

STANDARDS ALERT

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Standards Development Opportunity: Rare Earth

China is proposing to lead new international standards work in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for rare earth ores, concentrates, metals, alloys, compounds, materials, including the reuse and recycling of waste rare earth products.

The proposal calls for the drafting of international standards on rare earth terms and definitions, designation systems, testing methods, and technical requirements concerning the composition of products, as well as packaging and transportation. It is noted that more and more countries are becoming aware of the importance of rare earth in their supply chain and the rare earth production pattern is diversifying globally. However, according to the proposal, the terminology and classification of rare earth-related products and testing methods have not yet been internationally defined, and it is time to establish a new rare earth ISO TC to develop international rare earth standards and help the world rare earth community use a “common language.”

U.S. products and industry sectors potentially impacted by this work include information and communications, medical, e-vehicles, portable electronics, small motors and lighting.

Commerce’s Office of Standards and Investment Policy (OSIP) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are teaming up to alert U.S. parties so they may have the chance to comment on this standards development work proposed for the ISO, particularly identifying any concerns now about duplication of existing standards, and later with respect to becoming involved in the standards development work when it begins.

ANSI welcomes comments on China’s proposal by **July 10**. Contact Steve Cornish at SCornish@ansi.org or Renee Hancher in OSIP at Renee.Hancher@trade.gov with any questions. ITA’s industry analysts are also important resources for companies interested in learning more about how this standards work may affect their products or services. Interested companies may also reach out to John Meakem in the Office of Materials Industries at John.Meakem@trade.gov.

Key excerpts from the Scope Statement of China’s proposal:

The proposer plans to develop a three-category standards system for the full life cycle of rare earths, the first category being basic standards for terms and definitions, packing marking, transportation and storage; the second addressing testing and analysis standards (chemicals, particle size, surface areas); and the third comprising rare earth product standards from concentrates to materials, including reuse and recycling.

In the proposal China indicates that more than 200 Chinese national rare earth standards have already been developed.

The full proposal can be found at:

http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=273f6079-74bc-4b12-bbfd-17eddf9eba50

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About STANDARDS ALERT

Standards Alert is a new service from OSIP in cooperation with ANSI, the private sector coordinator of the U.S. Standards system, to ensure ITA clients know about opportunities to participate in standards development.

To facilitate company participation, OSIP and ANSI are happy to provide information on how to get involved. For background, the following link provides an overview of the U.S. standardization system and how it relates to international standards development
http://www.ansi.org/standards_activities/overview/overview.aspx.

Have an idea for a future edition of STANDARDS ALERT? Contact Mike Boyles at 202-482-1935 (Michael.Boyles@trade.gov).



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