-speed railway network. Energy projects feature "sand, Gobi and desert" renewable bases, offshore wind and coastal nuclear power. New infrastructure focuses on integrated computing networks and satellite internet. Computing networks now stand alongside power and water grids, signaling digital infrastructure's elevation to equal strategic importance as physical infrastructure. Opening-up platforms will be enhanced through border port upgrades and the development of China-Europe (Asia) freight train assembly hubs across 14 cities.
- **Advancing urban-rural integration** (9 projects): Targeting urban renewal and agricultural modernization. Initiatives include underground pipeline renovation, old neighborhood upgrades, improved metropolitan commuting, high-standard farmland construction and modern seed development — promoting two-way flow of production factors.
- **Improving people's wellbeing** (25 projects): Covering full life-cycle needs, these include high-quality education systems, public health capacity

building, national medical centers and traditional Chinese medicine innovation. Social assistance programs for disadvantaged children and veterans are also included.

- **Promoting green transition** (18 projects): Focused on carbon peaking and neutrality, environmental improvement and ecological restoration. Key initiatives include energy conservation in key sectors, clean coal substitution, approximately 100 national-level zero-carbon parks and over 10,000 kilometers of zero-carbon transport corridors. Ecological projects include air pollution control and the sixth phase of the "Three North" shelterbelt program, a large-scale afforestation initiative to combat desertification in northern China.
- **Strengthening security guarantees** (6 projects): Safeguarding development baseline through oil and gas exploration and reserves, coal-to-oil and gas bases, new round of mineral exploration, and strategic material reserves.

These projects are designed to leverage government investment while encouraging private sector participation, strengthening foundations and sustaining momentum for long-term development.

3. The Role of Standardization

The above-mentioned 109 major projects turn the Outline's strategic policy priorities into concrete initiatives. Translating them into operational reality, however, requires standards — the technical language that ensures interoperability, quality and sustainability across every domain. According to a review by the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS), the Outline contains **48 provisions** directly related to standardization, spanning multiple key areas of economic and social development.

In industrial upgrading, the Outline emphasizes the guiding role of national standards, calls for standard updates and revisions, and mandates stricter management of safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and quality specifications. It introduces a standards-leading initiative for emerging industries and promotes the trial application of the CR450 China-standard high-speed train.

In the digital economy, the Outline prioritizes standardization across computing infrastructure, 6G and data governance. It calls for developing standards for computing resource pooling, grid integration, monitoring, operations and dispatching. It also emphasizes 6G technology research and standard development, calls for improving data standards systems, accelerating the construction of AI corpora, and establishing rules and standards for data circulation and trading.

In building a unified market and opening up, the Outline advocates leveraging standard upgrades to guide the construction of a unified national market, improving a coordinated national standards system, and refining rules and standards for seamless multimodal transport connectivity to reduce logistics costs. Aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, it calls for greater compatibility between domestic and international standards, facilitates international mutual recognition of standards for energy efficiency, water efficiency and carbon footprint of key products, promotes standardization in services trade, and encourages the overseas application of Chinese standards.

In green transition, the Outline calls for the development of rules and standards for product carbon footprint accounting, the issuance of carbon emission limit standards for key products, the establishment of a carbon labeling and certification system, the formulation of next-phase vehicle emission standards, and the construction of a comprehensive green and low-carbon standards system.

In public wellbeing, the Outline promotes the development of service standards in key areas such as elderly care and childcare, calls for full coverage of standardized compulsory education schools, promotes standardized construction of special education schools, encourages renovation of public elderly care institutions to meet standards, calls for improved occupational standards and skilled talent evaluation systems, and advocates the establishment of an evaluation standards system for basic public service equalization.

These standardization provisions, by outlining priorities across key sectors, establish the policy framework for developing the technical specifications that will support economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

4. Implications for European Stakeholders

The 15th Five-Year Plan charts China’s course to 2030, with significant implications for EU-China cooperation.

For European businesses, it signals a firm commitment to higher-standard upgrading, greening, and institutional opening. Major projects—from zero-carbon parks to carbon footprint standards—open new avenues for collaboration, where European expertise in carbon accounting, green hydrogen, and digital governance can complement China’s large-scale applications. The Outline’s push for institutional opening and greater compatibility between domestic and international

standards also points to a more transparent and predictable environment for European companies in China. **For EU standardization bodies**, China's accelerated development of standards in areas like 6G, computing infrastructure, and carbon accounting creates space for dialogue and coordination.

Ultimately, EU-China standardization cooperation can evolve from technical coordination into a strategic enabler of mutual trust and global governance. For European stakeholders, engaging with this agenda will be key to capturing opportunities in the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

Source:

1. https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/202603/content_7060728.htm
2. https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/202603/content_7061666.htm
3. https://www.news.cn/politics/20260313/085af5de5a4b4268aa7d87d90817df2f/c.html

9. China Revises Barcode Regulations to Enhance Traceability and Ease Corporate Compliance

#Laws and Regulations

On 28 February 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) adopted the revised *Measures for the Administration of Commodity Barcodes*, replacing the 2005 version. The updated rules will enter into force on 1 May 2026.

The revision reflects China's broader policy objective of building a Unified National Market. It introduces a concept of **centralized national database** to upgrade digital governance of good. At the same time, the measures simplify administrative procedures and reducing compliance burdens for enterprises. The Measures also explicitly prohibit unreasonable or hidden service charges related to barcode use, aiming to improve market order and reduce transaction frictions.

A notable update concerns products manufactured in China using barcodes registered overseas. The revised Measures introduce a formal filing requirement: where a foreign brand owner or commissioning party uses an overseas-registered barcode on products manufactured in China, the entity bearing product quality responsibility must file with the national barcode technical institution under SAMR (GS1 China). Required documentation includes proof of valid overseas barcode registration and an authorization letter from the barcode owner. This provision clarifies a previously ambiguous area and aims to ensure traceability and prevent unauthorized use of foreign barcodes.

More broadly, the revision elevates the role of commodity barcodes from a technical tool for retail and logistics to **a statutory digital product identifier**. Barcodes are positioned as a unique identifier linking physical goods to a wide range of data, including production, circulation, certification, inspection, and regulatory information. According to SAMR officials, this information will gradually feed into a national unified database, supporting more data-driven and "intelligent" supervision. In this context, barcodes are expected to play a stronger role in quality traceability, anti-counterfeiting efforts, and lifecycle management of products. However, note that this full-lifecycle approach still differs from Digital Product Passport as the digital identifiers carry a more limited set of information, and label printing remains mandatory.

The revision also updates the list of referenced national standards, significantly expanding coverage. In addition to retail and dispatch standards, the new framework incorporates standards for bulk commodities, logistics units, locations, services, and assets. In particular, the inclusion of ***GB/T 44899-2024*** on bulk and unpacked goods addresses longstanding gaps in traceability for wholesale, agricultural, and industrial products, extending barcode applicability beyond traditional retail scenarios.

The table below compares the national standards referenced in the 2005 and 2026 versions, highlighting the expansion and restructuring of the applicable barcode standards system.

2005 Version	2026 Version
GB 12904-2008 Bar code for commodity - Retail commodity numbering and bar code marking	*GB 12904 Bar code for commodity - Retail commodity numbering and bar code marking*
GB/T 16830-2008 Bar	**[New]** ***GB/T 44899-2024***

code for commodity - Dispatch commodity numbering and bar code marking *GB/T 15425-2014 Bar code for commodity - 128 barcode* [repealed in 2026] *GB/T 18283-2008 Bar code for commodity - Bar code in-store* [repealed in 2026, alongside the provision governing in-store barcode]	***Bar code for commodity - Unpacked and bulk commodity numbering and bar code marking*** *GB/T 16830-2008 Bar code for commodity - Dispatch commodity numbering and bar code marking* **[New]** ***GB/T 18127-2009 Bar code for commodity - Numbering and symbol marking of logistics units*** **[New]** ***GB/T 16828-2021 Bar code for commodity - Global location numbering and bar code marking*** **[New]** ***GB/T 23832-2022 Bar code for commodity - Numbering and symbol marking of service relationship*** **[New]** ***GB/T 23833-2022 Bar code for commodity - Numbering and symbol marking of assets***

Foreign companies using overseas barcodes for products manufactured in China should clearly identify the entity responsible for product quality and ensure timely filing with GS1 China, including preparation of the required supporting documents. In addition, internal compliance processes may need to be updated across the supply chain, particularly regarding restrictions on barcode transfer and the prohibition of using barcodes as a basis for charging listing or service fees.

While the revision introduces measures aimed at reducing administrative burdens, companies are advised to monitor implementation in practice, including assessing whether procedural simplifications translate into tangible cost reductions. In addition, the new rules emphasize centralizing data management for all barcodes at the national level, which will likely entail substantial labor efforts and increased man-hours. The updated Measures signal China's intention to strengthen the role of barcodes as a foundational element of its digital economy and unified market framework, with increasing relevance for both domestic and international operators.

Source:
https://www.samr.gov.cn/bzcxs/zcwj/art/2026/art_c7563c9167e846d4af208fe533656f34.html

10. SAMR Announces Preliminary Approvals for Chinese Institutions Seeking Key IEC Roles

#China's International Standardization

On April 2, 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), through its Department of Standard Innovation, published a list of applicants seeking to host the secretariats of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) technical bodies or to serve as mirror organizations. The announcement was open for public feedback until 7 April 2026.

Specifically, a total of 11 applications from qualified entities have been preliminarily approved. These include three competing bids for the secretariat of IEC/TC 107 (Process management for avionics), one application for mirror organizations of IEC/PC 133 (Measurement and computational methodologies for antenna characterization and data representation), and seven applications for mirror organizations of ISO/IEC JTC 5 (Digital product passport). The full list of applicants is provided below.

No.	Technical Body Code	Technical Body Name	Application Type	Applicant Name
1	IEC/TC 107	IEC Technical Committee on	Secretariat	AVIC China Aero-Polytechnology Establishment

2		Process management for avionics		COMAC Shanghai Aircraft Design & Research Institute
3				Guangzhou Ceprei certification center services Limited
4	IEC/PC 133	IEC Project Committee on Measurement and computational methodologies for antenna characterization and data representation	Mirror organization	National Institute of Metrology, China
5	ISO/IEC JTC 5	ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee on Digital Product Passport (DPP)	Mirror organization	GS1 China Co., Ltd.
6				China National Institute of Standardization
7				National Institute of Metrology, China
8				Beijing Industrial Cooperation Association
9				China Quality Certification Centre
10				China Light Industry Information Center
11				Shenzhen Institute of Standards and Technology

This announcement reflects a further step by Chinese institutions to engage in the standardization work of the IEC. By applying to host the secretariat or serve as the mirror organizations for technical bodies such as IEC/TC 107, IEC/PC 133, and ISO/IEC JTC 5, these entities are seeking to take on greater organizational responsibilities within the international standard-setting process. This suggests a gradual shift from primarily following and adopting international standards to earlier-stage coordination and formulation activities, aiming to more closely align their technical practices in fields such as aviation, communications, and digital trade with the evolving direction of the international standards system.

For European stakeholders, if a Chinese institution ultimately assumes the secretariat of IEC/TC 107, the level of influence that European enterprises have traditionally held in the relevant standard-setting process may relatively decrease, and they may need to accommodate more technical input originating from China. Moreover, in digital trade, regarding the DPP standards being advanced by the European Union, China's coordination capacity in this area may be strengthened, potentially shifting DPP standard-setting from unilateral to multilateral engagement. Chinese involvement in communication and measurement technologies may also bring adjustments to existing standards. European enterprises may need to increase coordination with Chinese counterparts and adapt to a more diverse compliance environment.

Source: https://www.sac.gov.cn/xw/tzgg/art/2026/art_27b50f288ba445a09035bd5a85ff88a2.html

11. SAMR 2026 Q1: Recent Statistics on Chinese National Standards and CCC Pilot Reform

#China Standardization #CCC

On 20 March 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation held its quarterly press briefing, covering a range of topics including updates on national standardization, metrology, and the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) system.

National Standards and Metrology Developments

Since the beginning of 2026, China has issued **798 national standards** across areas such as **emerging technologies, transport and logistics, workplace safety, and consumer-related sectors**. In parallel, **32 national metrology technical specifications** have been released, covering fields including **intelligent and connected vehicles (ICVs), life sciences, smart metering, and physical and chemical measurement**.

These developments highlight the continued role of standardization and metrology as key policy tools to support industrial upgrading and technological advancement. The emphasis on "high standards" and "precise measurement" reflects an integrated approach in which standards underpin both innovation and regulatory oversight.

CCC Pilot Reform: Introduction of Traceable QR Codes

SAMR also announced the implementation of a pilot reform of the CCC marking system, effective from 1 March 2026. The pilot covers **three product categories comprising 11 product types**, including power banks, electric bicycles and their safety-related components, and gas-burning appliances and their accessories.

The reform aims to strengthen the CCC system, reinforce manufacturers' responsibility for product quality and safety, and address issues such as counterfeit certification marks and fraudulent certification practices.

Key features of the reform include:

- Integration of a traceable QR code into the existing CCC mark, creating a data chain linking "certified product – manufacturer – certificate – issuing body";
- Real-time verification through a single scan, enabling access to certification validity, product specifications, manufacturer information, and issuing body details;
- Enhanced traceability, allowing verification of authenticity and clearer allocation of responsibility;
- Provision of QR code labels free of charge by certification bodies to certified enterprises for printing or marking on products;
- A 12-month transition period, after which—starting from 1 March 2027—all products within the pilot scope must carry the traceable CCC mark before being placed on the market.

According to SAMR, the first batch of products incorporating the new CCC QR code has already entered the market. The authority plans to further expand the pilot and refine the system based on implementation experience.

