

A BACKGROUND TO THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF
NEW ZEALAND (SANZ)

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AIM

The aim of this paper is to give a brief outline of what SANZ is, how it developed, what it does and, in particular, highlight its involvement with safety.

BACKGROUND

SANZ is our national standards organisation and linked through the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC) to all the national bodies of member countries. The milestones in the history of SANZ are identified in Appendix A - Standards History. It is significant that the Napier earthquake of 1931 speeded the creation of the then New Zealand Standards Institution as a means of promoting safer buildings. Safety was, and has remained, a driving force in our Standards organisation.

THE STANDARDS ACT

SANZ now exists under the Standards Act 1965. This Act lays down the composition and responsibilities of our governing body - the Standards Council. It also specifies the mode of operation and procedures to be followed in developing standards and emphasises the need for consensus. The Act states that the role of SANZ "shall be to promote standardization in industry and to promulgate standards with the object of improving the quality of goods produced in New Zealand, whether for consumption in New Zealand or for export, promoting industrial efficiency and development and promoting public and industrial welfare, health and safety"

ORGANIZATION

The organization of SANZ is shown diagrammatically at Appendix B. The Standards Council meets annually to review the past year's activity and agree to the plans and major policy matters for the coming year. The Executive Committee, an elected subset of the Council, meets four to five times every year to supervise the implementation of the plan and provide detailed policy guidance. Technical policy and expertise is provided by the array of Divisional, Sectional, Advisory and Project Committees, and Advisory Groups indicated in the diagram.

CONSENSUS

"Consensus" is a principle under which SANZ operates so it is perhaps important to understand what this means. The preferred definition is

"the achievement of a substantial agreement by concerned interest. It implies much more than the concept of simple majority but not necessarily unanimity."

To achieve consensus SANZ proceeds with a Standards writing project as follows:

-The initial request for a Standard may come from any quarter but ideally would come from a national body, association or Government department indicating a ground swell of supplier, user or professional opinion in favour of a Standard

-Subject to adequate funding (another measure of the interest felt by the concerned parties) and the approval of the Executive Committee of the Standards Council, SANZ will be authorized to proceed.

-A Project Committee will then be formed of representatives of the various interests involved. These representatives will normally be the nominations of national manufacturing, trade and user groups, Regulatory bodies, Local Government and technical experts. A typical project committee would consist of about 10 such representatives and would be serviced by a SANZ Project Manager and a Committee Secretary. The Project Committee is responsible for drafting the Standards after debating the various requirements. This is the first level of consensus.

-The draft Standard is then issued for public comment and any group or individual is permitted to submit comments or request amendment. The Project Committee considers these comments and suggestions and, where possible or desirable, modifies the draft. This is the second level of consensus and is extremely important. On occasions comments received have led to a complete rewrite of a draft and they often reveal important defects or omissions.

-After the public comments have been considered the revised draft must be cleared by the appropriate Divisional or Sectional Committee. (These committees form the layer of technical supervision of SANZ activities) and finally the Minister of any Government Department affected by the proposed Standard. This Ministerial clearance is principally to confirm that the proposed Standard does not conflict with current or proposed Legislation. This is the third level of consensus after which the Standard may be declared by the Executive Committee and published.

Subsequent amendments or revisions to the Standard must follow the same procedure so the integrity of the Standard as a consensus document is maintained for its entire life.

STATUS OF STANDARDS

Standards, once written and published, still have no legal status. They are not in themselves regulatory pronouncements. However, they are documents that relate to the New Zealand environment and agreed to by the major interests concerned so that Standards perhaps carry some moral obligation for compliance. Never-the-less they are only enforceable if cited in Government Acts or Regulations, Local Government By-Laws or contracts. Standards may be seen as documents written and owned by the people of New Zealand for their use with SANZ acting as coordinators and custodians.

