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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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COMMUNICATION FROM ISO (REPORT OF ACTIVITIES)

The following communication, received on 22 June 2017, is being circulated at the request of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has prepared this information paper as part of ongoing updates and communication between the SPS Committee and the ISO Central Secretariat. It provides a summary of current work undertaken by ISO that may be of interest to Members of the WTO SPS Committee and is intended to support and enhance dialogue and coordination between the two organizations.

Any general information regarding the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) can be found on <http://www.iso.org/>. ISO counts more than 21,470 international standards, 238 active technical committees and 488 active subcommittees managing some 2,560 working groups.

1 ISO'S INTERNATIONAL STATUS

1.1. ISO has a specific status with many UN agencies, including the WHO and FAO. It is also an observer at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and also at the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). ISO entered into a liaison relationship with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2 ISO STRATEGY 2016-2020

2.1. The ISO Strategy 2016-2020 outlines the ISO priorities for the forthcoming years and focuses on six interlinked strategic directions: ISO will *Develop high-quality standards* through ISO global membership, by ensuring to effectively *Engage stakeholders and partners*. A strong foundation in *People and organization development*, effective *Use of technology*, and a focus on *Communication*, will help to achieve the ultimate objective of *ISO standards used everywhere*.

3 ISO ACADEMY

3.1. In 2016, technical assistance and training projects were carried out in line with the ISO Action Plan 2016-2020 to strengthen standardization capacities of ISO members developing countries in various areas. In particular, a three-day workshop on food safety standards was organized on the occasion of the ISO/TC 34 Plenary meeting in Paris, France, for the benefit of ISO developing country members from French-speaking countries on 4-6 July 2016. The workshop was attended by 26 participants coming from 16 countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Democratic Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles and Tunisia.

3.2. Sponsorships were granted to experts from developing countries to participate in the standardization work of the following committees dealing with food.

4 ISO AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - DEVCO

4.1. DEVCO, ISO's policy committee on developing country matters, established in 1961 is a unique forum for ISO members from developed and developing countries to discuss standardization and related issues, to exchange experience and best practice, and to identify needs and requirements of developing countries. It is also the role of DEVCO to monitor the implementation of the ISO Action Plan for developing countries.

4.2. Today, 148 out of the 162 ISO members are members of DEVCO. Find out more about DEVCO on <http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about/iso-and-developing-countries.htm>.

5 ISO TECHNICAL WORK UPDATES

5.1. The priority areas of mutual interest on which ISO would like to maintain and nurture dialogue with the SPS Committee are the work of ISO/TC 34 on food products and the generic work of the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO).

6 ISO'S CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE - CASCO

6.1. It is this body within ISO that is closest to covering the same subject matter as the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). To date, CASCO has 135 members. More information about the scope, the structure and the membership as well as a quick link to the work programme of [ISO/CASCO](#) is available on the [ISO website](#).

6.2. Topical issues currently being addressed in CASCO:

- CASCO hosted its [1st Stakeholder Forum](#) on 25 November 2016 in London to explore the role and benefits of standards and conformity assessment in managing risk for the insurance industry;
- CASCO published the [2015 ISO Survey](#) of Management System Standards with a total of nine standards surveyed;
- CASCO continues to issue its eNewsletter on a regular basis with 3-4 issues a year. With a subscription list of just over 2,900; CASCO will continue to issue the eNewsletter as needed to update the conformity assessment community. Subscription is freely available from the [CASCO Resources page](#);
- The IAF-ILAC-ISO Joint Strategic group met twice in 2016 and continues to monitor the implementation of their strategic plan. The next meeting is scheduled for 2017.

6.3. A full description of the technical work is available from the [CASCO Committee page](#).

7 ISO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 34 COOPERATION WITH CODEX, OIE AND OTHERS

7.1. There is a long history of collaboration between the Codex Committees and ISO/TC 34, *Food products*. ISO/TC 34 supports the collaboration between Codex and ISO, in order to enhance the mutual coordination of work and the elimination of duplication and contradictions. This also includes interest to support any joint or collaborative communication on each others' work.

7.2. ISO's observer status to the CAC provides an opportunity for the coordination of issues related to a variety of ISO standards that are adopted and used by Codex in its work. ISO methods have been endorsed in the document "*Recommended methods of analysis and sampling*" (CODEX STAN 234-1999) which is updated each year during the CCMAS meeting.

7.3. Codex and ISO activities are complementary. Codex, as a governmental organization, prepares documents to assist governments in their statutory and regulatory work to protect their citizens from health hazards caused by food consumption. ISO, as a non-governmental organization, prepares standards in particular on test methods to assist stakeholders along the whole food chain to fulfil both the statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as the requirements of consumers of these products. ISO/TC 34 also works on how to involve more developing countries in the works.

7.4. ISO/TC 34 will continue to offer its full support and cooperation to the Commission with a view to avoiding duplication of work and will adopt, for its own documents, the conclusions of the Commission on all matters concerning food hygiene requirements.

7.5. Annex 1 lists the projects that might be of interest to the SPS Committee. It is to be noted that project ISO/TS 34700 *Animal welfare management – General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain*, which is developed with the participation of OIE and other international organizations and is based on OIE codes, was published at the end of 2016.

