8 The International Network

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8.1 ISO

ISO, International Organization for Standardization, is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from some 100 countries [8.1]. The mission of ISO is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological, and economic activity.

ISO's work results in international agreements which are published as International Standards. The scope of ISO covers standardization in all fields except electrical and electronic engineering standards, which are the responsibility of IEC, the International Electrotechnical Commission. Together, ISO and IEC form the specialized system for worldwide standardization – the world's largest non-governmental system for voluntary industrial and technical collaboration at the international level.

The ISO International Standards are developed within technical committees, subcommittees and working groups. They cover topics such as agriculture, building, information processing systems, photography, transport, medical equipment, metrology, computer languages, materials testing, environment, safety, machine tools, containers, nuts and bolts, to mention only a very few. Some 500 international organizations are in liaison with ISO. By 31 December 1997 the work of ISO had resulted in 11 258 International Standards.

8.1.1 ISO/REMCO Objectives

REMCO is ISO’s committee on reference materials, reporting to the ISO Technical Management Board.

In addition to its basic activities within ISO, the main aim of the committee, since its inception in 1975 at the recommendation of an international seminar on certified reference materials (CRM), is to continue harmonizing CRMs and promoting their use worldwide.
8.1.2 Work Programme

REMCO has organized six task groups and distributed the work among them as follows:

I Hierarchy task group

- To consider definitions, categories, levels and classification of reference materials, and recommend actions for REMCO deliberation.
- To provide models for the establishment of traceability of (certified) values in reference materials.
- To contribute to the revision process of VIM, the international vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology.
- To revise ISO Guide 30:1992, terms and definitions used in connection with reference materials as a result of the revision of VIM.

II Calibration task group

- To study mathematical, including statistical, models of calibration using certified reference materials (CRMs), and to draft appropriate guidance to CRM users for inclusion in ISO guides.