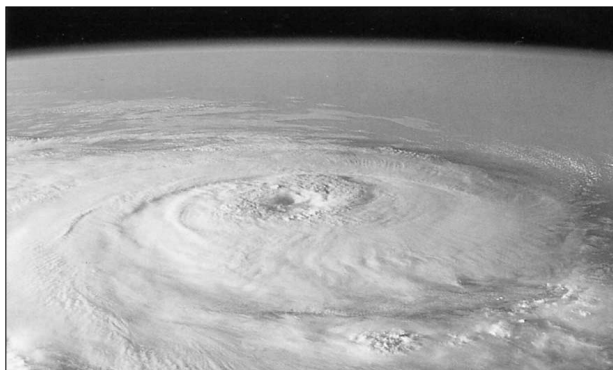
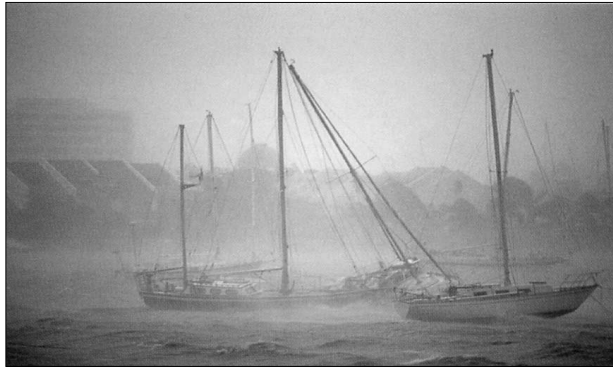


ISO Ad Hoc Group on Climate Change

The state of play

By Kevin Boehmer, Secretary ISO Ad Hoc Group on Climate Change

Climate change has implications for a number of earth's systems; natural, human and economic, and could lead to significant changes in resource use, production and economic activity. Recognizing the importance of climate change, and its potential positive contribution, ISO's Technical Management Board (TMB), in January 2000, established the Ad Hoc Group on Climate Change (AHGCC) (see ISO Bulletin, January 2001).



Primary activities of the ISO AHGCC's are to:

- ✓ *Establish and maintain an inventory of existing ISO standards relevant to climate change and describe their potential application or adaptation in priority areas,*
- ✓ *Consider the need for any new work items within the climate change field, and*
- ✓ *Coordinate and provide a focal point for ISO activities related to climate change.*

This article provides a brief update on ISO AHGCC activities and findings to-date.

APPLICATION OF EXISTING ISO STANDARDS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

No existing ISO standards were specifically developed to facilitate implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or its underlying legal or policy instruments (e.g. Kyoto Protocol). However, many existing ISO standards could be of interest to government or business in

developing policy, measures or activities related to climate change. In attempting to identify and inventory relevant existing ISO products, the AHGCC has compiled a preliminary database of standards by Technical Committee (TCs), Subcommittee (SCs) and Working Group (WGs) considered "potentially applicable" to climate change. The database includes reference to 17 TCs and 37 SCs/WGs whose work programmes and products might be used for climate

change-related applications. In the near future, the AHGCC plans to communicate directly with relevant TCs to i) share AHGCC information and recommendations on potential market needs, and ii) learn product and work programme specifics.

The AHGCC has identified two priority areas where the use or adaptation of existing ISO products may be useful in the near term:

Conformity Assessment Systems for the Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions or Removals

- Accreditation and conformity assessment systems are being designed and implemented to support both international (e.g. Clean Development Mechanism) and domestic (e.g. emissions trading) climate change initiatives.
- The AHGCC has promoted the use of ISO/IEC Guides in the development of conformity assessment systems for the third party verification of greenhouse gas emissions or removals.

Application of the ISO 14000 Series of Environmental Management Standards to Organizational-Level GHG Management

- The ISO 14000 series of environmental management standards provides a recognized framework and tools for organizations to manage, monitor and improve environmental performance.
- The AHGCC has identified the potential need for specific and practical guidance on the application of existing ISO 14000 series standards to organizational-level climate change management programmes.

CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL NEW WORK ITEMS

The potential range of new ISO standards related to climate change is very broad. Through AHGCC discussions and liaison with key stakeholders, the AHGCC has identified four priority areas where standardization of emerging approaches may be useful:

- Methodological guidance for establishing greenhouse gas project baselines,

- Greenhouse gas project monitoring, reporting and verification protocols or plans,
- Measurement, reporting and verification standards for greenhouse gas emissions, and



- Measurement, reporting and verification standards for greenhouse gas removals.

ISO's potential role in developing standardized approaches to greenhouse gas baseline, monitoring, measurement and verification at the corporate, facility and, perhaps, project levels continues to be evaluated by the AHGCC in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders.

FOCAL POINT FOR ISO ACTIVITIES

The AHGCC has made significant progress in analyzing, from a technical perspective, the potential application of existing or new ISO standards to climate change. In addition, it has established a focal point for promoting ISO's products and capabilities – both internally and externally. The continued engagement of ISO, through the AHGCC, in the evolving climate change arena promotes coordination and continuity with key stakeholders and positions ISO to proactively respond to market demands.

While international climate change negotiations continue, governments and business are investigating, designing and, in some cases, implementing climate change "solutions" that promote environmental integrity, investor confidence and transparency. ISO standards support such goals and represent a known commodity to government and business, many of whom are presently using ISO standards in an effort to add credibility and certainty to climate change institutions, programmes and investments. These same users have engaged and encouraged ISO to continue to proactively assess further contributions. □