- Development of methods of analysis for vitamins and nutrients on Infant Formula and Adult Nutritionals, in collaboration with AOAC (SPIFAN project: Stakeholder Panel on Infant Formula and Adult Nutritionals) and IDF;
- Work on a definition for "Natural": project ISO/TS 19657, *Definition of criteria for a food ingredient to be considered as "natural"*;
- Validation of 15 methods of analysis for food microbiology;
- Revision of ISO 22000, *Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain*;
- Publication of ISO/TS 34700, *Animal welfare management – General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain* (for food-producing animals), in collaboration with the OIE;
- Development of a standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa beans: ISO 34101 (with requirements for sustainability management systems, for performance (related to economic, social, and environmental aspects), for traceability, and for certification schemes). See the news item: [Big step forward for the cocoa sector with new global standards in the pipeline](#).

8 CONCLUSION

8.1. It is recognized that the SPS Committee's Members, as governments, have the authority to regulate at the national level and that ISO, as a producer of voluntary international standards, does not. In the framework of good regulatory practice, as promoted at international and regional levels, international standards and guides may be considered useful by regulators as effective and efficient tools to achieve important regulatory mandates, manage risk and address market confidence.

8.2. ISO considers that by using its international standards, regulatory authorities will achieve their aims in public health and safety at less cost to manufacturers and consumers. Using international standards also assists countries to meet their WTO TBT and SPS Agreement obligations.

8.3. For any further information on technical developments within ISO that have been reported in this paper, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Marie-Noëlle Bourquin at ISO Central Secretariat (bourquin@iso.org).

ANNEX 1**SELECTED ISO PROJECTS HAVING CHANGED STATUS
DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS (AS OF MAY 2017)**

Project number	Title	Status
ISO/TS 34700	<i>Animal welfare management – General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain</i>	Published in 2016
ISO/TS 19657	<i>Definition of criteria for a food ingredient to be considered as natural</i>	Under development
ISO/AWI TS 26030	<i>Sustainable development and social responsibility – Guidance for using ISO 26000:2010 in the agri-food sector</i>	Early stage of development
ISO/DIS 22000	<i>Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain</i>	Under revision. Public review since April 2017
ISO/NP TS 22002-5	<i>Prerequisite programmes on food safety – Part 5: Transport and storage</i>	Early stage of development
ISO 6579-1	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of Salmonella – Part 1: Detection of Salmonella spp.</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 10272-1 ISO 10272-2	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for detection and enumeration of Campylobacter spp. Part 1: Detection method and Part 2: Colony-count technique</i>	Under publication
ISO 10273	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the detection of pathogenic Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 11290-1 ISO 11290-2	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the detection and enumeration of Listeria monocytogenes and of Listeria spp. – Part 1: Detection method and Part 2: Enumeration method</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 15216-1	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for determination of hepatitis A virus and norovirus using real-time RT-PCR – Part 1: Method for quantification</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 16140-1 ISO 16140-2	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Method validation – Part 1: Vocabulary and Part 2: Protocol for the validation of alternative (proprietary) methods against a reference method</i>	Published in 2016
ISO 16654, Amendment 1	<i>Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the detection of Escherichia coli O157</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 18465	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Quantitative determination of emetic toxin (cereulide) using LC-MS/MS</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 18744	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Detection and enumeration of Cryptosporidium and Giardia in fresh leafy green vegetables and berry fruits</i>	Published in 2016
ISO 19020	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the immunoenzymatic detection of staphylococcal enterotoxins in foodstuffs</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 19343	<i>Microbiology of the food chain – Detection and quantification of histamine in fish and fishery products – HPLC method</i>	Under publication

Project number	Title	Status
ISO 21528-1 ISO 21528-2	<i>Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal methods for the detection and enumeration of Enterobacteriaceae — Part 1: Detection of Enterobacteriaceae and Part 2: Colony-count method</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 21872	<i>Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the detection of potentially enteropathogenic Vibrio parahaemolyticus, Vibrio cholerae and Vibrio vulnificus</i>	Under publication
ISO 22964	<i>Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the detection of Cronobacter spp.</i>	Published in 2017
ISO/DIS 20635	<i>Infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of vitamin C by (ultra) high performance liquid chromatography with ultraviolet detection ((U)HPLC-UV)</i>	Under development
ISO/CD 20636	<i>Fortified milk powders, infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of vitamin D by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry</i>	Under development
ISO/CD 21446	<i>Infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of trans vitamin K1 content by normal phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)</i>	Under development
ISO/CD 21468	<i>Infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of total choline and carnitine content by Liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)</i>	Under development
ISO/CD 21470	<i>Infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of vitamin B1, B2, B3 and B6 content by liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)</i>	Under development
ISO/DIS 34101 series	<i>Sustainable and traceable cocoa beans — Part 1: Requirements for sustainability management systems Part 2: Requirements for performance (related to economic, social, and environmental aspects) Part 3: Requirements for traceability Part 4: Requirements for certification schemes</i>	Under development
ISO/AWI 19565	<i>Fisheries — Minimal requirements for fisheries labels: environmental aspects</i>	Under development (FAO participation)