As a civilized country we live within a framework of law. In New Zealand the law is created by Acts of Parliament which may be supported by Statutory Regulations. These may cite New Zealand Standards as "means of compliance." If those Standards are themselves arrived at by the consensus of the interested parties, it would seem that the democratic system has been well served and in depth.

USE OF OVERSEAS STANDARDS

The origins of our National institutions are largely rooted in Great Britain although the New Zealand "child" has now come of age and is fully independent in both law and spirit. However the origins of those institutions are likely to be visible for many years to come.

Similarly, SANZ was created in the image of the British organization and at one time British Standards were used almost exclusively. That is not true today although British Standards continue to form a large sector of our total array of Standards and there are still strong links with the British Standards Institution.

Following the 1939-45 War the move towards international co-operation was strong and ISO and IEC gained increased momentum. New Zealand is an active member of these bodies and is making increasing use of international Standards. In addition our link with other National Standards organizations has been reinforced due to mutual commitment to ISO and IEC. Consequently non-British Standards are increasingly being adopted for use in New Zealand. CER has boosted the economic ties between Australia and New Zealand which, in turn, will require harmonization of our respective national Standards so they do not create a barrier to trade. This requirement is to be formally recognized by a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the two Standards organizations.

WHAT AND FOR WHAT ARE STANDARDS

Standards cover a wide spectrum of material, products and methods in the mechanical, electrical, building, civil engineering and general areas. The SANZ catalogue has over 2500 Standards listed covering topics as diverse as specifications for screw threads, safe design of LPG filling stations, school writing paper, electric fence energizers, water repellent solutions for wood and safety of toys.

The world famous Dr W.E. Deming describes the use of Standards as "the liberator that relegates the problems that have already been solved to the field of routine, and leaves the creative faculties free for the problems that are still unsolved." We often use the expression "why reinvent the wheel." Standards help to avoid it.

Dr Deming's concept certainly applies in the area of safety standards. When the cause or potential cause of accidents or ill health are identified, it is important that methods or designs are developed to minimise the risks and, once established, they should be formally recorded for other users to utilise.

SANZ, with the support of the Accident Compensation Corporation and the Ministry of Transport has been active in providing safety standards ,(there are 75 Standards listed in the Safety and Hygiene section of the SANZ Catalogue) particularly in relation to road users, industry and for the protection of children.

The logging industry is no exception and the following list are just some of the Standards that may help protect you:

- NZS 5819 Chain saw safety
 - Pt 1:1982 COP for safe use
 - Pt 2:1982 Specification for safe design
- NZS 5812:1982 Industrial protective gloves
- NZS 5806:1980 Industrial safety helmets
- NZS 5809:1980 Safety footwear
- NZS 8777:1973 Industrial overalls
- NZS 5816:1983 Eye protectors for industrial applications
- NZS 5818:1982 Hand signals for direction of cranes and other lifting devices

CONCLUSION

Standards form an important part of our national base of information. In the safety area they contain the wisdom and advice of people experienced in their field and knowledgeable of the needs of New Zealanders. This information is held by SANZ for everyone's use. Where safety Standards exist it must surely be sensible to use them. Where they do not it would be prudent to arrange to get them written.

Standards history

Background

In 1920 a committee to review and comment on draft British Standards was set up in New Zealand by the British Engineering Standards Association (forerunner of the British Standards Institution). On 3 February 1931 the Napier earthquake prompted the government to set up a Building Regulations Committee, which, in June of that year recommended that a national uniform building code should be prepared and applied.

1932:

As a result of a visit by the director of the British Standards Institution (BSI), Mr Charles le Maistre, a standards organization was set up in New Zealand with the support of the New Zealand Society of Civil Engineers. This organization was known as the New Zealand Standards Institution.

July 7: The Council of the organization met for the first time.

1933:

First New Zealand Standard issued — a British Standard adopted as NZSS 1 (BSS 467:1932) *The colouring and marking of foundry patterns*.

