



International Electrotechnical Commission
Commission Electrotechnique Internationale
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and
Testing (UNMZ)
Biskupský dvůr 5
CZ-110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

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Standards made available free of charge

Dear [REDACTED]

I was advised by ISO about the judgment of the Metropolitan Court in Prague of 7 September 2015 regarding the free distribution of standards in the construction sector by UNMZ. My understanding is that this judgment requires all standards referenced in the Czech "Building Act" (law no. 183/2006) to be made available for free within 30 days from the date of the judgment. I understand that as a consequence, UNMZ has made some home-grown Czech standards available free of cost.

I am concerned that the implementation of this judgment could lead to the non-compliance of the IEC National Committee and UNMZ with the conditions of IEC membership if IEC publications or national adoptions were to be made available free of cost. I should like to remind you that in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, 2.13, all drafts and publications of IEC are copyright IEC which is also responsible for the administration of the copyright. Furthermore, in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, clause 21, "The National Committees shall endeavour to prevent unauthorized reproduction or distribution, in their own countries, of any of the Commission's publications." This includes any national adoptions of IEC publications.

Distribution of IEC draft document and publications is subject to strict conditions and in particular, making IEC publications available free of charge would infringe those conditions.

As this would constitute a serious breach of the IEC's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, this might have serious consequences on the membership of the IEC National Committee of the Czech Republic, which is hosted by UNMZ, in IEC.

I would welcome being kept informed on further developments on this issue and will be pleased to supply you with any further information or respond to any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

F.W.P. Vreeswijk
General Secretary & CEO

Cc:

Kevin McKinley, ISO Acting Secretary General
Elena Santiago Cid, Director General, CEN/CENELEC

kpe