Strengthened Enforcement and System Integration

In parallel, SAMR highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen enforcement against false testing reports and misleading certification claims, particularly in e-commerce and live-streaming environments. Measures include enhanced digital monitoring, verification mechanisms, and stricter oversight of certification-related information.

These developments point to a more integrated regulatory approach in China, where standardization, conformity assessment, and market surveillance are increasingly interconnected. For international stakeholders, this signals growing importance of digital traceability, stricter verification of conformity documentation, and closer alignment between technical standards and enforcement practices.

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aBG10tACWwx2P2LhfgzCTQ

12. Foreign Language Versions of 2613 Chinese National Standards Now Free to Access

#Chinese National Standards Translation

On 14 March 2026, the National Standardization Administration (SAC) announced that the full texts of foreign language versions of Chinese national standards are now available for public preview and free download. A total of 2,613 national standards, covering 20 key areas including equipment manufacturing, overseas contracted projects, bulk commodities, information technology, and new energy, can now be accessed through SAC's National Public Service Platform for Standards Information. These standards are available in 11 languages: English, Russian, French, German, Japanese, Lao, Khmer, Mongolian, Burmese, Portuguese, and Vietnamese.

According to Wei Hong, Director-General of Standards Innovation and Management Department of SAC, the foreign language standards program is designed to support multilateral initiatives such as the Belt and Road and facilitate smoother trade flows for Chinese products. To this end, SAC has promoted **7** special projects involving translation of **nearly 800 national standards**. These include:

- 172 standards for large-scale equipment, of which 66 have been released;
- 219 standards for the "New Trio"(electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaics), of which 119 have been released; and
- 31 standards for Belt and Road initiative (security facilities, traffic engineering, energy equipment, basic materials), all of which have been initiated and waiting for completion.

In addition to these special projects, China has developed foreign language versions across 3 key areas: **industrial transformation, green development, and smart applications.**

In engineering construction, published foreign language versions account for approximately 1/3 of all current national standards in this sector, covering more than 40 industries including construction, electric power, coal, petroleum, and nonferrous metals.

In transportation, 195 foreign language versions of national and sector standards have been released. Among them, foreign language versions of 80 standards were released during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. These cover traditional areas such as highway and waterway engineering and products, as well as emerging areas including smart transportation, green and low-carbon technologies, and BeiDou navigation applications.

As part of its ongoing work, SAC will increase foreign language standards in strategic areas under the 15th Five-Year Plan, including major technical equipment, emerging industries, modern transport, and new energy infrastructure. It will also monitor their use in overseas projects and trade and deepen international alignment through the Belt and Road Initiative.

SESEC has prepared a full tutorial on how to use the new function of the platform which is available now on this SESEC website article.

13. Eleven CCC Implementation Rules Released for 16 Products

#CCC

On April 16, 2026, the National Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) officially released 11 sets of compulsory product certification (CCC) implementation rules for products ranging from fuse-links to automotive safety glass. The new rules, which respond to the State Administration for Market Regulation Announcement No. 57 of 2025, a measure that replaces self-declaration with mandatory third-party certification for 16 product categories (See more details from our previous news coverage), will take effect on **July 1, 2026**.

The 11 implementing rules, all designated as “trial” versions, are as follows:

1. CNCA-C02-02:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Fuse-Links (Trial)
2. CNCA-C04-01:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Small-Power Motors (Trial)
3. CNCA-C05-01:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Electric Tools (Trial)
4. CNCA-C06-01:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Welding Machines (Trial)
5. CNCA-C11-04:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Automobile Safety Belts (Trial)
6. CNCA-C11-07:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for External Lighting and Light-Signaling Devices on Motor Vehicles (Trial)
7. CNCA-C11-08:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Indirect Vision Devices on Motor Vehicles (Trial)
8. CNCA-C11-12:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Automotive Seats and Head Restraints (Trial)

9. CNCA-C11-13:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Retro-Reflective Markings on Vehicle Bodies (Trial)
10. CNCA-C11-14:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Vehicle traveling Data Recorders (Trial)
11. CNCA-C13-01:2026 – CCC Implementation Rules for Safety Glass (Trial)

The 16 products listed in Announcement No. 57 of 2025 are governed by 11 implementing rules, as some rules cover multiple products. For example, the rule for electric tools applies to three products (drills, electric grinders and rotary hammers), while the rule for welding machines covers four (DDC arc welding machines, TIG arc welding machines, MIG/MAG arc welding machines, plasma arc cutting machines). The remaining rules each apply to a single product.

The 11 rules share a uniform certification model: type testing, initial factory inspection, and post-certification surveillance. Several rules also specify clear exclusions. For example, the rule for automobile safety belts excludes seat belt components such as webbing, retractors and buckles; the rule for external lighting excludes lamp assembly components including reflectors, lenses, and bulbs; and the rule for automotive seats and head restraints excludes rear-facing seats, child seats, sleeper berths, seat frames, trim covers, and head restraint frames. Notably, the rule for small-power motors applies to voltages above 36V and below 1,000V AC or 1,500V DC — a range companies should verify carefully. Additionally, the safety glass rule now extends to architectural safety glass, beyond automotive applications.

European companies exporting affected products to China should act now to transition from self-declaration to third-party certification. It is advisable to engage with accredited Chinese certification bodies, conduct pre-testing against the corresponding standards, and ensure full compliance ahead of the July 1, 2026 deadline.

Source:
https://www.cnca.gov.cn/zwxx/gg/2026/art/2026/art_28b7746f4ad74ad3b7ca104b124e4ac9.html

14. Official China Cybersecurity Labeling Measures Issued with Enhanced Enforcement

#Laws and Regulations #Cybersecurity

On April 10, 2026, The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) have jointly issued the final version of the ***China Cybersecurity Labeling Management Measures***. The document will take effect on July 1, 2026.

A comparison between the final text and the previously released draft (see more details from our previous news coverage) reveals several notable changes, primarily focused on strengthening enforcement and accountability.

The most significant revision is the inclusion of the MPS as a co-issuing and co-regulating authority. While the draft version only named the CAC and MIIT as the lead agencies, the final measure officially brings the MPS into the regulatory framework. Accordingly, local-level oversight now involves public security bureaus alongside cyberspace and telecommunications authorities. This change transforms the system from an industry-focused initiative into a cross-sector enforcement mechanism.

Furthermore, the final version establishes a more structured process for addressing violations. Unlike the draft, which mainly authorized the designated filing agency (China Electronics Standardization Institute) to address non-compliance, the final measure explicitly states that violations such as falsifying test results or misusing cybersecurity labels will be subject to legal penalties under the *Cybersecurity Law* and the *Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Inspection and Testing Institutions*. Local authorities are now required to jointly investigate and handle violations, rather than merely notifying the filing agency.

To further deter non-compliance, the final measure introduces a credit-based disciplinary mechanism. Entities found in violation will have their records entered into the National Credit Information Sharing Platform, potentially affecting their long-term standing across sectors.

The final measures maintain the core design of the draft. Cybersecurity labels are classified into three tiers: Basic (one star), Enhanced (two stars), and Leading (three stars), each with distinct security capability requirements. Producers participate **voluntarily**, and consumers are encouraged to prefer labeled products.

A comparison of the draft and final versions reveals three key implications for European enterprises. First, while producer participation remains voluntary, enforcement has been significantly strengthened, with violations leading to penalties under the *Cybersecurity Law* and national credit records. Second, enterprises must rigorously audit local testing partners to avoid

liability for third-party fraud. Third, achieving higher-tier labels offers a competitive edge as Chinese consumers increasingly prioritize data security.

Source:https://www.cac.gov.cn/2026-04/10/c_1777558393316312.htm

15. CNAS Holds 5th Plenary Meeting, Outlines New Strategic Direction

#Conformity Assessment

On 14 April 2026, the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) held its third meeting of the fifth Plenary Committee in Beijing. Mr. Shu Wei, Member of the Vice Minister of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) and Administrator of the National Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA), attended and delivered a speech.

The meeting acknowledged the achievements of accreditation work in 2025. It emphasized that accreditation must adapt to new circumstances and requirements under the 15th Five-Year Plan.

Four strategic priorities were identified: supporting the development of a unified national market by strengthening accreditation's foundational role; fostering new productive forces by reinforcing accreditation's function as a link within the national quality infrastructure; steadily expanding institutional openness by leveraging accreditation's role as a globally accepted mechanism; and enhancing administrative governance by strengthening accreditation's technical support in building trust.

The meeting called on CNAS to fully utilize its institutional strengths under the "unified system, joint participation" framework. Key drivers include demand orientation, reform implementation, technology-enabled development, and open cooperation. The goal is to accelerate China's accreditation system **from following and keeping pace with** international peers – and achieving leadership in certain areas – **to taking a leading position in more domains**.

The meeting also approved adjustments to the composition of the Plenary Committee, Executive Committee, and specialized committees.

Following the vote, Shu Wei was appointed Chair of the CNAS Plenary Committee and Executive Committee. Kuang Xu was appointed Executive Vice Chair of the Plenary Committee. Chen Jianliang, Yang Dong, Lang Zhizheng, Li Wentao, Wang Jun, Zhao Yuzhu, Lin Wei, Luo Jiejie, and He Kebin were appointed Vice Chair of the Plenary Committee.

The meeting was attended by Plenary Committee members representing the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Transport, as well as conformity assessment bodies, users of conformity assessment services, professional institutions, and technical experts. Relevant officials from SAMR's Certification Supervision Department, Accreditation and Inspection Supervision Department, and the CNAS Secretariat also attended the meeting.

Source:
https://www.cnca.gov.cn/xwjj/scjgyw/art/2026/art_ebbb0d36f7f64bb9bce7e2edcd1a52f4.html

16. Shanghai Cooperation Organization Advances Digital Infrastructure and AI Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan

#International Cooperation

On 27 April 2026, the Fifth Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States' Heads of Information and Communication Technology Agencies was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, under the chairmanship of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Digital Development and Innovation Technologies. Representatives from member states exchanged views on digital and ICT sector development and future cooperation.

SCO Deputy Secretary-General Oleg Kopylov stressed implementation of the 2025 Digital Transformation Action Plan to drive economic growth and technological advancement. Participants discussed digital transformation cooperation, ICT and Artificial Intelligence deployment in public administration, and key economic sectors.

Madam Zhong Zhihong, **Chief Engineer** (Deputy Minister-level) of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (**MIIT**), delivered a keynote

speech. She noted that China is advancing digitalization, networking, and intelligent development, with strengthened network infrastructure, accelerated AI evolution, and digital-intelligent applications empowering industries. China's 15th Five-Year Plan will generate new momentum for sustainable development across SCO member states. China is ready to work with SCO partners to build digital infrastructure, promote AI industry growth, and share the benefits of inclusive intelligent development.

The meeting approved ***the Concept for the Creation of Regional Data Processing Centers, Computing Capacities, and the Development of the Artificial Intelligence Industry*** within the SCO Framework, and adopted the meeting minutes. Participants agreed that modern data storage and processing infrastructure is essential for technological sovereignty, digital service resilience, and scientific implementation.

On the sidelines, Mr. Kopylov and Madam Zhong discussed digital transformation, ICT and AI cooperation, and highlighted the China-SCO Big Data Cooperation Center's role. Madam Zhong also attended the AI Forum "AI in the SCO Space: Trust and Sustainable Development," visited a science and technology park, and held bilateral talks with delegations from relevant countries. MIIT officials and affiliated units joined related activities.

The official report did not specify which SCO member states attended. The SCO comprises ten full members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, and Belarus.

Source:

1. https://wap.miit.gov.cn/xwfb/bldhd/art/2026/art_0aa7ddc62ec54882bf56d266fd2b425a.html
2. https://eng.sectsco.org/20260428/2286653.html

17. CNIS Calls for Standards Digitalization Experts to Join National Technical Committee

#Standardization Digitalization

On 23 April 2026, the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) issued a call for experts to join the management committee of the National Standards Digitalization Standardization Technical Committee. CNIS serves as the secretariat of the committee's predecessor, the National Standards Digitalization Standardization Working Group (SAC/SWG 29), which was established in November 2022 and has operated for over three years.

Under the *Measure for the Administration of the China National Standardization Technical Committee*, a standardization working group that has operated for full three years and received technical committee conversion approval from the relevant State Council department becomes eligible for establishment as a formal technical committee. SAC/SWG 29 now meets these conversion requirements.

Building upon SAC/SWG 29's achievements, the National Standards Digitalization Standardization Technical Committee will be responsible for standardization work in the fields of foundational and general standards digitalization, modeling and implementation of common technologies, and application technologies. CNIS is now soliciting committee member candidates from producers, consumers, operators, and users in relevant fields nationwide, as well as from public interest stakeholders including administrative authorities, educational and research institutions, testing and certification bodies, and social organizations.

Candidates should be engaged in scientific research, management, certification, or development in areas such as standardization principles and methods, standards digitalization, information technology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and knowledge management. They should possess high theoretical competence, solid professional knowledge, rich practical experience, and strong professional and foreign language proficiency.

The call for experts with foreign language capacity in the newly converted technical committee signals potential international collaboration and alignment, as well as standards translation on its agenda. SESEC encourages European stakeholders to engage with SAC/SWG 29 and CNIS, sharing mature European practices with Chinese counterparts to better understand China's progress, stay abreast of first-hand updates, and foster mutual alignment.

In January 2026, the National Standardization Administration of China (SAC) approved the publication of nine SAC/SWG 29 standards. SESEC prepared a news report and a full list of these standards. Interested readers may click here to view the page.

Source: original CNIS announcement

Digital Transition

18. World Data Organization Launches in Beijing as "WTO for Data"

#International Cooperation

On March 30, 2026, the World Data Organization (WDO), the first professional international body dedicated to data development and governance, was formally established in Beijing. The event was attended by senior Chinese government officials, representatives from member countries, and international observers — including MUHAMMADOU M.O. KAH, Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Vice Chair of the UN Data Governance Working Group.

