

Operators' position and key messages on standards



Introduction

Standardization is a top priority for the oil and gas industry to enable and enhance safety, reliability and integrity of operations globally. As economic conditions dramatically challenge the oil and gas industry, standardization also is a key business driver to tackle escalating project costs and schedule.

A key deliverable to standardization are standards. As operators, we need an aligned way forward to help set and steer the direction forward for the development of standards.

This paper addresses the way forward for oil and gas industry standards, i.e. standards developed for the industry by standards developing organizations (SDO) and other organizations, of which there are over 180 such as API, DNV GL, IEC, ISO, NACE and NORSOK. Starting with selected standards as the base, major operators typically codify their own learnings in their own suite of technical specifications and practices. Harmonization of these additional company requirements is being reviewed and addressed through JIP33.

As an independent, non-standards developing organization of global operators, IOGP can serve as a voice of the industry to influence international, global, regional and industry standards development and seek to agree to the preferred international standards.

Current status on the progress of standards development

With multiple standards developing organizations across the global oil and gas industry, there continues to be duplicating, competing and inconsistent standards development in some areas.

As operators, through IOGP, we agreed to maintain a system where organizations developing standards work together to develop “international standards used locally worldwide” for the oil and gas industry. International standards are standards that have been agreed by countries (through balloting process) and ISO/IEC are the bodies that develops these.

While there has been significant cooperation between standards developing organizations in the past years to progress international standards, the following challenges have recently arisen:

- API withdrew from the leadership of ISO standards development process in 2009.
- A number of companies withdrew from ISO standards development process due to EU/US sanction regulations in 2012.
- Concerns about intellectual property and copyrights have been raised.

To overcome these issues, the following has been put in place to progress the development of international standards:

- Leadership of ISO standards development process was picked up by The Netherlands.
- To address trade sanction concerns, IOGP put in place and continues to operate a *Standards Solution* to maintain development of upstream ISO standards. The Standards Solution develops the standard through a number of work groups and hands the standard back to ISO to get comments and agreement from each country (balloting process).
- To address IP and copyright concerns, and to improve efficiency by building on other SDOs good work, the normative reference approach by ISO Supplementary standards is used.

Where we want to be

Maintain a system where international, global, regional and industry standard developing organizations work together to develop “international standards used locally worldwide” for the global oil and gas industry and work within a legally compliant process to deliver:

- Standards that are globally accepted and widely used.
- Standards that replace/reduce the need for operating company specifications.
- Standards with the potential for more than one brand (e.g. through ISO/IEC partnership agreements).
- Standards to be accepted by regulators and adopted by national standards bodies around the world.
- A standards development process that builds on the existing standards infrastructure.
- A set of industry standards avoiding duplication and divergence.

Way forward

- 1) Progress the engineering leadership summit to ensure alignment on the way forward for oil and gas industry standards and oversee the progress of standards work.
- 2) Progress an aligned path forward for the development of oil and gas industry standards:
 - Continue to work to produce ISO and IEC standards and ISO Supplementary standards (using normative referencing) through the IOGP Standards Solution.
 - Stand up an IOGP Task Force to progress a list of *Operators' preferred standards*, which will improve efficiency and drive standardization across our sector. This is explained diagrammatically on the next page.
- 3) Continue liaison with API and ISO to avoid duplication of work, currently handled by quarterly program review meetings per year.
- 4) Work with the International Regulators Forum on standards for their use.
- 5) Maintain liaison with the European standards body (CEN) and other regional and industry bodies to deliver standards for the industry.

Organizations making standards (>180)



Operators align on one suite of Operators' preferred standards from the standards created by the various standards organizations



Align operators (through IOGP)

International standards

- **ISO standards** (at present about 110) will continue to be maintained as normal under the IOGP Standards Solution.
- **ISO/API cobranded standards** (80) initially based on an API standard gifted to ISO. API is currently de-cobranded many of these and will issue API only standards. To make these international standards, ISO will create (Supplementary) standards using the normative reference approach (referencing API), by using the IOGP Standards Solution to keep them aligned. This will provide basis for continued global use and adoption locally worldwide of these standards, including by CEN in Europe.
- **New ISO standards:**
 - a) Where we agree to internationalize existing standards (DNVGL, NACE, NORSOK etc.) – merge the standards into ISO standards through the IOGP standards solution.
 - b) Where operators want a new standard because a relevant standard doesn't exist.
- **IEC standards** will be maintained and new standards developed as normal with IOGP support.

Revision history

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