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## International standards in metallurgy

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The existence of incompatible standards in many technical fields represents a technical barrier to international cooperation between enterprises in different countries in the manufacture of high technology products. International organizations for standardization have therefore been established to coordinate work on developing international standards in the interest of promoting world trade and unifying important technical norms.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was set up in 1946 by 25 countries at a conference in London and its work began on the 23rd February 1947. According to the constitution of ISO its main task was the development and publication of international standards capable of facilitating international commerce and broadening collaboration in the fields of intellectual, scientific, technical economic activities.

Today, ISO is the most representative among international organizations concerned with standardization and quality control. More than 130 countries are members of ISO and these represent all the competitive capabilities in global market production; ISO has been assigned the status of a specialized agency of the United Nations.

More than 30000 engineers, scientists and administrators in 90 countries are involved in the development of international standards and more than 500 international organizations contribute to the work of the ISO technical committees.

International standards in the field of metallurgy develop technical committees TC 17 Steel, TC 18 Zinc and zinc alloys, TC 26 Copper and copper alloys, TC 119 Powder metallurgy, and others. Works on international standardization within the framework of ISO has not only allowed the scientific, technical and production experiences of the industrially developed countries to be used in the national activities of all countries but has also provided for the mutual exchange of information for achieving the scientific-technical levels of production that are necessary for eliminating trade barriers.