



eration for emergency management – Requirements

- ISO 22322, *Public warning*<sup>1)</sup>
- ISO 22397, *Private and public partnerships*<sup>1)</sup>
- ISO 22398, *Guidelines for exercises and testing*<sup>1)</sup>
- ISO 22399, *Guideline for incident preparedness and operational continuity management.*

Two of these work items are described in detail below.

## Future management system for preparedness and continuity

As business has become increasingly lean, controlled and organized, a growing need to manage continuity of operations effectively has been identified. But as the risks that may result from interruptions are so varied as to be unforeseeable, the problem must be approached in a structured fashion.

The first deliverable of the committee ISO/PAS 22399 was published in November 2007, describing a guideline for incident preparedness and operational continuity management. ISO/TC 223 has decided to take the next step within the field and is now fully engaged in the development of a Management System Standard which will be called ISO 22301, *Societal security – Preparedness and continuity Management Systems – Requirements.*

This management system standard will provide a tool to allow organizations to consider their preparations for responding to operational disruptions in an emergency situation. It will enable them to manage and survive the incident and take appropriate action to help ensure the organization's continued viability. The requirements in the standard are generic and intended to be applicable to all organizations (or parts thereof), regardless of type, size and nature of the organization.

The scope of ISO 22301 is almost identical to the British Standard BS

<sup>1)</sup> Preliminary work items.

## Enhancing societal resilience

by Dr. Stefan Tangen, Secretary of ISO/TC 223, Societal security

The sinking of the Russian submarine Kursk to the bottom of the Barents Sea in 2000 can be cited as a major impetus for the formation of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 223. The international salvage operation that followed the accident provided painful evidence that the international community lacked the tools necessary to cooperate effectively in emergency situations, resulting in an initiative from the Russian standards organization, GOST, to establish ISO/TC 223. Originally titled *Civil defense*, the committee was created to standardize international emergency procedures.

The initiative lay dormant for some time. However, terrorist actions, including the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, as well as a surge in natural disasters in recent years, led ISO to conduct a large-scale assessment of

the role of standardization in the security field. One important decision was to put ISO/TC 223 into action.

In 2005 the chairmanship of the committee was taken over by the Swedish Standards Institute (SIS). To better reflect its ambition of taking a broader approach toward disruptive incidents that threaten civil society, ISO/TC 223 was renamed *Societal security*. The scope of the committee is very broad, covering all phases of man-made or naturally caused disaster situations.

Since its first meeting in Stockholm in May 2006 the membership of ISO/TC 223 has grown steadily and today consists of 37 participating (P) members, 18 observer (O) members and several liaisons. A series of ISO standards is being developed that will enhance societal resilience from various perspectives:

- ISO 22300, *Vocabulary*
- ISO 22301, *Preparedness and continuity management systems – Requirements*
- ISO 22311, *Video surveillance for interoperability*
- ISO 22320, *Command and control, information, coordination and coop-*

## Main Focus

25999-2:2007, *Specification for Business Continuity Management*. However, its content is based on all existing national standards on the subject. The approach of taking the “best of the best” of existing standards was very successful in the development of ISO/PAS 22399, and the committee is convinced that this approach will lead once again to a high quality standard.

### “A growing need to manage continuity of operations effectively has been identified.”

During recent years we have seen the development of a number of national standards indicating a clear market need for ISO 22301. However, this provides a new problem for global corporations in that it is costly and cumbersome to provide proof of compliance with multiple national standards. The variety of initiatives in the field has also caused a great deal of uncertainty.

An ISO standard will bring an end to the confusion and it is expected that ISO 22301 will be adopted as a national standard in numerous countries. Further, ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 have been reviewed in the work to ensure compatibility with oth-

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er management systems while simplifying the implementation of the standard. The publication of ISO 22301 is expected in 2011.

### Future standard for emergency management

The main objective of emergency management is to save lives, reduce impact on society’s vital functions and limit adverse effects. To achieve this, emergency organizations need to be able to interact and share information with one another. ISO 22320 will specify the fundamental requirements which provide the basis for effective minimum command and control within an emergency response organization. These include command and control structures and procedures, decision support, traceability, information management, and interoperability for an emergency situation.

ISO 22320 also establishes requirements for emergency management operational information which includes processes, systems of work, data capture and management. The goal is to produce timely, relevant and accurate information supporting the command and control of the organization as well as coordination and cooperation with other involved parties. Publication is scheduled for 2011.

### New areas

Ambassador Krister Kumlin, senior adviser to the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, has chaired the committee since its first meeting, while the Swedish Standards Institute is responsible for the secretariat. The 7th plenary meeting was held in Paris in late May this year with about 100 participants. Several new topics were presented during the meeting including “Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief

and Initial Recovery Assistance” from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and PAS 55, *Asset Management* from the British Standards Institution (BSI).

The committee also discussed which technological capabilities are necessary within the field and how product standards can support the management standards that are currently under development. This may very well lead the committee to expand its work programme with interesting new work items.

Efficient management of crises typically results from having relevant tools in place that function in normal day-to-day activities and that provide added value in preventing, managing, and recovering from a disruptive incident. International Standards play a critical role in ensuring security and have the potential to enhance the resilience of society and its constituent elements.

### Scope of ISO/TC 223

International standardization in the area of societal security aimed at increasing crisis and continuity management and capabilities through technical, human, organization, operational, and management approaches; operational functionality and interoperability; and awareness amongst all interested parties and stakeholders.

ISO/TC 223 will work toward international standardization that provides protection from and response to the risks of unintentionally, intentionally, and naturally caused crises and disasters that disrupt and have consequences on societal functions. The committee will use an all-hazards perspective covering the phases of emergency and crisis management before, during, and after a societal security incident. ■