The WDO, regarded as the "WTO for data", is structured as a non-governmental, non-profit, professional body. Its stated mission is threefold: "**Bridging the data divide, unlocking data value, and powering the digital economy.**" The organization is headquartered in Beijing and will operate under a governance structure comprising a general assembly, a council, a secretariat, and a supervisory board. Tan Tieniu, Party Secretary of Nanjing University and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has been elected as the inaugural Chairman. Yang Jie, former Chairman of China Mobile, serves as Secretary-General. Both have extensive experience in digital infrastructure, telecoms regulation, and cross-sector innovation.

As of launch day, the WDO has onboarded over **200 core members from more than 40 countries, covering 14 sectors** — including manufacturing, finance, healthcare, retail, logistics, energy, automotive, education, and legal services — with enterprises accounting for nearly 70% of membership. Notable members include the 48 Group Club (UK), though the full list of specific member institutions has not yet been released by the WDO.

According to the organization's founding charter, the WDO will:

- Conduct policy research, build a global rule repository, provide compliance services, foster trust, reduce divergence, integrate rules, and deepen global data cooperation
- Unleash data value through research and open-source communities
- Provide global training and certification
- Promote healthy industry growth
- Enable secure, trusted data flow via innovation and certification
- Host World Data Congress to build consensus
- Undertake member-assigned missions

The establishment of the WDO serves three main purposes. First, it aims to bridge the global data divide by promoting technology sharing and infrastructure connectivity, helping developing countries enhance their data governance capacity and share in the digital dividend. Second, it seeks to unlock the value of data as a new factor of production by addressing fragmented rules and inconsistent standards, thereby reducing cross-border compliance costs for multinational enterprises. Third, against the backdrop of sluggish global economic growth, the WDO provides a new platform for international industrial cooperation, facilitating efficient data flows and collaborative governance to help drive the growth of the digital economy worldwide.

China's proposal to establish a **World Data Organization (WDO)** reflects its ambition to play a leading role in shaping global data governance in the digital economy. As data becomes a critical strategic resource, China sees the current international landscape as fragmented, with no unified framework governing cross-border data flows, data security, and digital trade.

The WDO concept aims to promote a **multilateral approach** to data governance, similar to the role of the WTO in global trade. Through this platform, China seeks to advance principles such as data sovereignty, secure and orderly cross-border data flows, and respect for national regulatory frameworks. This aligns with its domestic regulatory approach, which emphasises state oversight and security considerations.

At the same time, the WDO would support China's broader objective of **increasing its influence in international standardization**, particularly in areas such as AI, industrial data, and digital infrastructure. By shaping governance frameworks and technical norms, China could strengthen the global relevance of its standards and regulatory models.

Geopolitically, the initiative also positions China as a key player in offering an alternative to existing Western-led approaches, particularly for developing countries.

Source:https://www.nda.gov.cn/sjj/swdt/mtsy/0401/20260401222231639302113_pc.html

19. China's First National Standard for Quantum Computing Service Platform

#Quantum Technology

On 27 February 2026, the National Standardization Administration of China (SAC) approved a batch of voluntary national standards including ***GB/T 47177.1-2026 Quantum computing service platform - Part 1: Architecture and functional requirements***. This project was approved in December 2024 with a 12-month development timeline. China Academy of Information and Communication Technology (CAICT) led its drafting under the National Technical Committee on Quantum Technologies (SAC/TC 578).

Background of the Standard

China's quantum computing sector is rapidly evolving and transitioning from the Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ) phase toward fault-tolerant quantum computing. Multiple technological pathways, including superconducting, photonic, and trapped-ion systems, are advancing in parallel. Due to the high cost and technical complexity of quantum hardware, cloud-based access has become the dominant model, with a few platforms enabling early applications in finance, chemistry, and machine learning.

However, industrial scaling faces several challenges. The lack of unified standards leads to fragmented architecture and limited interoperability. Integration across heterogeneous hardware and software remains difficult. High technical barriers constrain developer participation, while insufficiently standardized approaches to resource management, operations, and security create risks for commercialization. Weak coordination across the ecosystem further limits scalability.

Main Content of the Standard and its Impact

Against this backdrop, ***GB/T 47177.1-2026*** establishes a unified framework for quantum computing service platforms. It defines a three-layer architecture consisting of the **application layer, platform layer, and infrastructure layer**, along with two cross-layer modules for operations management and security assurance.

- The application layer focuses on user access and service delivery.
- The platform layer provides core capabilities such as program development, compilation, and task scheduling.
- The infrastructure layer manages quantum and classical computing resources.

The standard also sets concrete, implementable functional requirements and supports flexible deployment models including Q-IaaS, Q-PaaS, and Q-SaaS.

This standard translates technological advances into a structured, deployable framework that enhances interoperability and aligns stakeholders across the value chain. It improves integration across heterogeneous systems, standardizes resource management, and strengthens operational and security governance. By establishing a common technical baseline and standardizing interfaces while reducing complexity for users, it lowers entry barriers for developers and users and enables clearer role definition and more effective coordination across the ecosystem. ***GB/T 47177.1-2026*** is therefore expected to accelerate ecosystem development, reduce adoption costs, enhance trust in commercial applications, and support the scaling of quantum computing services.

More broadly, the standard reflects China's evolving approach to standardization as a strategic policy tool. As highlighted during the State Council's 16th study session in October 2025, standards are increasingly positioned to guide technological and industrial development. Early-stage standardization is leveraged to accelerate industrialization, scale applications, and strengthen technological self-reliance. In this context, quantum technologies are expected to play a catalytic role in advancing broader innovation, including artificial intelligence and industrial digitalization. SESEC will continue to monitor developments in quantum technologies and provide timely updates.

Source:
https://www.samr.gov.cn/bzjss/bzjd/art/2026/art_26141f3448e74b3b930c74bda5844911.html

About SAC/TC 578

The secretariat of SAC/TC 578 is hosted by the Jinan Institute of Quantum Technology (JIQT) in Shandong Province, China. Since its establishment, the committee has been responsible for developing and managing standards across key areas of quantum technologies, including quantum computing and simulation, quantum metrology and measurement, quantum communication and networks, and related enabling technologies.

The committee brings together leading early-stage innovators and researchers in quantum technologies in China, alongside major domestic enterprises that are actively shaping the industry. According to statistics informed by SAC in June 2025, **SAC/TC 578 has published 9 national standards and 8 English-language versions**, **with 2 additional standards on quantum secure communication under development.** SESEC has previously published a news report on the standards released by SAC/TC 578, which can be accessed via the link below.

https://sesec.eu/first-batch-national-standards-issued-on-quantum-measurement-in-china/

20. China Issues New Regulations on AI Ethics Review for Responsible Development

#Artificial Intelligence

On 2 April 2026, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) jointly issued the ***Measures for the Administration of Review and Services of Artificial Intelligence Technology Ethics(Trial)*** (hereafter "the measures"), with 8 other government departments (a full list of issuing authorities is annexed at the end of this article). MOST leads the overall coordination of science and technology governance, while MIIT and other authorities are responsible for the implementation and supervision of AI-related ethics governance.

The measures establish a dedicated ethics governance framework for all artificial intelligence (AI) activities, covering a broad spectrum of stakeholders. This framework adopts a *human-centric, lifecycle-based* approach and adheres to the principles of *fairness and non-discrimination, openness and transparency, trustworthiness and controllability, and privacy and data protection*. It also highlights the need to further develop and complete a supporting standards system.

Review Scope and Responsible Entities

The measures apply to **all AI-related activities such as scientific research and technological development** conducted within China that may pose ethical risks to human dignity, public order, life and health, ecological environment and sustainable development. This means the responsible entities who need to comply to the ethics review involve universities, research institutes, healthcare institutions, enterprises, and so on. These entities bear primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with ethics review requirements. They are required to establish **internal AI ethics review committees** composed of multidisciplinary experts (e.g. in AI technologies, applications, ethics, and law), typically involving **no fewer than 5 members**. Where such internal capacity is lacking, entities may entrust **qualified third-party service centers** to carry out ethics review activities.

Review Mechanisms

The ethics review committees or authorized service centers are responsible for examining project applications, assessing ethical risks, and issuing review decisions. The review process generally includes application submission, acceptance, ethical assessment, decision-making, and post-approval monitoring. Approved projects remain subject to follow-up reviews, typically at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

A key feature of the measures is the introduction of a risk-based approach. Certain high-risk AI activities are subject to an extra layer of expert review. These include systems that **significantly influence human behaviour, psychological states, or health**; **AI applications capable of influencing public opinions or social mobilization; and highly autonomous decision-making systems deployed in safety-critical scenarios.** For such cases, a second-level review organized by competent authorities is required before a final decison is made. with the capacity to shape public opinion, and highly autonomous decision-making systems deployed in safety-critical contexts.

While China's high-risk AI categories conceptually resemble the EU's risk-based approach under the AI Act,

they do not constitute a formal classification system. Instead, they function as a procedural trigger for enhanced ethics review, with broader and more principle-based definitions.

Position within Current Regulatory Frameworks

In Oct 2025, China's Cybersecurity Law passed the final amendment and was officially promulgated. The amendment included new provisions on artificial intelligence to acknowledge its key role in developing more advanced cybersecurity technology while ensuring the safety bottom line and preventing unethical use of AI. The new inclusion here was calling for a more specific and grounded mechanism to realize the ethical use of AI.

The measures are designed to complement, rather than duplicate, existing AI governance mechanisms. Where AI systems are already subject to regulatory requirements - such as **algorithm registration, deep synthesis management, or generative AI service requirements**—and where compliance with ethical requirements is embedded in those processes, additional expert review may be exempted. This provision aims to reduce administrative burdens and improve regulatory efficiency.

The measures do not introduce standalone penalty structure. Instead, violations may be addressed under existing laws, including the *Cybersecurity Law, Data Security Law*, *Personal Information Protection Law*, and *Science and Technology Progress Law*.

Role of Standardization

The measures place notable emphasis on the development of an AI ethics standards system in Article 4. They encourage the formulation of **international**, national, sector and association standards, as well as the **establishment of platforms for international standardization cooperation**.

In parallel, the measures call for strengthening supporting services such as testing, evaluation, certification, and advisory services. These are intended to enhance the capacity of third-party service providers and support responsible entities in meeting ethics review requirements, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

Conclusions

The Measures represent a further step in operationalizing China's AI governance framework by embedding ethics review into the lifecycle of AI development and deployment. Through a risk-based approach, clearer institutional responsibilities, and alignment with existing regulatory mechanisms, they contribute to a more integrated and enforceable system. The particular attention paid to standardization is implying that this new measures will operate on the basis of standards. We will anticipate AI ethics standards springing up like mushrooms. Meanwhile, more Chinese voices on this particular topic will be heard in the international standards-setting.

For European stakeholders, ethics compliance has always been at the center of the topic, and it is becoming an increasingly important component of market access in China, particularly for higher-risk AI applications. At the same time, developments in standardization and third-party services may offer opportunities for engagement. Close monitoring of implementation and alignment with China-specific requirements will be essential. SESEC will also keep tracking the implementation practices of these measures and provide timely updates.

The departments that jointly issued this measures:

1. Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)
2. National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
3. Ministry of Education (MOE)
4. Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
5. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)
6. National Health Commission (NHC)
7. The People's Bank of China
8. Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC)
9. Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
10. China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)

Source:
https://wap.miit.gov.cn/zwgk/zcwj/wjfb/tz/art/2026/art_c5039010f5d24e1593152a9355f9c51c.html

21. Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance (AIIA) Advances AI Standardization

#Artificial Intelligence

The China Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance (AIIA) has convened two key meetings to advance China's AI standardization agenda. On 9 April 2026, AIIA held its 17th Plenary Meeting in Wuhan, attracting over 300 participants. Du Guangda, Deputy Director General of MIIT's Science and Technology Department, reported that China's core AI industry exceeded RMB 1.2 trillion (€150 billion) in 2025, with over 6,200 enterprises. He outlined MIIT's five strategic priorities: deepening industry applications, strengthening development foundations, improving the industrial ecosystem, reinforcing safety governance, and expanding international cooperation. Yu Xiaohui, President of CAICT, observed that AI is entering the AI-native era, marked by breakthroughs in foundation models, the rapid rise of intelligent agents, expanding cloud services, and emerging safety risks.

Wei Kai, Secretary General of MIIT/TC1, reported that the committee now comprises over 1,000 member organizations and eight working groups. It has issued 23 sector standards, with 261 more under research or formal development, focusing on embodied intelligence, large model evaluation, industry boundary definition, and safety governance. CCSA TC602 Vice Chair Nan Xinsheng announced collaboration with MIIT/TC1 and AIIA to establish a full-chain standards mechanism. The meeting also inaugurated three new working groups on AI-native technologies, intelligent transport and autonomous driving, and intelligent terminals.

On 23 March 2026, the AIIA Data Committee held its first 2026 plenary meeting in Beijing with over 150 representatives. The committee reviewed 2025 progress including contributions to government initiatives, standard-setting, and the publication of the Guidelines for Building High-Quality AI Datasets. For 2026, it will focus on supporting national data initiatives, improving standards and assessment tools, expanding ecosystem activities, and strengthening research outputs. Expert briefings covered the Trustworthy AI Dataset Quality Assessment System 2.0, a full-lifecycle standards framework for high-quality AI datasets, the 2026 AI Data Labeling Industry Map, and guidelines for intelligent agent application datasets. The committee also appointed new vice-chair units for 2026 from leading Chinese enterprises and research institutions.

For European stakeholders, AIIA serves as a critical bridge between industry and MIIT, elevating sector standards as strategic tools for China's AI industry development. Engagement with these emerging standards for data governance, intelligent agents, and autonomous driving will be essential for market access.

