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Secretariat of ISO/PC 283

Date: 30 May 2014

**To the Members of
ISO/PC 283
Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements**

Clarification on the relationship between ISO and the ILO for ISO/PC 283

We all know that ISO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2013. The purpose of the MoU is to facilitate cooperation between ISO and the ILO. Among the mechanisms described is the ILO's right to automatically become a liaison to ISO committees of interest, which of course includes PC 283. As we know, the ILO has been actively engaged in PC 283 and you will have recently received ILO comments and input on the work of the WG1 TGs.

We would emphasize that the ILO's input is very important to PC 283, as ISO's work on this subject covers an area that falls within the ILO's mandate. The MoU states, "ISO standards that relate to issues within ILO's mandate (ILO issues) should respect and support the provisions of ILS [international labour standards] and related ILO action, including by using ILS as the source of reference with respect to ILO issues in case of conflict." What this means in concrete terms is that ISO, within its existing consensus-based process, should strive to avoid conflict with ILS. This means PC 283 should systematically consider ILO input and look for possible ways to integrate it. Although every effort should be made to consider the ILO input, the MoU does not require ISO to integrate this input if there is no working group/committee consensus to do so (i.e., the normal ISO processes of consensus-building applies).

The ILO has stated that ISO should give "priority and due consideration to ILO comments on ILO issues to avoid conflict with ILS". Having discussed this with ISO Central Secretariat, we encourage WG1's Convener and TG leaders to continue to constructively engage with ILO experts using the above described approach. This will meet our obligations for cooperation with ILO, and be consistent with ISO's consensus rules for developing International Standards.

If you have any queries on these matters, then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the PC's Secretary, Charles Corrie

Yours sincerely

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