

Water UK Standards Board Strategy: Extreme Weather and Climate Adaption

1. Purpose of this document

This document has been developed by the Water UK Standards Board (WSB) to ensure that the appropriate international (ISO), European (CEN), and British (BS) standards – and, if necessary, Water Industry Standards (WIS) or Industry Guidance Notes (IGN) - are in place to support the UK water industry in adapting to extreme weather and climate change.

2. Key Standards

The key outcomes within this area are to understand the need for any standards associated with extreme weather to aid the UK Water industry's operational adaptation to climate change. This is an area heavily managed through legislation and regulation and hence is a mature area for standards relating to supply, distribution, and collection. With challenges arising out of extreme weather and rapidly changing socio-economic expectations this may drive a need for change in current standards or result in gaps.

The UK Government has published reports and guidance relevant to the water industry, such as:

- UK Climate Change, Adaptation & Resilience.
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.
- National Adaption Program.
- Climate Adaption Research & Innovation Framework.

The Institution of Civil Engineers is also working on a PAS for Climate Adaption Pathways.

The key elements in all these documents are established around equipping industries and organisations to assess, develop and plan for climate change. For the water industry the implementation will be through strategies and standards related to the delivery of water and wastewater assets and operation, such as sewer management.

The standards committees listed below may include this as a part of their future work: -

CEN/TC	UK Mirror Committee
CEN/TC 164 <i>Water Supply</i>	B/504 <i>Water Supply</i>
CEN/TC 165 Wastewater engineering	B/505 <i>Wastewater Engineering</i>
ISO/TC	UK Mirror Committee
ISO/TC207/SC7 <i>Greenhouse Gas, Climate Change Management and related activities.</i>	
ISO <i>Management System standards: Climate change assessment, planning and adaption contained in:</i> 9001,14001,27001,45001,22301.	
ISO 14090:219 <i>Adaption to Climate Change - Principles</i>	

ISO14091:2021 <i>Vulnerability, Impacts and Risk Assessment.</i>	
ISO/TC 224 <i>Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems and services</i>	CB/503 <i>Drinking water and wastewater service levels</i>
ISO/TC 224/WG11 <i>Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems and services – Urban Storm Water Management</i>	
ISO/TC 251 <i>Asset Management</i>	AMS/1 <i>Asset Management</i>
BSI	BSI Committee
	CB/501 <i>Flood risk & watercourses</i>
BS8631:2021 <i>Adaption to climate change</i>	
BS EN ISO 14091	

BS has also published: Climate Change Adaption Manual (NE751)

There are no current WIS and IGN related to Extreme Weather or Climate Change.

3. Key Areas of Activity for the Standards Board

To support the Water Industry, the WSB will undertake the following activities: -

Action	Detail	Owner	Completion Date
Horizon scan	Seek regular feedback from Water UK Committees, and UKWIR as this area develops to identify the need for any standards that would assist the UK water industry.	Jason Dearlove	March 2024
Support	Support the refresh and review of all WIS and IGN as a priority, see separate strategy document.	Jason Dearlove	March 2024
Support	Continue to prioritise standards board support for B504 & B505 and CEN/TC 164 & CEN/TC 165.	Board	March 2024

4. Outcomes and Further Action

To be completed as the above actions are completed.