

ISO standard on Greenhouse Gas accounting: the process of standards development

Update Report September 2003
ECOLOGIA

In July 2003 ECOLOGIA drafted its Year 1 Process Update on the development of ISO's greenhouse gas accounting standard. At that time, we felt that, overall, the process of the standard's development had been fair, transparent and well-managed, particularly in comparison to NGOs' past experience with ISO decision-making. While we still admire the hard work, good will and significant skill that WG5 members and leaders have brought to their work, we have grown concerned that the pace of work and procedural decisions since July may threaten the integrity of the WG5 decision-making process, and by extension, its product. In particular:

- ✧ Changes to the work timeline were proposed in a closed leadership meeting at the end of August, and finalized without a) sufficient time for meaningful feedback from WG5 members or b) explanation of why the changes were proposed. The new WG5 Timeline (see below) speeds the development of the project part of the standard.
- ✧ Editing activities delegated to sub-groups took place without clear articulation of procedures and timelines, leaving sub-group members little opportunity for input.

ECOLOGIA submitted an [open letter](#) to the Secretary of the Working Group raising our concerns about these procedural issues and proposing actions to resolve them. We will continue to track and evaluate WG5's process and post updates here.

New (Sept. 2003) Timeline for WG5 Work on GHG Accounting:

Sept. 2003	Release of a Working Draft of Part 2 (project quantification) for comment from WG5 experts
Oct. 2003	Publication of a Committee Draft ¹ for Parts 1 and 3, on which TC 207 member bodies not in WG5 will make their first formal country comments. The Committee Draft requires either consensus within the TC or 2/3 approval in a full committee vote in order to become a Draft International Standard.
Oct. 2003	Meeting of experts in Vienna (changed from Geneva) to discuss the

¹ An explanation of the stages of the ISO standards development process can be found in the "[Guide to NGO Participation in ISO TC 207](#)" available from [ECOLOGIA Website](#).

(changed from Dec.)	working draft of Part 2.
Mar. 2004	Next meeting of WG5 (in the UK), for discussion and incorporation of country comments on the Committee Draft.
June 2004	Approval of a Draft International Standard , which requires 2/3 approval in a full vote by all ISO member bodies (even those not represented in TC 207).
March 2005	Approval of a Final Draft International Standard , which again requires 2/3 approval in a full vote by all ISO member bodies.