

News and media News 2010 **Equitable and transparent construction procurement with new ISO standard**

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Ensuring fair competition, reducing abuse and improving predictability in procurement outcomes is the goal of a new standard, **ISO 10845-1:2010, Construction procurement – Part 1: Processes, methods and procedures.**

Procurement is the process through which contracts are created, managed and fulfilled. It involves all the steps from the establishment of the project or products to be procured, to soliciting and evaluating tender offers, to awarding and administering contracts and confirming compliance with requirements.

ISO 10845-1 will help organizations establish a procurement system that is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective.

The standard describes processes for developing a procurement system, and outlines relevant methods and procedures. It provides a framework for developing a procurement policy. In addition, establishes guidelines for the conduct of employees, agents and board members engaged in procurement, as well as others with specific procurement responsibilities

Dr. Ron Watermeyer, project leader of ISO 10845-1, says, “The standard will be an invaluable tool for promoting international trade, in particular for countries who lack experience and instruments in this field. It will ensure honest and fair competition for everyone.

“The standard can help those engaged in procurement activities to better perform their duties. It will help promote uniform and generic procurement documents. Its internationally harmonized process can serve as a basis for developing a consistent curricula for procurement-education.

“Finally, governments too can rely on the standard to readily develop an internal procurement-skills base, which is not lost as members of staff move.”

ISO 10845-1 is the first part of a series covering the various aspects of procurement within the construction industry.

Other parts, currently under development, will target specific issues such as formatting and compilation of procurement documentation, conditions of tender, participation of targeted enterprises in contracts, participation of local enterprises and labour in contracts, and much more.

ISO 10845-1:2010, *Construction procurement – Part 1: Processes, methods and procedures*, was prepared by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 59, *Building construction*, and is available from ISO national member institutes (see the [complete list](#) with contact details). It may also be obtained directly from the ISO Central Secretariat, price 208 Swiss francs, through the [ISO Store](#) or by contacting the Marketing, Communication & Information department (see right-hand column).