This article is a summary of the two SESEC articles below:

1. https://sesec.eu/2026/04/30/aiia-partners-with-miit-tc01-and-ccsa-tc602-to-advance-ai-standardization/
2. https://sesec.eu/2026/04/09/aiia-data-committee-convened-first-plenary-meeting-of-2026/

22. China's First Standards System for Humanoid Robots and Embodied Intelligence

#Artificial Intelligence

On 28 February 2026, the Annual Conference on Standardization for **Humanoid Robots and Embodied Intelligence (HEIS)** was held in Beijing. The conference was hosted by the National Technical Committee on Humanoid Robots and Embodied Intelligence of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT/TC08) as debut. During the event, the *Standards System for Humanoid Robots and Embodied Intelligence (2026 Edition)* was officially released. This represents China's first high-level standards framework covering the entire value chain and full lifecycle of humanoid robots and embodied intelligence.

The standards system was developed by MIIT/TC08, with the participation of more than 120 research institutes, enterprises, and industry users. It comprises six key areas: foundational and common standards, brain-inspired intelligence and intelligent computing, limbs and components, complete systems and integration, applications, and safety and ethics.

According to representatives of MIIT/TC08, the brain-inspired intelligence and intelligent computing standards cover key areas such as the large and small brain of embodied intelligence and intelligent computing. They also standardize the full lifecycle of data as well as the end-to-end processes of model training, inference, and deployment. Application standards define requirements for the development, operation, and maintenance of humanoid robots and embodied systems across different use cases. Safety and ethics standards run throughout the entire lifecycle of the industry, providing safeguards for safe and compliant technological development.

Mr. Sun Chuanxing, a senior engineer from the China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI) serves as Deputy Secretary-General, alongside with other experts acting as committee members. CESI experts have also been appointed as Co-Chairs of the Brain-Inspired Intelligence and Intelligent Computing Working Group, playing a leading role in advancing standardization in this field.

During the conference, MIIT/TC08 also launched an initiative to promote the high-quality development of the humanoid robot and embodied intelligence industry. Two cooperation proposals were released: the *Initiative on Establishing an Identity Management Mechanism for Humanoid Robots* and the *Initiative on Ensuring the Safe Development of the Humanoid Robot and Embodied Intelligence Industry*. In addition, an initial list of **52 standards** was published to further guide industry development.

As the secretariat for SAC/SC42, SAC/TC609, and SAC/TC260, CESI is accelerating work on standards for humanoid robots and embodied intelligence. It has led or managed **12 national and sector standard projects** and released the first version of the Embodied Intelligence Evaluation Benchmark (EIbench).

Moving forward, CESI and MIIT/TC08 will strengthen coordination among national and sector standardization committees and work with universities, research institutes, and industry stakeholders both in China and internationally to accelerate standard development and implementation, enhance testing and certification capabilities, and better align supply and demand for application scenarios. These efforts are aligned with China's strategic position of standards as a guiding force to drive the high-quality development of the industry.

To learn more about MIIT/TC08 leadership structure and job scopes, please check out this SESEC article: https://sesec.eu/miit-establishes-new-technical-committee-for-humanoid-robots-and-embodied-intelligence/

Key standards selected by TC28/SC42

No.	Standards Name	Type of Standards	Status	Responsible TC
1	*20252044-Z-469 Artificial intelligence-Technical requirements for embodied large model system*	GB	Call for Comment	TC28/S42
2	*20252046-Z-469 Artificial intelligence-Technical Specification for Embodied Intelligence System*	GB	Call for Comment	TC28/S42
	20252045-Z-469 Artificial intelligence - Technical requirements for embodied intelligene data generation platform		Call for Comment	
3	*20252043-Z-469 Artificial intelligence-Intelligent grading of embodied intelligence*	GB	Canceled	TC28/S42
4	*20252047-Z-469 Artificial intelligence – Specifications for embodied intelligence data quality*	GB	Drafting	TC28/S42
5	*20255554-Z-469 Artificial intelligence - Application framework and interface of embodied agent*	GB	Drafting	TC28/S42
6	*20255545-Z-469 Artificial intelligence — General requirements of trustworthiness for embodied*	GB	Drafting	TC28/S42

	intelligence			
7	*20255546-Z-469 Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for the Construction of Embodied Intelligence Data Training Grounds*	GB	Drafting	TC28/S42
8	*20255547-Z-469 Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines for embodied intelligence evaluation*	GB	Drafting	TC28/S42
9	*High-quality datasets - Embodied intelligence - Data source and constituent elements*	GB	Pre-research	TC 609
10	*Artificial intelligence key technologies - Embodied intelligence - Data collection specification*	Sector Standard	Under approval	CESI
11	*Artificial intelligence key technologies - Embodied intelligence - System specification*	Sector Standard	Under approval	CESI
12	*Artificial intelligence key technologies - Embodied intelligence - Technical requirements for data generation system*	Sector Standard	Under development	CESI
13	*Humanoid Robots Specification for Full Lifecycle Management*	Sector Standard	Pre-research	MIIT TC08

Source:

1. https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Cqk15gMjwUqvl20higKNWw
2. https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/2rJq5FdbFhJxOmTJ7F8YQg

23. Call for Co-Drafters: China's Association Standards on Important Data Identification

#Data

On April 14, 2026, China Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (CIC), a public institution directly under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), issued a notice **calling for experts and organizations to participate in the formulation of a series of association standards on important data identification**. This notice marks an open solicitation for contributions from relevant stakeholders, aiming to ensure the scientific validity, relevance, and operability of the proposed standards.

The proposed association standards cover four areas and are all currently at the stage of draft for comments, including:

1. **Machine tools** – *Guidelines for Identification of Important Data in Machine Tools* (Plan No. 20260103)
2. **Construction machinery** – *Guidelines for Identification of Important Data in Construction Machinery* (Plan No. 20260104)
3. **Urban rail transit equipment** – *Guidelines for Identification of Important Data in Urban Rail Transit Equipment* (Plan No. 2026032-T-00)
4. **Industrial robots** – *Detailed Rules for Identification of Important Data in the Industrial Robot Industry* (Plan No. to be assigned)

This initiative is undertaken against the backdrop of the *Data Security Law* and other relevant regulations mandating the establishment of a data classification and grading protection system, and in response to the long-standing absence of specific and actionable standards for identifying important data in critical industrial sectors such as machine tools, construction machinery, and industrial robots. Association standards, by their nature, offer greater flexibility and closer alignment with market needs. By developing association standards in advance of their national or sector counterparts, the CIC

aims to provide timely guidance to industry stakeholders and accumulate practical experience that may inform the future development of formal standards.

For European stakeholders, once these standards are formally released, the types of industrial data classified as "important data" will become more clearly defined, and the management of cross-border data transfers is expected to tighten accordingly. It is necessary for European enterprises to closely monitor the subsequent publication and implementation of the standards, promptly assess whether the data assets involved in their China operations fall within the scope of important data, and adjust their data governance frameworks and cross-border transfer arrangements accordingly to ensure sustained compliance.

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aPlEUt6PnHHccnIuHREWCQ

24. China Launches First National Standards Working Group for Digital Product Passport

#DPP

On March 27, 2026, the inaugural meeting and first plenary session of the National Standardization Working Group for Digital Product Passports (SAC/SWG41) was held in Beijing, marking the official establishment of China's first national technical standardization body dedicated to Digital Product Passports (DPP). T**he working group's secretariat is hosted by the GS1 China.**

SAC/SWG41 is responsible for standardization of DPP in foundational and general areas, identification and carriers, interoperability, and other related domains. It will establish and improve the national DPP standards system, prioritizing foundational and key technical standards, while advancing application standards for key industries. The first working group consists of 43 members from diverse sectors, including market regulation, commerce, customs, information and communications technology, textiles, batteries, and automotive. Members represent government agencies, research institutes, universities, and leading enterprises. **Siemens China** is currently the only foreign company participating in this standardization group.

A DPP is an electronic record that shares product information, such as production, certification, circulation, and recycling, among supply chain operators, regulators, and consumers. It enables rapid market access and real-time lifecycle traceability, and is seen as a key tool for green industrial transformation and sustainable development. With the EU mandating DPP for batteries and textiles, China are now adapting to these new regulatory expectations. The formation of a national DPP working group in China reflects a proactive standardization effort to engage constructively with this challenge.

At the inaugural meeting, the representative from the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) emphasized that global trade rules are undergoing profound changes, with green, low-carbon, and sustainable development becoming key market access conditions worldwide. DPP has evolved from a regional policy into a global issue. The SAMR representative urged the working group to properly balance four relationships—international and domestic, general and specific, openness and security, and standards and application—and to actively voice and lead in international standard-setting while staying close to industry realities. Moreover, at the plenary session, the working group's charter and other institutional documents were approved. Members also held in-depth discussions on the standards framework and work plan. The convening of this meeting marks the beginning of a new phase of systematic progress in China's DPP standardization efforts.

The establishment of China's first national DPP working group signals that the DPP framework, originally an EU regional policy, is now attracting coordinated standardization responses beyond Europe, suggesting its potential relevance on a broader international scale. China's unified standards system and openness to foreign participants, such as Siemens China, offer potential for EU-China alignment and lower compliance costs. At the same time, its principle of balancing openness with security also means that European companies operating in China would need to navigate both two-way DPP requirements and cross-border data considerations. European companies are encouraged to follow the example of Siemens China by engaging early in China's standard-setting process, thereby turning potential compliance considerations into cooperative advantages.

Source:

1. https://www.sac.gov.cn/xw/bzhdt/art/2026/art_af83065c89a74f9a899ff7c0c8167f1d.html
2. https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/qMUbs-7A3BsFFF9qV5YUBw

25. Major Updates from SAC/TC599 (Integrated Circuit) First Standards Week of 2026

#Integrated Circuit

Below is a summary of three original SESEC articles. Read the full versions or the summary below.

1. https://sesec.eu/2026/05/12/sac-tc599-integrated-circuits-standards-week-five-working-groups-in-focus/
2. https://sesec.eu/2026/05/08/sac-tc599-standards-week-reviews-integrated-circuits-standardization-efforts/
3. https://sesec.eu/2026/04/23/tc599-integrated-circuits-establishes-wide-bandgap-semiconductor-working-group-in-beijing/

Plenary Sets Strategic Direction

From 7 to 10 April 2026, SAC/TC599 convened its annual plenary and inaugural Standards Week in Wuhan, bringing together officials, industry experts, and supply chain representatives. Yang Xudong, Director General of MIIT's Electronic Information Department and Chair of SAC/TC599, called for accelerating a full-chain standards system, issuing construction guidelines, and expediting foundational standards for advanced process nodes, advanced packaging, and core chips. He urged deeper international cooperation to translate Chinese technical solutions into global standards.

New Working Groups Established

The Standards Week featured seven working group sessions and the inauguration of two new groups: the Silicon Photonics Working Group and the Chip Application Working Group (WG10). The latter will focus on energy, telecommunications, transportation, finance, biomedicine, and home appliances to remove the "last mile" barrier to chip deployment. Earlier, on 20 March, the Wide Bandgap Semiconductor Working Group was formally established in Beijing, marking a substantive step in standardizing this critical enabler for new energy, next-generation communications, and aerospace.

Five Working Groups in Focus

The AI Chip Working Group, comprising 92 entities, has advanced 27 standards and issued four sector standards, while launching a series of AI chip testing standards. The RISC-V Working Group released a full-stack testing tool covering instruction sets, firmware, and system compatibility, filling a gap in standardized compliance verification, and initiated five national and 19 sector standards. The Chiplet Working Group, with 58 entities, reviewed seven national standards including 3D packaging interconnect interfaces and testing specifications. The Equipment and Components Working Group released a standards system roadmap covering components, equipment, automation, and foundational standards, launched an industry-wide comparative testing initiative, and approved two new proposals on product security management and component classification.

Industry Perspectives

Keynote speeches by Academician Hao Yue addressed 3D integration and wide-bandgap semiconductors, while SMIC's Zhang Xin emphasized localization of manufacturing equipment and full-chain ecosystem building.

Implications for European Stakeholders

China's independent IC standards system across AI chips, RISC-V, chiplets, equipment, and chip applications presents both compliance challenges and collaboration opportunities. Early engagement with China's standardization ecosystem and increased local R&D investment could help sustain competitive advantage as Chinese standards gain traction in global markets.

26. China's National Integrated Computing Network Framework Takes Shape with Draft Standards

#Computing Power Network

On April 15, 2026, two key technical standards for China's National Integrated Computing Network are currently under development, as over 60 experts and industry representatives convened in Beijing to review draft versions of the documents. The standards are:

- ***20260030-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Technical requirements for pooling of computing power resource in artificial intelligent computing infrastructure***
- ***20260025-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Technical requirements for network connection of computing power resources***

Participants included representatives from the China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI), Beijing Jiaotong University, the National Data Development Research Institute, China Telecom, China Unicom, China Mobile, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and Jiangsu Future Network Group.

During the meeting, drafting teams led by China Mobile Research Institute and Jiangsu Future Network Group presented the proposed technical frameworks, core clauses, and design rationale behind the two draft standards. Attendees shared practical experience from areas such as computing resource scheduling, service provisioning, network collaboration, and industrial applications. Discussions focused on technical robustness, content completeness, scenario adaptability, and operational feasibility, with participants offering targeted suggestions for revision.

