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ISO for IIC

It's official! The International Standards Organization Technical Committee 349 has been launched, and it matters for cultural heritage conservation. The Standardization Administration of China (SAC) will serve as its secretariat, overseeing efforts to standardize terminology, technologies, materials, and equipment for monitoring, evaluating, preserving, and restoring cultural heritage. The first working meeting is set for September 25 in Beijing.

Each country will handle participation differently, but if yours is a 'P' (Participating) member, someone in your national standards body has supported this initiative. The specific impact of these standards will depend on national and regional arrangements, but the key takeaway is that international conservation standards are moving forward, and you have a chance to shape them.

IIC has a 'Category A Liaison,' status meaning we can provide comments but cannot vote. However, well-crafted comments that follow the required format are taken seriously, so we have a powerful voice in the process.

The new ISO committee has a strategic business plan outlining a broad scope of potential working groups. We don't yet know which standards will be developed first, but these will be put forwards as New Work Items (NWI) on or soon after September 2025. Early priorities will likely focus on process terminology and core concepts, but the ISO has ambitious plans to address conservation challenges across different materials, practices, and contexts including seismic activity.

The best way to stay informed? Keep an eye on their website to see what's coming up!

<https://www.iso.org/committee/10235551.html>

If your country is a Participating (P) member, we encourage you to contact your national standards body to find out who has been handling correspondence on this topic. This is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and contribute to conservation efforts. Ideally, your approach should be coordinated through a national professional conservation body, a government agency, an academic institutions or private company. Every country's process is different, but if you don't ask, you won't find out!

If your country is an AP member, someone will be able to represent it at the September meeting—whether in person or online. We're eager to ensure a strong voice for conservators and IIC members at the event.

Standards work can be tricky, with many formalities, but the impact is significant, boosting global recognition for conservation practices, fostering international collaboration, and improving the care of cultural heritage.

IIC aims to contribute consistently to this work in the coming years, and we need you! I'll be leading this initiative, and if you inform the office of your interest, a panel of experts will be convened to participate. Once the first standards are selected for development, we'll share further announcements to help identify relevant specialists. Those of us in IIC with experience in standards work will support you in navigating the process to ensure our contributions are both valuable and effective

Jane Henderson 08 May 2025

Editor there is a map on this page that might make a good visual

<https://www.iso.org/committee/10235551.html>

This is the P countries if the map doesn't work can we make them into a nice visual? I did my best below

Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Finland
France Germany Greece Italy Jordan Kenya Lebanon Mongolia Morocco Nepal New
Zealand Norway Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sweden, United
Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe



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