1934:

Government asked the New Zealand Standards Institution to draft a Model Building Bylaw based on and completing the basic code prepared by the Building Regulations Committee. This committee had been set up by Government immediately after the Napier earthquake in 1931 to investigate a code for earthquake-resisting construction.

1935:

The first Standard Model Building Bylaw published (NZSS 95).

1936:

Dissolution of the New Zealand Standards Institution and establishment of the New Zealand Standards Institute (NZSI) as an independent body within the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

1938:

First original New Zealand Standard published — NZSS 143 — *Galvanised (zinc coated) steel fencing wire*.

1939:

— April — New Zealand Standards Institute transferred to the Department of Industries and Commerce. Standards Council responsible to Permanent Head of the Department.

— First revision and extension of the Model Building Bylaw (NZSS 95) published.

1941:

War Emergency Council set up to take over the work of the regular Standards Council — to prepare War Emergency Standards

— Standards Act 1941 passed, the first legislation in the world to give statutory authorization and status to standard specifications

1942:

First Standards Mark registered

1944:

July — First Standards Mark Licence issued — to Farmers Trading Company Limited for school paper stationery

— New Zealand became a member of the United Nations Standards Co-ordinating Committee (forerunner of the International Organization for Standardization)

1945:

War Emergency Council disbanded; Standards Council resumed its normal functions

1947:

New Zealand became a foundation member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

1950:

Standards Amendment Act 1950 passed — Definition of "specification" extended to include model bylaws; making of bylaws by adoption of standard specifications permitted; offences and penalties extended to include unauthorized comparison with standards for purposes of gain or profit.

1955:

— First issue of quarterly *New Zealand Standards Bulletin* published by New Zealand Standards Institute

1958:

— New Zealand Standards Institute marked 25 years of standardization in New Zealand — publication of Silver Jubilee issue of *New Zealand Standards Bulletin* — director of New Zealand Standards Institute, and executive officer of the Standards Council, Mr L J McDonald, retired, after 23 years

1959:

— new director appointed — Mr R T Wright

— August — review of the New Zealand Standards Institute structure led to changes within the organization

1961:

Electrical Wiring Regulations 1961 passed — specifying that all electrical apparatus and material used in an electrical installation must comply with the appropriate New Zealand Standard Specification

— New Zealand Standards Institute moves from Hamilton Chambers, Lambton Quay, to new Bowen State Building, Wellington

— establishment of New Zealand Standards Institute committees in centres other than Wellington

— June — New Zealand elected as member of ISO Council

1962:

— visit of BSI director, Mr H A R Binney

— July — NZSI Chairman Mr J I King attends ISO Council meeting in Geneva

1963:


— Revised parts of the Model Building Bylaw rearranged and re-issued as NZSS 1900

1965:

Review of New Zealand Standards Institute's work and need for greater involvement of the private sector led to proposal 'that the New Zealand Standards Institute should become an independent organization comprising representatives of consumers, industry, local bodies and the Government, all contributing to its costs in proportions to be determined'

— October 22 — Standards Act 1965 passed

1966:

- March 31 — NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS INSTITUTE ceased to exist
- April 1 — a new independent organization established — the Standards Association of New Zealand (SANZ) which was responsible directly to a larger and more representative Standards Council.
- October — The new organization was established in temporary premises — Hooson's Building, Courtenay Place, Wellington
- new Standards Association logo adopted 
- new director Mr G H Edwards appointed

1967:

- Simplified process introduced for endorsing overseas standards as suitable for use in New Zealand
- New Zealand Standards *Index* restored to annual issue
- May — First meeting of SANZ Metric Advisory Committee, set up to:

1968:

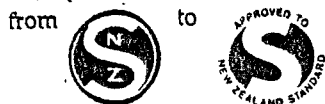
SANZ moved to new premises in the New Zealand Display Centre Building, 15-23 Sturdee Street, Wellington. The building was later named the World Trade Center and is now the Wellington Trade Centre.

