

**ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS**

ISO

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MOSCOW

2021

INTRODUCTION

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has existed for three quarters of a century. The complexes of the most important international standards for the world economy, created from the beginning of the second half of the last century, have gained worldwide recognition.

But the situation was not always the same as it is now. Since the beginning of the 20th century, large national standardization organizations have been operating in the USA - the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), the American Petroleum Institute (API), the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE), etc. These organizations have always been open for specialists from other countries to participation in their work, which is reflected in their modern names - ASTM International, Health Level Seven International, NACE International, SAE International. Many standards of American organizations are applied worldwide, have become truly international.

However, it was ISO that made a breakthrough in creating innovative international standards. Specialists of other organizations did not catch new trends in international standardization in their routine work to develop and improve many existing national standards.

In 1987, ISO introduced a new type of international standard - in management, primarily in the management of quality systems. The innovative ISO 9000 standards have attracted the attention of professionals around the world.

An important role in achieving such results belongs to the ISO Central Secretariat, whose specialists, in addition to routine work, are constantly searching and selecting the best national standards that would serve as the basis for global international ISO standards. In the strategic planning of standardization work, the ISO General Secretaries played and play a huge role:

Mr Henry St. Leger	USA	1947-1965
Mr Charles Sharpston	UK	1966-1968
Mr Olle Sturen	Sweden	1969-1986
Dr Lawrence D. Eicher	USA	1986-2002
Mr Alan Bryden	France	2003-2008
Mr Rob Steele	New Zealand	2009-2015
Mr Kevin McKinley	Canada	2015-2017
Dr Sergio Mujica	Chile	since 2017

ISO Presidents give a new impetus to the development of the organization, make an invaluable contribution to ISO activities by taking into account regional and national features of standardization, and contribute to the development of standardization in their country.

All sets of international ISO standards are discussed in the following chapters.

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