The two standards are part of a broader set of 12 national standard projects formally initiated in January 2026 under the framework of the National Integrated Computing Network, with the National Technical Committee 609 on Data (SAC/TC609) responsible for their management. The other 10 standards projects include:

1. *20260031-Z-907 National integrated computing power network—Guidelines for monitoring and scheduling platform*
2. *20260034-Z-907 National integrated computing power network—Basic requirements for the network transmission service capacity of the public transmission channel*
3. *20260023-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network-Calculation Standard for Proportion of Green Electricity in Data Centers*
4. *20260033-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network-Technical requirements for computing power and efficiency measurement*
5. *20260027-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Technical requirements for management and scheduling of computing power resources*
6. *20260032-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Technical requirements for computing power measurement and billing*
7. *20260026-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Technical Requirements of Computility Operation Service and Transaction Matching for Computility Network*
8. *20260029-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Interface Requirements for Computing Power Monitoring*
9. *20260028-Z-907 Computing power network—Requirements for evaluation indicators of computing power resources nodes*
10. *20260024-Z-907 National Integrated Computing Network—Security protection requirements*

The overarching policy basis for these standardization efforts is the 2023 policy document titled ***Implementation Opinions of the National Development and Reform Commission and Other Ministries and Commissions on In-depth Implementation of the "East-to-West Computing Resource Transfer Project" to Accelerate the Construction of a National Integrated Computing Power Network.*** The document outlines a national strategy to enable cross-regional coordination and integrated deployment of computing resources, and these 12 standards covering critical areas such as monitoring and dispatch, network transmission, green and low-carbon operations are intended to serve as key technical enablers for its implementation.

These 12 draft standards show China is systematizing its national computing network. For European firms, market access will require compliance with these specifications, especially on computing metering, monitoring interfaces,

and resource scheduling protocols. As drafts remain open for comment, European stakeholders may submit formal feedback to incorporate their technical expertise into the standardization process. Adapting to China's standards is becoming a prerequisite.

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/KzVoHSiItSxM2a8JcF1Oxw

27. SAC/TC28/SC42(Artificial Intelligence) April Updates: China Pushes AI Standards Global Reach, 10 Chips and Computing Standards Race Ahead

#Artificial Intelligence

Below is a summary of this original SESEC website, click here to read it in full.

SAC/SC42 Accelerates AI Standards Global Reach and Chip Computing Race

On 8 April 2026, CESI convened a Beijing symposium on AI international standardization with over 30 leaders from Huawei, Alibaba, Xiaomi, iFlytek, SenseTime, CAICT, and government agencies. The meeting addressed a pressing challenge: Chinese AI companies expanding overseas face gaps in international standards alignment and weak rule adaptation. CESI presented China's global AI governance strategy, while Huawei reported on ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 progress, CAICT shared ITU updates, and Alibaba discussed IETF developments in agent interoperability. Participants concluded that standards have become critical for overseas market access and compliance.

China's First National AI Risk Management Framework

SAC published ***GB/T 46347-2025 Artificial Intelligence — Risk Management Capability Assessment*** on 5 October 2025, establishing China's first national framework for evaluating organizational AI risk management maturity. It defines six capability domains and grades organizations from Initial to Optimization Level, explicitly integrating ethical risk governance including algorithmic discrimination, data bias, and deepfake misuse. The standard draws upon ***GB/T 24353-2022 (ISO 31000:2018)***, SAC/TC260's AI Safety Governance Framework, and ***ISO/IEC 23894:2023*** — the same foundational document adopted by Europe as ***EN ISO/IEC 23894*** in 2024. This shared base enables unified risk processes serving both Chinese assessment requirements and European AI Act compliance. Despite voluntary status, CESI is piloting assessments across software, internet, finance, and defense sectors, suggesting it may become a de facto market access prerequisite.

10 AI Chip and Computing Standards Underway

On 14 April 2026, SAC/TC28/SC42's Chips and System and Intelligent Computing Working Groups reviewed 10 draft standards with 80 experts from 50 organizations including Inspur, Enflame Tech, Birentech, and BAAI. Only two are voluntary national standards, one is a sector standard, and the remainder are GB/Z guiding documents — reflecting an exploratory phase as technologies mature. A notable example, the unified parallel programming model for heterogeneous chips (20257133-Z-469), received negative feedback for unrealistic requirements exceeding industry capabilities. The predominance of GB/Z standards indicates strategic early positioning to test emerging AI software-hardware integration pathways ahead of competing committees.

28. China Proposes Tougher L2 Safety Rules and Globalizes L3 Data Recording Standards

#Autonomous Driving

On 16 April 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) launched a Call for Comment on two autonomous-driving mandatory standards, open until 22 April 2026. The consultation signals a decisive step in China's regulatory framework for intelligent and connected vehicles, addressing both

the booming L2 driver assistance market and the data infrastructure needed for higher levels of automation.

1. *20254323-Q-339 Intelligent and connected vehicle — Safety requirements of combined driver assistance system*

This proposal targets Level 2 combined driver assistance systems, the technology that handles steering and speed while requiring the driver to stay alert. These systems now feature in over half of new energy vehicles sold in China, but a string of accidents linked to driver overreliance has pushed regulators to act.

The proposed rules would force carmakers to install stricter driver monitoring, meaning the car must detect if the driver's hands leave the wheel and if their eyes leave the road. If a driver repeatedly ignores warnings, the system must lock itself out for a set period. Carmakers must also prove drivers have been trained on how to use the system before it can activate. Crucially, the cars must record key data onboard to help investigators reconstruct what happened in a crash.

The Chinese proposal goes further than current UN regulations on several fronts. Where UN rules allow some flexibility on highway driving, China's draft insists on constant hands-on monitoring with no exceptions. It also adds data recording requirements that do not exist in the UN framework and expands crash-test scenarios to cover more real-world Chinese road conditions, including construction zones and vulnerable road users like children and motorcyclists. If adopted, the rules would take effect on **1 January 2027.**

2. *GB 44497-2024 Intelligent and connected vehicle - Data storage system for automated driving*

The second item under consultation is an official English translation of ***GB 44497-2024***, a mandatory standard already in force since January 2026 that governs data recording systems for Level 3 automated vehicles. These are the systems that can drive themselves in specific conditions but require the driver to take over when requested.

China is not merely translating a technical document. By producing an authoritative English version, China is positioning its regulatory framework as a reference point for international harmonization. The standard was developed with input from Volkswagen China and the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) , suggesting deliberate outreach to European stakeholders.

Like the UN's emerging DSSAD regulation, China's standard aims to ensure crash data is preserved and retrievable. But where UN texts leave many technical details to manufacturer discretion, the Chinese standard prescribes exact specifications, for example, how precisely speed and location must be recorded, what file formats must be used, and which data retrieval protocols are mandatory. This reflects a governance philosophy that favors regulatory clarity and government oversight over industry self-certification.

Conclusions

For European stakeholders, these two standards carry distinct but related implications. Carmakers and system developers should review potential technical divergences between European and Chinese L2 safety requirements once the text is adopted. Meanwhile, the English translation of GB 44497-2024 offers practical clarity for designing L3 systems that can meet both UN and Chinese requirements, though the two frameworks now differ in their level of prescriptive detail. The involvement of Volkswagen China and the VDA in the translation effort suggests ongoing channels for European input, even as China develops its own regulatory path.

Source:
https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/jscx/bzgf/art/2026/art_6d919ccb6ac34cc09533370a2a30d7e5.html

29. China Proposes Five Mandatory National Standards for Smart Home Interconnection

#Internet of Thing

On March 16, 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) released a draft plan of the five mandatory national standard projects focusing on smart home interconnection and intercommunication, with a public consultation period from March 17 to March 23.

The five proposed standards are titled:

- ***Interconnection and intercommunication of smart home - Part 1: Requirements for LAN access***
- ***Interconnection and intercommunication of smart home - Part2: Test method for LAN access***
- ***Interconnection and intercommunication of smart home - Part 3: Public instruction set***

- ***Interconnection and intercommunication of smart home - Part 4: Thing model***
- ***Interconnection and intercommunication of smart home - Part 5: Security Specifications***

The drafting organizations include the China Household Electric Appliance Research Institute (CHEARI), the China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI), and the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT). The development of foreign language versions will be carried out in parallel once the standard drafts are relatively complete. According to the draft plan, these five mandatory national standards collectively establish a complete technical framework for smart home interconnection and intercommunication, covering connectivity, operation, and security.

Part 1 Requirements for LAN access addresses "how to connect." It specifies general requirements, interface protocols, data formats, and security mechanisms for the full device lifecycle—from discovery, network configuration, and authentication to control, status reporting, and maintenance upgrades—building an open and compatible LAN communication framework. The standard will remain consistent with the requirements of *T/CHEAA 0049—2025 Technical requirements for local interconnection of smart home* and the *GB/T 38052 series Interoperability of smart household appliances system* but covers a broader range of smart home products.

Part 2 Test method for LAN access focuses on "how to test." It defines test environments, test requirements, and corresponding test methods to verify product compliance and interoperability in the above-mentioned key processes like discovery. The standard will align with *GB/T 38052.7-2023 Interoperability of smart household appliances system - Part 7: Specification for conformance test*.

Part 3 Public instruction set tackles "what to say and how to be understood." It specifies the types, data formats, and data encoding of public instruction sets for interoperability. The standard will remain consistent with the requirements of *GB/T 36428-2018 Public instruction set of IoT household electrical appliance* but covers a broader range of smart home products.

Part 4 Thing model covers "how a device describes itself." It specifies file naming rules, structural composition, and functional point parameter requirements for the thing model, enabling automatic device recognition by platforms. Compared with *YD/T 4915-2024 General technical requirement of IoT thing model*, the standard will be more focused on smart home products themselves.

Part 5 Security Specifications establishes the security baseline. It specifies security baseline requirements and corresponding test methods for smart home interconnection, including communication security, data security, application security, remote upgrade, and privacy protection. This part does not cover functional safety requirements. For Part 5, China has existing IoT security standards including:

- *GB/T 37044-2018 Information security technology—Security reference model and generic requirements for internet of things*
- *GB/T 36951-2018 Information security technology —Security technical requirements for application of sensing terminals in internet of things*
- *GB/T 37093-2018 Information security technology —Security requirements for IoT sensing layer access to communication network*
- *GB/T 37024-2018 Information security technology —Security technical requirements of gateway in sensing layer of the internet of things*
- *GB/T 37025-2018 Information security technology —Security technical requirements of data transmission for internet of things*
- *GB/T 41387-2022 Information security technology—Smart home general security specification*

However, a mandatory security baseline specifically for interconnected smart home products is currently lacking.

Internationally, ISO, IEC, and ITU currently have no technical standards specifically addressing IP-based LAN access for smart home interconnection. In the security domain, existing international frameworks include *ISO/IEC 27402:2023 Cybersecurity - IoT security and privacy - Device baseline requirements*, the U.S. *NISTIR 8425 Profile of the IoT Core Baseline for Consumer Products* and its IoT security labeling program, the EU's *ETSI EN 303 645 Cyber Security for Consumer Internet of Things: Baseline Requirements* and *ETSI TS 103 701 Cyber Security for Consumer Internet of Things: Conformance Assessment of Baseline Requirements*, and specifications from the Connectivity Standards Alliance (CSA). According to the draft plan, the above standards cover parts of the smart home industry, but do not provide targeted specifications for the interconnected smart home industry. China will coordinate its industrial

realities with relevant international and domestic technical standards to develop those proposed standards.

European enterprises in China support the national effort to develop mandatory smart home interconnection standards. However, they recommend that the scope of application, product categories, and scenarios be carefully considered to avoid unnecessary expansion. They also suggest that the architecture of the standards be open to major international standards, allowing bridging as a means of connection, and call for the participation of foreign enterprises in the standardization process, as well as the establishment of an open and transparent decision-making mechanism based on best international practices.

China's development of mandatory smart home interconnection standards is a strategic move to address domestic industry fragmentation and enhance its international influence in standardization. For European stakeholders, these standards present both a challenge of higher compliance barriers and an opportunity to participate in shaping standards for one of the world's largest and fastest-growing smart home markets. The ultimate impact will depend on the degree of compatibility between the proposed standards and prevailing international standards. SESEC will keep following the development of the standards series.

Source: https://wap.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/jscx/bzgf/art/2026/art_ba594c8694c84a3fb737b7a8e531ebc5.html

Green Transition

30. MIIT Establishes Green and Low-Carbon Standardization Technical Committee

#Decarbonization

On March 5, 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) officially announced the establishment of the **Green and Low-Carbon Standardization Technical Committee**. The new committee, designated **MIIT/TC9**, is tasked with developing comprehensive and fundamental standards in the green and low-carbon sectors. Its scope covers standard formulation and revision across industrial fields under MIIT's jurisdiction.

The inaugural committee consists of **71 members** drawn from government bodies, research institutes, testing organizations, enterprises, and universities, ensuring a multi-dimensional and inclusive standardization framework. The secretariat of the committee is hosted by the **China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI)**. Notably, the committee includes **Siemens (China)** as the foreign-invested enterprise participant among its members.

The establishment of MIIT/TC9 serves as a key implementation measure following the "**Implementation Plan of Further Promoting the Green and Low Carbon Standardization Works for Industry and Information Technology Sectors**" issued by MIIT on June 26, 2025 (See more details from our previous news). That Plan outlines three major areas guiding the committee's priorities:

- Standards for Urgent Needs – carbon footprint accounting, industrial solid waste utilization, and traction battery recycling.
- Standards for Innovation Leadership – green microgrids, clean hydrogen, digital energy-carbon management, and more.
- Standards for Upgrading – energy/water conservation and green manufacturing benchmark systems.

In alignment with the three priority areas above,

MIIT/TC9 plays a complementary role to the existing national committee SAC/TC548 (Carbon Management). Supervised by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, SAC/TC548 covers a broad cross-sectoral scope, including carbon emission management terminology, statistics, and monitoring, regional carbon emission inventory compilation, corporate-and project-level carbon accounting and reporting, low-carbon products, carbon capture and storage, and carbon neutrality. In contrast, MIIT/TC9 focuses on sector standards under MIIT's purview, such as product carbon footprint rules for automobiles, batteries, and electronics, recycling standards for traction batteries and industrial solid waste utilization, and evaluation criteria for green factories and supply chains. Thus, while SAC/TC548 provides the "general carbon management framework" across the economy, MIIT/TC9 delivers the "sectoral implementation handbooks" for China's industrial sectors. This division ensures macro-level consistency and sector-level feasibility, supporting China's carbon peak and neutrality goals.

