

**1 November 2020**

## Couplings Working Group

The first two meetings of the ME-053 Technical Committee responsible for this review were held in the last month. These two meetings were aimed at dealing with the scope of work, set out timing and how to divide up the work. Representations to the ME-053 committee have been made to suggest that the review of these standards needs to go into significant detail, which was agreed to by the committee.

The committee decided to create two sub working groups. One to cover AS2213.1 and the other to cover AS4968 Parts 1, 2 and 3.

I am proposing that those that wish to participate in the HVIA working group will also be nominated as the ME-053 subgroup members. The expertise required in the ME-053 sub-groups will likely mean that the participants will be HVIA members. So it's highly likely that HVIA could find itself hosting a member work group that consists of the same people as the ME-053 working group.

There are some important considerations of this proposal that you need to be aware of before you decide to join the group, either as an active participant or as an observer. This is due to new requirements in accessing all SA technical committee documents while Standards are under review.

### As an active participant

1. You will need to sign the current Standards Australia confidentiality agreement.
2. The workgroup will also have non-HVIA members.
3. SA will be sitting in on sub working group meetings some of the time.
4. SA may on occasion, deal directly with you, e.g. seek some editorial assistance during drafting, or clarify a point that might have been raised in a sub working group meeting

### As an observer

5. If you wish to have access to the working documents during the drafting stage you will also need to sign the current Standards Australia confidentiality agreement

At the last meeting of ME-053, it was indicated that all who wish to view committee documents during a drafting phase must sign a confidentiality agreement even when the consultation is ad hoc. For example, if I were to form call a member ad hoc even as a one off, for some expert advice and they are required to read a draft, the confidentiality agreement will need to be signed. This turn of events significantly hampers the ability of an associations to consult experts when and where required. We plan on pushing back on this, along with fellow associations, over the next few weeks.

However, note that the restriction only covers documents. I am permitted to discuss the issues under consideration by the committee in detail.

The implication of this is that I can still discuss progress at the State Committee meetings, Talk the Torque and if you contact me directly. But I will not be able to share documents or draft wording with you unless during the drafting process unless you have signed the SA agreement. If you don't sign the agreement with SA, you'll need to wait until the draft becomes available for public comment (expected Q4 2021).

### **Joining the working group**

If you wish to join the joint HVIA/ME-052 working group, please send me an email ([p.caus@hvia.asn.au](mailto:p.caus@hvia.asn.au)) and let me know if you wish to:

- Be an active member.
- Be an observer that may wish to review working drafts prior to public comment (expected Q4 2021 with final publication due late Q1 2022)
- An observer but not needing to review the working drafts.

If you choose one of the first two options, I will forward you the documents that must be signed and returned to SA.

We will discuss who will be in the AS2213.1 group, the AS4968 group or both later, once I know who shows interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

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