

# STANDARDS ALERT

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## *Standards Development Opportunity: Circular Economy*

AFNOR, the national standards body of France, has proposed to lead new standardization work in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on the circular economy that will be focused on developing requirements, frameworks, guidance, and supporting tools. The circular economy aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible by extracting the maximum value from them while in use, and recycling materials at the end of their service cycle. This work would affect any organization or group of organizations wishing to implement circular economy projects, such as commercial organizations, public services, and not-for-profit organizations. The goal of this work is to support circular economy projects in a way that contributes to sustainable development.

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, particularly identifying any concerns now about duplication of existing standards or programs, or expressing support for the work, and later with respect to becoming involved in the standards development committee, if the proposal advances.

ANSI welcomes comments on France's proposal by **August 10**. Contact Steve Cornish at [SCornish@ansi.org](mailto:SCornish@ansi.org) to submit comments or Renee Hancher in ITA at [Renee.Hancher@trade.gov](mailto:Renee.Hancher@trade.gov) with any questions.

The full proposal can be found at:

[https://www.ansi.org/news\\_publications/news\\_story?menuid=7&articleid=8e8f2333-e798-443c-bdeb-fa66bbb20edc&source=whatsnew070218](https://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story?menuid=7&articleid=8e8f2333-e798-443c-bdeb-fa66bbb20edc&source=whatsnew070218)

France is proposing that this work advance as a management system standard which will give guidance on implementation and management of circular economy projects. This standard is intended to assist an organization in achieving the expected results of its circular economy project, which adds value to the organization itself and to interested parties. The aims of a circular economy project are to reduce environmental, economic, and social concerns which affect all countries.

Deliverables from this effort would include 1) a management system standard for the circular economy; 2) implementation guidance; 3) supporting tools; 4) guidelines on the different issues of the circular economy.

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### **About STANDARDS ALERT**

Standards Alert is a service from ITA 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.

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](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](mailto:Michael.Boyles@trade.gov)).



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