The newly established MIIT/TC9 marks a pivotal shift in China's industrial decarbonization from broad policy guidance to standardized implementation. For European stakeholders, the inclusion of Siemens (China) signals an openness to foreign participation. Consequently, European firms should leverage their technological expertise to actively engage in standard-setting and promote international alignment, transforming regulatory compliance into a competitive advantage.

Source:

1. https://wap.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/wjfb/art/2026/art_d264979c712149759a1626ff17000c05.html
2. https://news.bjx.com.cn/html/20260305/1486388.shtml

31. China's First Ecological and Environmental Code Elevates RoHS Compliance to Legal Mandate

#China RoHS

On March 12, 2026, the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress passed China's first basic law in the field of ecological and environmental governance — **the Ecological and Environmental Code**, which will take effect on **August 15, 2026**. As the world's first legal code directly named after "ecology and environment," it is also China's second law titled as a "code," following the *Civil Code*. Comprising five books and 1,242 articles, the Code systematically integrates existing legal systems on pollution prevention, ecological protection, and green and low-carbon development.

Notably, the Code formally incorporates requirements for the restriction of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products (RoHS). It stipulates that "the design of electrical and electronic products shall take into account their impact on human health and the ecological environment throughout their life cycle, prioritize non-toxic, harmless, easily degradable or recyclable solutions, and strengthen source reduction and substitution of hazardous substances in accordance with national regulations." This legislative milestone signifies that China's RoHS compliance framework has formally obtained superior legal support from the first-ever Ecological and Environmental Code, advancing the electronics sector towards a new era of high-quality development amid its green transition.

Moreover, the Code's provisions on RoHS controls solidifies the legal foundation for implementing the *Measures for the Administration of the Restricted Use of the Hazardous Substances Contained in Electrical and Electronic Products* and the mandatory national standard ***GB 26572-2025 Requirements for restricted use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products*** (Effective from August 1, 2027) (See more details from our news coverage). The combination of the Ecological and Environmental Code and GB 26572-2025 creates a dual layer "law + standard" governance framework. This addresses inconsistencies in compliance across the industry and transitions RoHS management into a normalized, legally binding regime.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other authorities, further steps will be taken to deepen RoHS-related standards and technical research, accelerate the implementation of the revised ***Compliance Management Catalog for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Products*** **and its exemption list**, refine enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen corporate compliance guidance. Among these efforts, the **2025 edition of the administrative catalogue and its exemption list for which a public consultation concluded in December 2025**, proposes to expand the scope of controlled products from the first batch of **12** categories to **33**, including newly added items such as **microwave ovens, smart speakers, robotic vacuum cleaners, smart watches and wristbands, projectors, and electronic blood pressure monitors**. The accompanying exemption list was also updated to align with international environmental conventions and technological feasibility. While the final versions are pending official release, these efforts aim to foster a full-chain green ecosystem and support a more sustainable, efficient, and innovative electronics industry.

As RoHS requirements are codified into the Ecological and Environmental Code, with GB 26572-2025 taking effect and the relevant Administrative Catalogue and its Exemption List under final revision, China's RoHS management has entered a legally grounded and more standardized phase. For European companies in China, this necessitates elevating RoHS compliance to a core legal risk control priority, closely monitoring the final catalogue and exemption list, assessing whether their products and supply chains fall within the expanded scope, and proactively initiating technical upgrades, material substitution, and testing certification. Faced with imminent binding constraints, early action, systematic assessment, and proactive adaptation are key to transforming compliance challenges into a differentiated competitive advantage.

For your reference, the 2025 Chinese version of the ***Compliance Management Catalog for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Products*** **and its exemption list are available here.**

Source:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/mkoIWVg5WBlk6z9_kKVl9g

32. China Strengthens Its Role in Shaping International New Energy Vehicle Standards

#Energy Transition

In March 2026, The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has officially released ***ISO 10604:2026 Road vehicles - Measuring procedure for aiming of luminous beams of front lighting devices*****,** a new international standard led by China. This marks the first international standard revised under China's leadership to systematically cover measurement procedures for intelligent vehicle light beam positioning.

Since the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021–2025), China has taken the lead in developing 11 international standards in the new energy vehicle (NEV) sector, covering areas such as functional safety of traction batteries and fuel cell energy consumption testing. China has also facilitated the establishment of seven ISO working groups focused on fuel cell vehicles, battery swapping systems, and climate impact of road vehicles, among others.

As NEVs play an increasingly vital role in global automotive transformation, China has deepened collaboration with other countries under the ISO framework to enhance its participation and contribution to international standardization. In technological innovation, a China-led international standard on rechargeable energy storage systems of NEVs systematically identifies safety risks throughout the entire life cycle of traction batteries and other energy storage systems, providing an important technical basis for the research, development, testing, and application of NEVs.

On safety requirements, China has advanced the revision of international standards for post-crash electrical safety, setting performance requirements for high-voltage electrical systems after frontal, side, or rear impacts — significantly improving the operational safety of electric vehicles.

To support industrial development, China-led international standards for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles have harmonized testing methods for energy consumption and driving range of fuel cell vehicles. This facilitates cross-border performance comparisons, supports product development, and eases export procedures for Chinese manufacturers.

Moving forward, China will continue to integrate resources from industry, academia, research, and application sectors, accelerate the development of international standards aligned with key NEV technologies, and promote harmonization of global technical regulations — contributing Chinese expertise to the sustainable transformation of the global NEV industry.

For European stakeholders, the new China-led ISO standards for NEVs, including ISO 10604:2026, mean lower compliance costs through global harmonization, but require adaptation to China's technical specifications in areas such as smart lighting, battery safety, and hydrogen fuel cell testing, which may entail additional engineering or revalidation. At the same time, reduced technical barriers allow Chinese brands to compete more directly in mid-range markets. If discrepancies remain between Chinese and European standards, companies may need to maintain two separate development processes, thus increasing complexity.

Source:

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/T9K2-fqoDSU0vwqmO1Jr0w

33. UK-China Joint Workshop on Carbon Capture and Storage Held in China

#International Collaboration

On March 4, 2026, the Workshop of UK-China Joint Working Group on Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS), co-hosted by the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) and the British Standards Institution (BSI), was held in Beijing in a hybrid format.

The hybrid workshop gathered over 60 representatives from key UK and Chinese government bodies, enterprises, research institutes, and universities, including the UK Department for Business and Trade, the British Embassy in Beijing, Shell China, PaceCCS (UK), and major Chinese energy research centers. The session

was co-chaired by CNIS and BSI, with opening remarks from both sides. Experts reviewed CCS standardization progress, identified gaps, shared practical experiences, and outlined future cooperation plans. Industry delegates also discussed opportunities and challenges in CCS development.

Participants agreed that CCS represents a key area for green and low-carbon cooperation between China and the UK. They emphasized that standardized approaches would serve as a bridge to drive technological innovation and industrial development, facilitate bilateral trade and investment in CCS, and contribute substantively to global carbon neutrality goals.

UK-China cooperation on carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) began in 2007 with the joint launch of the Near Zero Emissions Coal (NZEC) initiative. In 2013, China Energy Engineering Group Guangdong Electric Power Design Institute, the UK CCS Research Centre, and the Scottish CCS Centre signed a memorandum on CCUS industry and academic exchange, leading to the establishment of the UK-China (Guangdong) CCUS Centre in December of that year—a key bilateral cooperation platform. In 2019, the Guangdong Carbon Capture Testing Platform, funded by China Resources Power and co-designed by the UK-China (Guangdong) CCUS Centre, commenced operation. It became Asia's first multi-technology open-access international carbon capture testing facility and one of the world's three major carbon capture technology test bases. In 2025, CCUS was designated a priority area under the UK-China Clean Energy Partnership MoU, with an academic seminar held steering cooperation toward policy alignment and industrial deployment.

Building on over a decade of technical collaboration and demonstration, the standardization workshop marked a new phase in bilateral CCS/CCUS cooperation, transitioning from technology development and demonstration to standardization alignment. Notably, China's CCUS standards system is rapidly taking shape: 12 national standards covering capture, transport, storage, and emission reduction assessment were issued between late 2025 and early 2026 (effective July 2026) (See more details from our news coverage), and the Energy Industry CCUS Standardization Technical Committee (See more details from our news coverage) was officially established in March 2026 to drive full-chain standardization.

The UK-China CCS standardization workshop may signal a shift in bilateral cooperation from technology demonstration to a new phase of standard alignment. European companies are advised to seize this window of opportunity and engage proactively in China's CCUS standard-setting process, so as to secure future market access advantages and take a proactive role in shaping global rules.

Source:
https://www.cnis.ac.cn/bydt/zhxw/202603/t20260311_62542.html

34. China's Latest Energy Efficiency Push: Five Mandatory Standards Proposed and One Issued

#Energy Efficiency

On March 20, 2026, China called for public comment on 28 mandatory national standard projects until April 19, 2026. Among them, **five energy efficiency-related standards are proposed for development or revision**:

- *Maximum allowable values of energy consumption and energy efficiency grades of electric clothes dryers for household use (To be developed)*
- *GB 38450 Minimum allowable values of energy efficiency and energy efficiency grades of LED flat panel luminaires (Revision)*
- *GB 24850-2020 Minimum allowable values of energy efficiency and energy efficiency grades for flat panel televisions and set-top boxes (Revision)*
- *GB 19761-2020 Minimum allowable values of energy efficiency and energy efficiency grades for fan (Revision)*
- *GB 18613-2020 Minimum allowable values of energy efficiency and values of efficiency grade for motors (Revision)*

All five national standard plans are proposed by the National Standardization Administration (SAC) and are managed by the National Technical Committee on Energy Fundamentals and Management of Standardization (TC20). **Notably, foreign companies are involved in two of the five standards: BSH Home Appliances participates in developing the household electric clothes dryer standard, while Panasonic and Signify take part in revising the GB 38450.** To facilitate international trade and technical cooperation, foreign language versions of these five standards will be developed simultaneously with the Chinese versions. The proposed standard aim to support the country's carbon

peaking and neutrality goals by upgrading efficiency benchmarks, phasing out outdated products, and promoting green technology innovation.

These proposals follow the February 27 release of ***GB 30255-2026 Minimum allowable values of energy efficiency and energy efficiency grades of LED products for indoor lighting***, which will take effect on September 1, 2027. The revised standard introduces three major upgrades:

- **Expanded coverage**: It not only focuses on the energy efficiency of basic lighting products but also sets efficiency requirements for emerging smart lighting products (e.g., dimmable, tunable color), thereby strengthening the regulatory basis for energy efficiency.
- **Higher efficiency requirements**: It sets efficiency targets based on product characteristics and application scenarios, moderately raises the entry bar for Grade 3, further tightens technical criteria for Grade 2 energy-saving products to better distinguish high-efficiency products, and introduces efficiency correction factors for premium features such as high color rendering, anti-glare, and smart control, balancing energy savings with lighting quality.
- **Optimized performance requirements**: Adds standby power limits, extending energy efficiency control from "operational efficiency" to "full-time efficiency" to reduce energy waste in non-operating states.

European companies in China face both opportunities and challenges from the revision and development of these five energy efficiency standards. The direct involvement of firms such as BSH, Panasonic, and Signify in drafting the standards shows that European companies are moving from simply complying with rules to embedding their technological strengths into China's regulatory framework. The significantly raised efficiency thresholds will accelerate the phase-out of lower-end products, allowing technologically advanced European companies to gain greater market leverage and pricing power through their strengths in high-efficiency motors, smart controls, and other areas.

Source: https://www.samr.gov.cn/bzjss/zqyj/art/2026/art_38fffd58109a4e31a4775d17353821e1.html

35. China Launches 2026-2028 Action Plan to Boost Energy-Saving Equipment Development

#Energy Efficiency

On March 20, 2026, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), together with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), and the National Energy Administration (NEA), held a press conference to introduce the ***Implementation Plan for High-Quality Development of Energy-Saving Equipment (2026 – 2028)***. This initiative aligns with the *Opinions on Accelerating the Comprehensive Green Transition of Economic and Social Development* (CPC Central Committee & State Council). It aims to improve the energy efficiency of energy-saving equipment that features strong versatility, high energy consumption, and promising prospects, while enhancing their supply and application.

The Plan focuses on six types of equipment: **motors, transformers, industrial heat pumps, industrial cooling/heating devices, water electrolysis hydrogen production equipment, and ICT equipment**. The clear targets for these six types by 2028 are set:

- Motors, fans, pumps, compressors: New energy-efficient equipment to account for **35%** of all new installations; in-service energy-efficient equipment to exceed **15%** of the total installed base.
- Transformers: New energy-efficient units to exceed **75%** of new installations; in-service energy-efficient units to reach **15%** of the total installed base.
- Heat pumps: Energy efficiency >10% above 2025 level.
- Industrial cooling/heating devices: New energy-efficient units to reach **45%** of new installations; in-service energy-efficient units to reach **25%** of the total installed base.
- Hydrogen production equipment: DC power consumption <4.2 kWh/Nm³under rated conditions for mass-produced units.
- ICT equipment: >80% of new servers at energy efficiency level 2 or above.

It seeks to promote energy saving and carbon reduction in key industries by **optimizing energy-using systems,**

advancing the R&D and application of advanced technologies and equipment, and following the pathways of green design and manufacturing, equipment renewal, and AI empowerment, so as to accelerate the intelligent, green, and integrated development of energy-saving equipment. By 2028, China aims for breakthroughs in key materials and components, improved system efficiency in key industries, and world-leading energy efficiency for motors and transformers with a higher market share.

The Plan lays out four major tasks: accelerating the R&D and promotion of advanced energy-saving equipment, expanding green and low-carbon supply, strengthening system coupling and matching, and advancing digital upgrades. In addition, the Plan proposes three measures to foster a healthy industrial environment: accelerating equipment renewal, **improving standards systems**, and strengthening industrial coordination.

