British Standards Institution (BSI) – Written evidence (AUV0060)

1. BSI (British Standards Institution) is responding with interest to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee’s enquiry on the future of driverless vehicles. In doing so our response on the benefits of standardization is relevant to each of the following two questions posed:

   • Are further revisions needed to insurance, regulation and legislation in the UK to create an enabling environment for autonomous vehicles?
   • Will successful deployment of autonomous vehicles require changes to digital or physical infrastructure?

2. BSI is working on new research with the Transport Systems Catapult Centre (supported by the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles) to explore priorities for standardization to support the development of CAVs in the UK. The project is primarily considering road vehicles including driverless cars, trucks, along with pods and shuttles, and both the challenges and opportunities (for standards) as systems become more centralized, software-dependent and automated.

3. Standards play an important role in helping establish innovative, emerging technologies such as Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV). Standards can offer a flexible, adaptive alternative to regulation by providing common languages, terminologies, test methods, guidelines and good practice developed for and by industry.

3. In this capacity standards are vital tools in enabling interoperability, reducing risks to businesses and consumers, promoting safety and the acceptance of products and services.

4. Our initial research findings have indicated a number of possible areas for standards to support the deployment of autonomous vehicles across topics including communications and digital infrastructure, safety and security of both vehicles and systems. There may also be opportunities for the UK to play a leading role in international standards relevant to the field of CAV.

5. The research is due to be published between December 2016 and January 2017 and BSI would be happy to provide more information on the findings.

About BSI
BSI is the UK’s National Standards Body, incorporated by Royal Charter and responsible independently for preparing British Standards and related publications and for coordinating the input of UK experts to European and international standards committees. BSI has 115 years of experience in serving the interest of a wide range of stakeholders including government, business and society.

BSI also presents the UK view on standards in Europe (via the European Standards Organizations CEN and CENELEC) and internationally (via ISO and IEC). BSI has a globally
recognized reputation for independence, integrity and innovation ensuring standards are useful, relevant and authoritative.

BSI, as the UK’s NSB, is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the national standards-making system not only for the benefit of UK industry and society but also to ensure that standards developed by UK experts meet international expectations of open consultation, stakeholder involvement and market relevance.

British Standards and UK implementations of CEN/CENELEC or ISO/IEC standards are all documents defining best practice, established by consensus. Each standard is kept current through a process of maintenance and review whereby it is updated, revised or withdrawn as necessary.

Standards are designed to set out clear and unambiguous provisions and objectives. Although standards are voluntary and separate from legal and regulatory systems, they can be used to support or complement legislation.

Standards are developed when there is a defined market need through consultation with stakeholders and a rigorous development process. National committee members represent their communities in order to develop standards and related documents. They include representatives from a range of bodies, including government, business, consumers, academic institutions, social interests, regulators and trade unions.

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