

Overview of standardization and mandatory technical regulation systems of Azerbaijan (gas and electricity)

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Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

Abbreviations

AZ	Azerbaijan
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EASC	Eurasian Council for standardization, metrology and certification
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EOTS	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
EU	European Union
IDT	Identical
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
ITC	Interstate Technical Committee for standardization
MOD	Modified
NEQ	Not equivalent
NSB	National Standardization Body
TC	Technical Committee for standardization

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

CONTENTS

Abbreviations..... 2

I. Mandatory technical regulation 4

1. Regulatory framework 4

2. Participation in the mandatory technical regulation activity 4

II. Standardization 5

3. Regulatory framework (documents in the area of standardization)..... 5

 3.1. Legislative base 5

 3.2. Types of documents used in the standardization system 5

 3.3. Fundamentals of the standardization system 6

 3.4. Implementation of international, regional and foreign standards as national standards 7

 3.5. The order of development and adoption of standardization documents..... 9

4. Participants of the standardization activity 10

 4.1. Main participants of standardization activities 10

 4.2. List of the existing technical committees for standardization..... 11

 4.3. Membership in international and regional organisations for standardization 11

 4.4. Participation in the activities of international and regional technical committees for standardization..... 12

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

I. Mandatory technical regulation

Azerbaijan currently has a system of mandatory technical regulations similar to the system of technical regulations of the former USSR, where the mandatory technical requirements were set forth in the State standards and other regulations of the State executive power.¹

Thus, the system of laws and other legal acts in the field of standardization and conformity assessment (certification) serves as a legal basis for the mandatory technical regulations.

In addition to national standards, State authorities, in their field of competence, have the right to publish mandatory technical standards.

However, by now, Azerbaijan has prepared draft legislation on technical regulations and conformity assessment that has already been approved by the Parliament and is expected to be finally adopted in the first quarter of 2013.

After the adoption of the laws on technical regulations and conformity assessment it is planned to adopt a new law on standardization as well as a new set of system-wide standards of the State Standardization System.

1. Regulatory framework

n/a

2. Participation in the mandatory technical regulation activity

n/a

¹ In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan "National standards of the Azerbaijan Republic contain mandatory and advisory requirements", where "The mandatory requirements of national standards must be observed by all executive bodies and economic entities, which are covered by the relevant standards".

Overview of technical normalisation and standardization systems of the Partner Countries

II. Standardization

3. Regulatory framework (documents in the area of standardization)

3.1. Legislative base

Key national legislation acts in the field of standardization:

a) Laws

- On Standardization, № 60-ИГ -H dated 16.04.1996.

b) Presidential Decrees

- The recognition and application of international (regional) and interstate standards in the Republic of Azerbaijan, № 26 dated 22.11.1998
- Statue on the State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents of the Republic of Azerbaijan – № 155 dated 31.08.2009

c) Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers

- On the phased application of product certification (works, services), № 343 dated 01.07.1993

3.2. Types of documents used in the standardization system

Normative documents on standardization applicable in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan include:

- National standards;
- Standards of industries;
- International (regional) and interstate standards, rules, regulations and guidelines applied in the established procedure;
- Technical specifications;

Overview of technical normalisation and standardization systems of the Partner Countries

- Enterprise standards;
- Standards of scientific–technical and engineering societies, other public associations.

Fundamental documents of standardization system:

- AZS 1.0-96 Basic provisions.
- AZS 1.2-96 Procedure for national standards development.
- AZS 1.3-96 Procedure for technical specifications development, endorsement, approval, and registration.
- AZS 1.4-96 Enterprise standards. General provisions.
- AZS 1.5-96 General requirements for the structure, presentation, and content of the standards.
- AZS 1.6-96 Procedure for industry standards development, endorsement, approval, and registration.

3.3. Fundamentals of the standardization system

Legal status of standardization documents

National standards of the Azerbaijan Republic contain mandatory and advisory requirements.

Mandatory are the requirements as follows:

- On safety of products (works, services) for life, health, property and the environment;
- On technical, technological and information compatibility and interchangeability of products (works, services);
- To basic consumer characteristics of goods (works, services), and the methods of their control,
- Rules of packaging, labelling, transportation, storage and disposal of products;
- On occupational safety and industrial health of products (works, services);

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

- On preparation of technical documentation of products (works, services),
- On sound management of all types of resources in production, use, performance of works and rendering of services;

The mandatory requirements of national standards must be observed by all executive bodies and economic entities, which are subject to the relevant standards.

Copyright on the documents in the field of standardization

- In Azerbaijan, the standards are not subject to copyright.

3.4. Implementation of international, regional and foreign standards as national standards

1	ISO - International Organisation for Standardization	yes (full member)
2	IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission	no
3	CEN - European Committee for Standardization	yes (affiliate)
4	CENELEC - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization	no
5	EASC - Eurasian Interstate Council for standardization, metrology and certification	yes (full member)

Methods for adoption of international and regional standards as national standards (except interstate standards GOST)

Adoption of international, regional and foreign standards as national ones is regulated by the Presidential Decree № 26 from 22.11.1998 Procedure for recognition and application of international (regional) and interstate standards in the Republic of Azerbaijan that corresponds to ISO/IEC Guide 21:1981 (with amendments from 1983).