In terms of standardization, the Plan makes improving the standards system for energy-saving equipment a core task. Measures include strictly enforcing mandatory efficiency standards for motors, transformers, etc.; developing or revising such standards fasindustrial heat pumps, hydrogen production equipment, and communication base stations; and establishing a full-chain standards system covering design, manufacturing, testing, maintenance, and carbon footprint accounting. According to NDRC at the press conference, since the 14th Five-Year Plan, 133 energy conservation standards have been revised, raising the average efficiency of major industrial equipment by over 10 percentage points. Moving forward, three priorities stand out: accelerating standard setting for energy limits and efficiency, updating efficiency levels and policies, and strengthening implementation monitoring through inspections and quality checks—creating a framework where standards lead, policies support, and enterprises act.

The Plan emphasizes higher technical standards and stricter market access for China's energy-saving equipment industry. As China advances in motors, transformers, and hydrogen equipment—with some products reaching world-leading efficiency — and enforces mandatory efficiency standards, European companies may face tougher competition in China, particularly those whose standards or technologies do not align with the new requirements. That said, areas such as hydrogen production, industrial heat pumps, AI-powered efficiency, and carbon footprint standards still offer room for EU-China cooperation, where European expertise could play a valuable role.

Source: https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/202603/content_7063339.htm

36. Three Chinese Carbon Footprint Standards for EVs and Critical Components Cleared Technical Review

#Product Carbon Footprint

On April 10, 2026, the Subcommittee on Electric Vehicles of the National Technical Committee for Auto Standardization (SAC/TC114/SC27), in collaboration with the National Technical Committee for Carbon Management Standardization (SAC/TC548), held a hybrid national standards review meeting in Beijing. The meeting focused on three national standards related to the carbon footprint of electric vehicles and their core components, including:

- ***20243770-T-339 Greenhouse gases - Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products - Electric vehicles***
- ***20243775-T-339 Greenhouse Gases - Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products - Traction batteries used in electric vehicles***
- ***20243773-T-339 Greenhouse Gases - Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products - Driving motors used in electric vehicles***

The three reviewed standards, which are developed under the methodological framework of *GB/T 24067 Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification* (a modified adoption of ISO 14067 *Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification*), specify product-specific requirements for quantifying the carbon footprint of electric vehicles, traction batteries, and drive motors. Each standard covers key aspects including the goal and scope definition, life cycle inventory analysis, life cycle impact assessment, life cycle interpretation, and the preparation of carbon footprint reports. Once implemented, these standards will provide a unified methodological basis for carbon footprint accounting across the electric vehicle supply chain.

After processes including presentations by the drafting units, inquiries and questions from committee members, and responses from the drafting units, **the three standards were ultimately approved for review. In the next steps, the SAC/TC114/SC27 will expedite the**

submission and approval process for the standards.

Notably, the carbon footprint standard for traction batteries (20243775-T-339) will serve as the direct reference for the carbon footprint declaration of electric vehicle traction batteries, a regulatory exercise organized by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (see more detail from our news coverage). This means that for all traction battery products sold within the Chinese market, carbon footprint accounting will be uniformly conducted using the methodology prescribed by this standard. The standard establishes a consistent and regulated framework for carbon data management for domestic enterprises, while also providing a technical reference method to facilitate alignment with international green trade requirements such as the EU Battery Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1542). It marks the beginning of a new phase for China's traction battery industry, characterized by law-based governance and a unified measuring stick for carbon data within the domestic market.

Given that the standards have entered the approval stage and is about to be implemented, European companies are advised to conduct a comparative analysis between the relevant EU methodology and the corresponding Chinese national standard on differences in accounting boundaries, emission factors, and data quality requirements; and establish a carbon data management system in China in line with the new national standard to ensure that local joint ventures and suppliers have the capability to provide compliant verification report.

For those interested in a deeper understanding of China's carbon footprint policies and standardization, as well as a comparative analysis of EU-China carbon footprint accounting for EV traction batteries, please kindly refer to our webinar **SESEC Webinar 01 – China Carbon Footprint Standardization and Certification**. The presentation slides and recording are available here.

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Z9_-yzZE2pRKqgnD8NaHwA

37. Beijing Roundtable Advances Global Alignment on Energy Efficiency Standards

#Energy Efficiency

On April 8, 2026, the **Multilateral Roundtable on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labels** was convened in Beijing by the appliances efficiency organization Collaborative Labeling and Appliances Standards Program (CLASP), with guidance from China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR).

The meeting brought together representatives from Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS), the Energy Research Institute of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and CLASP headquarters along with its Brazil and India country teams. Participants exchanged views on global energy conservation policies and practical experiences in appliance efficiency labeling.

Addressing the delegates, CNIS President Wang Kun highlighted energy efficiency standards and labels as fundamental policy tools for driving green and low-carbon transformation, calling for deeper international cooperation and continuous upgrading of these mechanisms. Experts from China, Brazil, and India presented national energy policies, the evolution of efficiency labeling schemes, and emerging trends in cooling equipment efficiency. Participants agreed that the dialogue laid a solid foundation for future cross-regional collaboration, particularly in the refrigeration sector. Foreign representatives expressed strong interest in establishing long-term peer-learning mechanisms with CNIS and other Chinese institutions.

The roundtable was highlighted by SAMR as an important practice in advancing the "soft connectivity" of rules and standards – a key concept in China's international cooperation framework. It is expected to help Belt and Road partner countries achieve greater regulatory alignment and capacity building in the green and low-carbon field, contributing Chinese expertise to global sustainable development.

China's energy efficiency labeling program, jointly administered by NDRC and SAMR, requires covered products to display a uniform label indicating energy performance levels. On April 30, 2026 – just three weeks after the Beijing roundtable – NDRC and SAMR officially released the *China Energy Label Product Catalogue (2026 Edition)* and *Relevant Implementation Rules*. Compared to the earlier draft (see details from our previous news coverage), the final version maintains the same scope and framework. The key changes include mandatory deadlines for washing machines and washer-dryers (April 1, 2027) and indoor LED lighting (September 1, 2027), clarified scope and registration unit rules for projectors and other products.

In light of the Beijing Energy Efficiency Roundtable and

the update to the China Energy Label Product Catalogue (2026 Edition), European enterprises should first assess the gap between their existing products and the higher efficiency standards, particularly given the mandatory implementation deadlines for products such as washing machines and LED lighting. They may also engage with Chinese institutions like CNIS to share European expertise on testing and grading, facilitating technical alignment and helping reduce future compliance costs.

For those interested in China's energy efficiency labeling system, please refer to our webinar slides of China Energy Labelling 2025: Regulations and Standards as of 2025.

Source:https://www.cnis.ac.cn/bydt/zhxw/202604/t20260410_62759.html

38. China Issues 2026 Green Design Guidelines for Industrial Products

#Green Design

On April 17, 2026, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), together with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and the State Administration for Market Regulation, officially issued the ***2026 Edition of Green Design Guidelines for Industrial Products***. The guidelines aim to embed sustainability into the earliest stages of product development, following a full lifecycle approach that covers raw material selection, manufacturing, distribution, use, recycling, and final disposal.

Central to the framework are eleven priority design strategies. These include designing for longevity, harmlessness, lightweighting, energy efficiency, water conservation, material efficiency, noise reduction, space optimization, ease of recycling and remanufacturing, reusability, and zero-carbon performance. The overarching goal is to minimize resource consumption and environmental impact without compromising product safety, quality, or functionality.

To support practical implementation, the guidelines outline six action areas. Authorities plan to develop industry-specific green design solutions and promote the integration of artificial intelligence through digital modeling, simulation, and the use of sector-specific intelligent agents. The document also calls for **a robust "1+N" national standards system** and the recognition of flagship green products eligible for policy support in green procurement, finance, and trade. Workforce training and international cooperation, particularly with the EU, are highlighted as essential for long-term progress.

The annexes provide concrete examples for 15 industries, including automotive, construction machinery, wind power, lithium batteries, home appliances, textiles, and methanol. For instance, in the automotive sector, recommended measures include the use of low-volatility organic compound materials, high-strength lightweight alloys, and modular designs to improve recyclability.

The release of this document reflects a strategic shift in China's industrial environmental governance from end-of-pipe control to lifecycle-based source prevention. Its underlying considerations include aligning with international green trade rules to reduce export barriers, enhancing resource efficiency and fostering new productivity through design strategies such as longevity and recyclability, and embedding carbon neutrality goals into product design to establish a closed-loop economy from development to recycling.

European companies are advised to review their product designs against the requirements of the guidelines, particularly in terms of material selection, disassemblability, and hazardous substance controls; monitor and consider participating in the development of relevant Chinese green design standards, while promoting technical exchanges and mutual recognition with China in areas such as digital passports and carbon footprint methodologies, thereby maintaining their competitiveness in the Chinese market.

Source:
https://wap.miit.gov.cn/zwgk/zcwj/wjfb/tz/art/2026/art_0e02aa4c9dfe40c0ae322af3c185eed6.html

39. China Launches Data Collection for Energy Efficiency Standards on Health and Sports Appliances

#Energy Efficiency

On April 2, 2026, the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) announced a formal data collection effort to

support the development of a **mandatory** Chinese national standard titled ***20251027-Q-469 Minimum allowable values of the energy efficiency and energy efficiency grades for household and similar health appliances and sports appliances***.

The standard is being developed by the National Technical Committee on Energy Fundamentals and Management (SAC/TC20) and covers four key product categories: **intelligent beds (mattresses), health massage chairs, water-filling foot massagers, and treadmills**. This round of data collection covers three areas: basic manufacturer information; energy consumption testing methods and suggestions for improvement (the test methods and other standard text content are to be obtained from the contact person); and actual measured energy consumption data (the data to be filled in must be obtained through product testing conducted in accordance with the test methods specified in the standard text).

Entities that voluntarily provide valid data will be recognized as having made a substantive contribution to the standards setting process. Such contributors will be given priority to join the standard drafting group and participate directly in the development of standards. Furthermore, all data providers are entitled to information protection. Any sensitive information contained in the data submission forms will be anonymized when used solely for the purpose of developing energy efficiency evaluation methods.

The data collection project follows the launch meeting for this standard, the first of its kind in China focusing on the energy use of health and sports appliances, which was held in July 2025 in Beijing. Notably, an English version of the standard is being developed simultaneously with the Chinese national standard. While existing performance and safety standards cover the four product categories, no unified energy efficiency evaluation system exists. This data collection therefore seeks to obtain measured test data to scientifically establish energy efficiency grades and minimum allowable values, ensuring the standard's rationality and feasibility.

The data collection phase for this standard has now been concluded, and the drafting work has moved into the subsequent analysis stage. For European manufacturers, the key implication lies in the need to closely monitor the standard's progress, as the final energy efficiency requirements and test methods—once implemented—will apply equally to the covered products placed on the Chinese market, regardless of origin. Opportunities remain for technical input during any future public comment phases. Early awareness and proactive compliance planning are therefore advisable.

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/XXTnuEbVsiqyDP_nrH4Efg

40. CNIS Calls for Data to Advances Digital Infrastructure Energy Standards

#Energy Efficiency

On 30 April 2026, the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) issued a call for data collection to support the development of three national standards initiated in 2025. These standards fall under SAC/TC20 (Energy Fundamentals and Management), for which CNIS serves as secretariat.

The standards comprise one mandatory national standard (GB) and two national standardization technical guiding documents (GB/Z):

GB Standard:

- ***20253197-Q-469 Minimum Allowable Values of Energy Efficiency and Energy Efficiency Grades for Communication Base Stations***

GB/Z Standards:

- ***20256785-Z-469 Technical Requirements and Test Methods for Energy Efficiency Evaluation of Telecommunication Equipment for Telecommunication Base Stations***
- ***20256265-Z-469 Technical Requirements and Test Methods for Evaluation of Computing Power, Energy Efficiency, and Carbon Efficiency of Data Centers***

For the GB standard on communication base station energy efficiency, CNIS is soliciting measured data on enterprise base station quantities across climate zones, annual energy consumption distributions, and testing methods and

improvement recommendations for base station energy efficiency.

For the GB/Z standard on telecommunication equipment energy efficiency, the focus is on energy consumption and energy-saving functions of core communication equipment for 5G and 4G base stations, including power consumption per unit carrier frequency under different loads classified by channel count, alongside testing methods and improvement recommendations.

For the GB/Z standard on data center efficiency, CNIS is collecting information on server types, theoretical computing power, and energy efficiency levels for general-purpose, intelligent computing, and super computing data centers, as well as mainstream training models and energy-saving technologies for intelligent computing equipment, plus testing methods and improvement recommendations for computing power, energy, and carbon efficiency.

The data collection reflects a practical step in standards development, ensuring the final requirements are grounded in actual industry performance rather than theoretical benchmarks. For European stakeholders, the process offers a window into how Chinese standards are formulated and an opportunity to contribute technical insights during the formative stage. SESEC will track the progress of these three standards and report on their advancement through SAC/TC20.

Source: https://www.cnis.ac.cn/tzgg/202604/t20260430_62876.html

Others

41. China Introduces Mandatory Battery and Vehicle Standards with Implications for Foreign Stakeholders

#Mandatory Standards

On 31 March 2026, the National Standardization Administration of China (SAC) approved 23 mandatory national standards projects. Among these, 4 projects in the areas of electric vehicles (EV), intelligent and connected vehicles (ICV), vehicle data, and lithium-ion batteries are particularly noteworthy, as they will replace existing voluntary national standards (GB/T) with mandatory requirements (GB).

Two of these standards - ***20261952-Q-339 Coding regulations of lithium-ion batteries*** & ***20261955-Q-339 Post crash safety requirement for electric vehicle*** - are to be developed alongside parallel English translation projects, signaling an intention to facilitate international trade and cross-border applicability.