1969:

- February — Government decided that New Zealand should move to the metric system of weights and measures over a period of 5 to 10 years
- simultaneous release of SANZ Metric Advisory Committee report
- October, Metric Advisory Board set up to encourage, assist and advise on progressive voluntary adoption of the metric system in New Zealand
- November — first visit to New Zealand of Mr Olle Sturen, Secretary-General of ISO

1971:

- June — First New Zealand Standard published in metric terms — NZS 6501 P:1971 *The International System (SI) units and their application*
- July — Standard Certification Mark revised



1972:

- January — First licences issued under new Standard Certification Mark scheme
- Change in committee structure and reorganization of SANZ staffing

1973:

Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) set up, enabling countries situated on the Pacific rim to have regular consultations on matters of mutual interest.

1975:

- September — NAFTA Conference in Christchurch — Mr G H Edwards, Director of SANZ and Mr J R Paton, Technical Director of the Standards Association of Australia (SAA), presented joint paper to some 60 manufacturers from both sides of the Tasman. One result of this Conference was that a working group was set up by SANZ and SAA to make recommendations on how to improve and expedite the alignment of manufacturing standards between Australia and New Zealand

1976:

- Director Mr G H Edwards retired and new director appointed, Mr D R M Pinfold
- April — visit to New Zealand of SAA Director, Mr Ian Stewart

1977:

- March 29/April 2 — second visit to New Zealand of ISO Secretary-General, Mr O Sturen
- November 13-16 — Visit of BSI Commercial and Management Director, Mr J G Gaddes, Director of BSI's Hemel Hempstead Centre — BSI Test House, Inspectorate and Quality Assurance Division

1978:

- Export Year — June 28 — SANZ Technical Help to Exporters (T-H-E) service launched by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon R D Muldoon
- September 1 — first meeting of New Zealand Electrotechnical Committee (NZEC)

1979:

- May 21/June 2 — New Zealand Electrotechnical Committee represented at IEC's 44th General Meeting in Sydney at which New Zealand was admitted to full membership of the IEC
- Visit of IEC President, Professor N Takagi and General Secretary C J Stanford, to New Zealand
- Quarterly publication *New Zealand Standards Bulletin* merged with members' *Newsletter* to form new monthly magazine *Standards*
- December 21 — New Zealand Metric Advisory Board disbanded on completion of its task.

1980:

- February — Standards Associations of Australia and New Zealand met in Christchurch to increase trans-Tasman co-operation and plan for joint Australian/New Zealand Standards
- April — *New Zealand Buyers' Guide* first published as a separate publication
- May — At the invitation of the China Association for Standardization, Standards Council Chairman and SANZ Development Manager visited China to establish contacts and gather information on standardization in China
- June — New Zealand formally accepted Secretariat of IEC Subcommittee 61 H covering electrical farm appliances
- November — *Exporting to China*, guide to technical requirements and authorities in China, published

1981:

- Government Purchasing Sectional Committee disbanded.
- Government departments instructed to give preference in purchasing to goods made to New Zealand Standards.
- September — first meeting of IEC subcommittee for Safety of Electrically-Operated Farm Appliances, in Dublin
- November 26 — First SANZ Divisional Committee — for Building and Civil Engineering — set up and inaugural meeting held

1982:

- Golden Jubilee year — fifty years of national standards development in New Zealand
- February 3 — Jubilee year launched with seminar addressed by Dr E H Hitchcock on 'The Role of the Model Building Bylaw in the Regulatory Process' and luncheon with Standards Council and guests.
- March 30 and April 27 — 'Strategy from the Chair' workshops for committee chairmen organized by Victoria University of Wellington
- April 28 and 29 — Golden Jubilee Conference 'Standards Serving New Zealand' in Wellington
- April 29 Jubilee Dinner, Executive Wing of Parliament. Guest Speaker: His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir David Beattie

OUTLINE ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