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

Methods of ISO/IEC Guide 21:1981 (with amendments from 1983)	
1. Endorsement	permitted
2. Cover-sheet method	permitted
3. Reprinting	permitted
4. Translation	permitted
5. Redrafting	permitted

Methods of incorporation of international, regional and foreign standards without their adoption as national standards:

- Reference method ² - not permitted
- Registration method ³ - not permitted

The order of application of interstate standards GOST

In accordance with GOST 1.2-2009 the interstate standard is used as a national standard in the countries whose national authorities have adopted this standard (acceded to) in line with with the procedure established by these national bodies.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Application of interstate standard is carried out directly, without re-registration in the national standard through the enactment of regulatory and administrative documents by the NSB⁴.

² Application of international, regional and international standards, which are referenced in legal documents (including the contracts between businesses)

³ Application of international, regional and interstate standards, which are registered by the authorised body in the prescribed manner

⁴ National Standardization Body - State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents.

Overview of technical normalisation and standardization systems of the Partner Countries

- In this case, the NSB sets the date of the standard's entry into force in Azerbaijan and in a timely manner cancels the contradictory national standard (s) (or its duplicate).
- Release of information on the interstate standard introduction for its use as a national state standard, its publication and distribution in the territory of Azerbaijan is made in the order established for national standards.

3.5. The order of development and adoption of standardization documents

- National standards are developed by technical committees for standardization, and in their absence by the temporary working groups of the State Committee on Standardization, Metrology, and Patents (in construction industry - under the Ministry for Emergency Situations);
- Industry standards and specifications are developed and approved by the state and economic administration bodies (in their area of competence);
- Enterprise standards are developed and approved by the enterprises themselves.
- Standards of scientific–technical and engineering societies and other associations are developed and approved by societies themselves.
- Process of national standards development includes:
 - Development of the draft standard within the technical committee for standardization. In the absence of the profile committee for standardization, the draft standard is developed by the temporary working group created by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents. Construction standards are developed by the Ministry for Emergency Situations;

Overview of technical normalisation and standardization systems of the Partner Countries

- Endorsement of the draft standard by the relevant state administration bodies;
- Expert examination and adoption of the final version of the draft standard by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents (in case of the construction standards - by the Ministry for Emergency Situations);
- Standard registration at the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents.

4. Participants of the standardization activity

4.1. Main participants of standardization activities

- a) State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents – authorized state body for standardization, metrology, accreditation, patents and quality control of products (works, services).
 - Development and adoption of regulatory documents on standardization;
 - Definition of rules for international standards and regional standards application;
 - Planning and organisation of work on standards development;
 - National standards expertise, approval and registration;
 - Organisation and management of technical committees for standardization;
 - Implementation of appropriate measures to control compliance with standards.
- b) Ministry on Emergency Situations – authorized state body for standardization in the construction industry.
 - Standardization in the construction industry;

Overview of technical normalisation and standardization systems of the Partner Countries

c) Institute of Standards.

- Development of system-wide standards,
- Organisation of technical committees for standardization and participation in their activity;

d) Technical Committees for standardization.

- Organisation, development, coordination, and preparation for the approval of national standards and other regulatory documents on standardization.

4.2. List of the existing technical committees for standardization

Gas sector – no TCs

Electric sector – no TCs

4.3. Membership in international and regional organisations for standardization

	Organisation for standardization	yes (status) / no
1	ISO - International Organisation for Standardization	yes (full member)
2	IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission	No
3	CEN - European Committee for Standardization	yes (affiliate)
4	CENELEC - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization	No
5	EASC - Eurasian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification	yes (full member)

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

4.4. Participation in the activities of international and regional technical committees for standardization

Abbreviations:

P – Participant

O – Observer

Gas sector:

	ISO Technical Committee		Representation of Azerbaijan	Status
1	ISO TC 28	Petroleum products and lubricants	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O
2	ISO TC 67	Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O

	EASC Technical Committee		Representation of Azerbaijan	Status
1	ITC 007	Pipe and steel tanks	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	P

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

2	ITC 052	Natural gas	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O
3	ITC 098	Household equipment operating on gas and liquid fuels	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	P
4	ITC 260	Chemical, petrochemical and gas processing equipment	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O
5	ITC 523	Technique and technology of oil and gas extraction and processing	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	P

Electrical sector:

	EASC Technical Committee		Representation of Azerbaijan	Status
1	ITC 036	Power transformers	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O

Overview of technical normalisation and standartization systems of the Partner Countries

2	ITC 111	Energy saving	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	P
3	ITC 208	Air-conditioning and ventilation	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	P
4	ITC 233	Measuring equipment for electrical and electromagnetic quantities	State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents	O