Key Mandatory Standards Replacing existing GB/T standards

Standards Project Code	Standards Name	Type of Standards	Responsible TC	Standards to Replace
20261952-Q-339	*Coding regulations of lithium-ion batteries*	Mandatory	No TC assigned. Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) proposed the project. China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI) leads the drafting. CATL, and Sunwoda are the rest of the drafting units.	***GB/T 45565-2025 Coding regulations of lithium ion batteries***
20261955-Q-339	*Post crash safety requirement for electric vehicle*	Mandatory	SAC/TC114/SC27 (Electric Vehicles)	***GB/T 31498-2021 Post crash safety requirement for electric vehicle***
20261956-Q-339	*Intelligent and connected vehicle - Safety requirements for parking combined driving assistance system*	Mandatory	SAC/TC114/SC34 7 (Intelligent and Connected Vehicles)	***GB/T 41630-2022 Performance requirements and test methods for intelligent parking assist system***
20261957-Q-339	*Requirements for*	Mandatory	SAC/TC114/SC34 7 (Intelligent and	***GB/T 44464-2024 General requirements of vehicle***

	vehicle data security		Connected Vehicles)	***data***

20261952-Q-339 Coding regulations of lithium-ion batteries is particularly significant. It reflects China's regulatory response to emerging international requirements, notably those introduced under the EU Battery Regulation, including provisions on carbon footprint declaration, minimal recycled content, and the digital battery passport for lifecycle traceability.

The proposed standard will establish a unified coding framework applicable across a wide range of battery types, including consumer batteries, power batteries (both large and small), and energy storage systems. It will define coding rules for lithium-ion cells, modules, packs, clusters, and full systems, covering aspects such as coding structure, representation methods, and identification requirements.

According to the announcement, the parallel development of an English version underscores China's recognition of the absence of harmonized coding standards for lithium-ion batteries at both domestic and international levels. Currently, no unified framework exists that spans different battery categories or lifecycle stages.

The English version is therefore intended not only to support international stakeholders but also to provide clear and consistent coding requirements for imported batteries circulating within the Chinese market.

Furthermore, the latest batch of mandatory standards reflects China's continued shift from voluntary (GB/T) to binding (GB) requirements in key automotive and battery-related sectors, alongside efforts to enhance international usability through selected English versions.

For EU stakeholders, the transition to mandatory standards may increase compliance obligations and reduce flexibility, requiring earlier adaptation in product design and certification planning. Areas such as battery traceability show partial alignment with the EU Battery Regulation, but differences in technical implementation may still create compliance complexity. The reduced participation of foreign-invested enterprises in drafting processes may limit early insight into regulatory developments.

European companies are therefore encouraged to strengthen monitoring of draft standards, engage with relevant Chinese technical committees and industry platforms where feasible, and assess impacts on data management, battery identification, and vehicle system compliance. Proactive alignment with both EU and China-specific requirements will be important to maintain market access and competitiveness. Meanwhile, SESEC will also keep tracking their developments and provide timely updates.

Source: https://www.samr.gov.cn/bzjss/tzgg/art/2026/art_75e1ce053ed44831befe6d2162bfa8d7.html

42. CAICT Publishes the Blue Book on China's ICV Development in 2025

#Intelligent and Connected Vehicles

On 27 March 2026, the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology published the ***Blue Paper on Intelligent and Connected Vehicles (2025)***. The report offers a comprehensive overview of global and Chinese developments in intelligent and connected vehicles (ICVs), covering policy frameworks, standardization progress, key technologies, application scenarios, and future industry trends. This article draws on the blue paper to outline the current state of ICV standardization in China and provide an overview of its latest developments.

China's standardization system for ICV is characterized by strong government coordination, cross-sector integration, and a clear orientation toward supporting regulatory implementation and large-scale deployment. Within the broader governance framework, standards function as the critical link between policy objectives and industrial

application, translating high-level regulatory requirements into concrete technical specifications. As highlighted in the blue paper, the development of the ICV sector is supported by a three-layer structure consisting of policy frameworks, technical standards, and industrial collaboration, with standards playing a central role in enabling interoperability and commercialization.

At the top level, China has established a comprehensive standardization roadmap through documents such as the ***Guidelines for the Construction of Standards System for National ICV Industry***. This framework reflects a coordinated approach involving multiple authorities, including those responsible for industry, transport, public security, and market regulation. A distinct feature in China's approach integrates automotive, telecommunications, transportation, and urban infrastructure domains into a unified standardization architecture. Furthermore, the development of standards is highly application-driven, with priorities often defined by emerging deployment scenarios such as automated driving, vehicle–road coordination, and smart traffic management.

The standards system itself can be broadly divided into three main domains:

- **First, information and communication standards** form the technical foundation, covering vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communication protocols, 5G integration, data interfaces, cybersecurity, and open service platforms. These standards aim to ensure reliable and secure connectivity across vehicles, infrastructure, and cloud platforms.
- **Second, automotive standards** focus on product-level requirements and are closely linked to market access. They include safety standards (such as cybersecurity, over-the-air updates, and data recording), networked application standards (including direct communication and in-vehicle information systems), and automated driving standards defining functional requirements, performance metrics, and testing methods. Notably, China has already issued its first national standard on automated driving, while additional mandatory standards are under development to support regulatory enforcement.
- **Third, infrastructure and cross-sector standards** represent a distinctive feature of China's system. These include standards for vehicle–road coordination, intelligent transportation management, and geospatial data, which collectively support the deployment of integrated "vehicle–road–cloud" systems. In particular, standards for roadside sensing systems and smart road infrastructure are being developed to enable large-scale, coordinated applications. This reflects a systemic approach in which vehicles are not treated as isolated products but as components of a broader digital mobility ecosystem.

From an operational perspective, China's standardization system combines mandatory national standards, recommended national standards, and industry standards, **with an increasing emphasis on mandatory requirements in safety-critical areas**. In practice, standards are closely tied to regulatory approval processes, especially in areas such as automated driving, cybersecurity, and software updates. As a result, compliance with relevant standards is often a prerequisite for market entry, reinforcing the strong coupling between standardization and regulation.

China's ICV standardization is evolving toward a more integrated and globally competitive model. Key trends include the transition from isolated technical standards to system-level architectures, the deepening alignment between standards and regulatory frameworks, the growing importance of data and interface standardization, and increased participation in international standard-setting bodies. China is building a comprehensive, scenario-driven standards system that not only supports domestic deployment but also seeks to enhance its influence in global standardization governance.

The Blue Paper is available only in Chinese. However, if you need a copy or have further inquiries on this topic, please email your request to assistant@sesec.eu

Source: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/L-Zbo-9OGMKvgS7UdkWUQA

43. Major Standardization Updates of SAC/TC114 (Road Vehicles) in April 2026

#Auto Standardization

I. New Technical Committee Term Started in SAC/TC114

On April 16, 2026, the inaugural meeting of SAC/TC114's sixth session was held in Beijing, officially launching the new committee with CATARC as its secretariat. The 78-member committee comprises representatives from government ministries, major Chinese automakers, EV startups, universities, and joint ventures including FAW-Toyota and SAIC-Volkswagen. Established in 1988, SAC/TC114 is China's largest automotive standardization body, overseeing 29 subcommittees and having issued 1,650 national and sector standards. It actively participates in international frameworks such as WP.29, ISO, and IEC, holding nearly 40 key positions and leading the development of over 30 global technical regulations and international standards. MIIT Vice Minister Xin Guobin emphasized standardization as a foundational tool for industry development, calling for forward-looking standards in autonomous driving, data security, cybersecurity, carbon footprint, and automotive AI, alongside deeper global regulatory coordination and mutual recognition of testing results. SAC Deputy Director General Zhu Meina and CATARC Chairman An Tiecheng reviewed 14th Five-Year achievements and outlined 15th Five-Year priorities for system refinement and deeper international collaboration. European enterprises should proactively track and engage with China's emerging standards for autonomous driving, data security, cybersecurity, carbon footprint, and automotive AI to secure market access, reduce duplicate certification costs, and avoid compliance risks.

For more information, please visit the full featured article on the SESEC website.

II. New Working Groups Established

On 10 April 2026, China Automotive Technology and Research Center (CATARC) convened a kick-off meeting for two new standardization working groups: **Automotive Software Working Group** and **Automotive Data Working Group**. Each group will specialize in formulating standards within their respective domains.

III. Internal Technical Review of 3 Automotive Product Carbon Footprint Standards

On 10 April 2026, SAC/TC114/SC27(Electric Vehicles) and SAC/TC548(Carbon Management) jointly convened a review meeting for 3 national standards on carbon footprint quantification for electric vehicle. All 3 standards passed the review and are now awaiting submission of formal draft for approval by the relevant national authorities:

1. 20243770-T-339 Greenhouse gases — Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products — Electric vehicles

2. 20243775-T-339 Greenhouse Gases — Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products — Traction batteries used in electric vehicles

3. 20243773-T-339 Greenhouse Gases - Quantification methods and requirements for carbon footprint of products - Driving motors used in electric vehicles

For more information, please visit Three Chinese Carbon Footprint Standards for EVs and Critical Components Cleared Technical Review in this newsletter.

IV. Internal Technical Review of Electric Vehicles Standards

From 8 to 9 April 2026, the 2026 Second Standards Review Meeting of the SAC/TC114/SC27(Electric Vehicles) was held, attended by over 70 experts from the subcommittee members, observers, and standard drafting units.

The meeting approved 15 project proposals in the fields of electric vehicles, power batteries, fuel cells, and charging and swapping, as well as the review proposals for 5 standards.

It also reviewed and passed the following:

1. ***20250835-T-339 Solid-state battery for electric vehicle—Part 1: Terms and classification*** and other 7 voluntary national standards,

2. ***2025-0545T-QC Technical Requirements for Interchangeability of Pure Electric Commercial Vehicle Chassis-Based Onboard Battery Swapping Systems*** (sector standard)

3. ***20256717-Z-339 Technical specifications for solid electrolyte for solid-state battery for electric vehicle***,

4. and the foreign language version of ***GB 18384-2025 Electric vehicles safety requirements*** (mandatory)

V. SAC/TC114 2026 Standardization Work Items

In March 2026, 2 voluntary ICV automotive standards were published

1. GB/T 47351-2026 Intelligent and connected vehicles—Technical requirements and test methods of vehicle-control operating system (Effective date: 2026-07-01)

2. GB/T 47341-2026 Intelligent and connected vehicles—Technical requirements and test methods of vehicle-info operating system (Effective date: 2026-07-01)

In addition, 3 mandatory standards projects were launched:

1. 20261955-Q-339 Post crash safety requirement for electric vehicle

2. 20261956-Q-339 Intelligent and connected vehicle — Safety requirements for parking combined driving assistance system

3. 20261957-Q-339 Requirements for vehicle data security

VI. Autonomous Driving (SAC/TC114/SC34)

From 30 March to 3 April 2026, SAC/TC114/SC34 (Intelligent and Connected Vehicle) held the 17th working meeting, bringing together over 130 experts to discuss 13 standards at various stages of development.

Among them, there are 3 mandatory standards:

1. ***20256778-Q-339 Intelligent and connected vehicle - Safety requirements for automated driving system*** (Call for Comment)

2. ***20253094-Q-339 Technical requirements and testing methods for advanced emergency braking system of heavy-duty vehicles*** (Call for Comment)

3. ***Intelligent and connected vehicles - Safety requirements for automated parking system*** (Waiting for official adoption of the standards project)

5 voluntary standards and 1 national standardization technical guiding document:

4. ***GB/T 41798-2022 Intelligent and connected vehicle—Simulation test methods and requirements for automated driving function***

5. ***GB/T 44719-2024 Intelligent and connected vehicle—Methods and requirements of road test for automated driving functions***

6. ***20260284-T-339 Road vehicles — Controller area network (CAN) — Part 1: Data link layer and physical coding sublayer*** (Call for Comment)

7. ***20250898-T-339 Technical requirements and test methods for on-board positioning system—Part 2: Inertial navigation*** (Call for Comment)

8. ***Technical requirements and testing methods for lane keeping assist system of light-duty vehicles*** (GB/T project waiting for official adoption)

9. ***20262002-Z-339 Intelligent and connected vehicle — Simulation engineering for driving automation system — Part 3: Credibility assessment method for simulation testing*** (technical document, GB/Z)

Notably, 5 standards with no public information on their status were discussed, suggesting they may be in the internal project proposal phase:

10. ***Road vehicles - Test scenarios for automated driving systems - Classification for application scenarios***

11. ***Road vehicles - Test scenarios for automated driving systems - Scene evaluation and test case generation***

12. ***Intelligent and connected vehicle — Simulation engineering for driving automation system — Part 4: Requirements and methods for implementation of simulation tests***

13. ***Vehicle software identification code***

14. ***Intelligent and connected vehicles - Simulation engineering of driving automation systems***

Source:
https://wap.miit.gov.cn/xwfb/bldhd/art/2026/art_d7740e6c58d442fbaeb6dc3e9ed0d35e.html
https://www.catarc.org.cn/xwdt/gzdt/792176620769349.html
https://www.catarc.org.cn/xwdt/gzdt/794957692342341.html
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/kHD2Drr28R7Zob0f-jVVSQ
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Jjixvfovr8GTZkCCWYPo5w
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/PxAiUyHKGrAF2gDIgS4rRA
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/vTXgFzF9Ef5YcPzYec54jg

Annex 1 SESEC VI - SAC/TC260 First Standards Week of 2026: AI Security Takes Center Stage
Annex 2 SESEC VI – Agenda of SAC/TC260 First Standards Week of 2026

Annex 3 SESEC VI - SAC/TC260 Standards List (As of April 2026)
Annex 4 SESEC VI Webinar 01 - China's Carbon Footprint Policy and Standardization
Annex 5 SESEC VI Webinar 02 - Recent Development of China Standardization

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

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