BSI’s relationship with the UK government

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Why does BSI engage with government?

Because standards can support public policy needs:

- Trade
- Better regulation/self-regulation/co-regulation
- Innovation
- Health and safety
- Promote responsibility from within business community
- Promote a new way of thinking/behaving

BSI Royal Charter and Memorandum of Understanding with government: one role of standards to support government policy
Standards supporting technical harmonization in Europe

Basics of the New Approach – co-regulation:
• Maintains a strict separation between legislation (mandatory) and standards (voluntary)
• Legislation contains essential requirements
• These requirements can be met by complying with specific standards (‘harmonized’) whose references are published in the Official Journal for that purpose, but other means of compliance are also permitted
ISO 14001: ‘better regulation’ example

- Government recognition of environmental management systems (EMS) (ISO 14001, BS 8555 and EMAS Regulation)
- UK Government policy is that participating organizations:
  - Should use a robust and credible EMS that is appropriate for improving their environmental and financial performance
  - Should be audited by an independent UKAS-accredited certifier
  - Should help improve environmental and financial performance through the supply chain
- Use of an EMS that demonstrates good management of legislative compliance can help achieve regulatory benefits such as reduced fees and charges, e.g. EA’s Operational Risk Appraisal (OPRA) Scheme
Delivering the Green Deal – PAS 2030

Green Deal (Department of Energy and Climate Change, DECC):

- Flagship programme to help consumers improve the energy efficiency of their properties
- A large pool of assessors and installers will be required to operate the Green Deal
- Consumer confidence in assessors and installers needs to be high
- BSI developed PAS 2030 with stakeholders to provide competence criteria for Green Deal installers
- Assessor and installers to be assessed by UKAS-accredited certification bodies
- Installers assessed to PAS 2030
- For installers, DECC commissioned PAS 2030 from BSI; for assessors DECC developed its own specification
What does BSI do to engage with government?

- Structured and planned AND reactive, ad hoc
- ‘Thought leadership’ position
- Bilateral meetings to manage issues and agree actions
- Horizontal actions regarding the use of standardization to support public policy
- Regulation 1025/2012 (successor to European Directive 98/34)
Engagement planning

The audience we need to reach is vast!

- Coordinated approach
- Targets: organizations, individuals
- Themes
- Capture issues and prioritize
- Avoid duplication
- Assist with planning
BSI relationship with UK Government

- Led via Department for Business, Innovation and Skills’ (BIS) Innovation Delivery Team
- “Taking Standardization Forward” committee: cross-department/agency interests in standardization
- Standards Policy and Strategy Committee (SPSC): BSI governance body with BIS representation
- “Alternatives to Regulation” forum of the Better Regulation Executive
- UK Innovation infrastructure: BIS focus on BSI, UKAS, metrology, patents/IP, NESTA, Design Council, Technology Strategy Board and Research Councils
Central government policies

• BIS – product directives, services sector, innovation (nanotechnology, regenerative medicine, fuel cells)
• DEFRA – carbon management
• DECC – energy, greenhouse gas verification
• UKTI – low carbon, supporting exports in growth economies
• Home Office – biometrics, internet safety
• MoD – procurement
• DoH – BCM and resilience
Innovation: a selection of standardization topics

- Energy (e.g. offshore wave/tidal)*
- Synthetic biology*
- Cell therapies*
- Assisted living*
- Smart cities
- Materials
- Electric vehicles
- Carbon
- Services and collaborative business relationships

*Collaboration with Technology Strategy Board
Tools for engagement

- In-department seminars
- Senior officials’ lunchtime forums
- Annual House of Lords event with UKAS
Publications

- Business continuity management and risk management
- The role of standards
- Innovation
- The role of standards
- Good for business
- The small business guide to standards
- Guidelines for Government representatives on the BSI Standards committees
- Enabling lighter touch regulation
- The role of standards
- Services
- The role of standards
- Faster, smarter, better
- Using standards to tackle the recession
- Improving the efficiency of public procurement
- The role of standards
- Introducing standards
- The standards solution for government
Exhibitions and conferences
BSI public consultation responses

• Building Regulations for England and Scotland
• Cabinet Office open standards consultation
• Review of regulation of cosmetic interventions
• Innovation strategy for Wales
• Environmental performance indicators
• Smart meters
Influencing at the European level

• Actively articulating BSI’s position to key stakeholders
• Offering policy advice and briefing to BIS, as it engages with counterparts across Europe
• Contributing to and supporting CEN and CENELEC’s positions
• Briefing UK MEPs
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