

**RELEVANT WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS  
ORGANIZATION (ISO)**

Statement by the representative of ISO at the meeting of 29-30 June 2005<sup>1</sup>

The following communication, dated 30 June 2005, is circulated at the request of the representative of ISO.

1. ISO is a non-governmental organization consisting of the national standards institutes of 153 countries. ISO has published more than 15 000 International Standards and is working on subjects ranging from nuts and bolts to environmental management, from food products and agricultural machinery to water treatment services and social responsibility. ISO currently has 734 technical committees and sub-committees managing some 2,200 working groups. Every day, between 10 and 15 ISO standards development meetings are being held around the world.

2. ISO has specific status with many UN agencies, including the WHO and FAO, and is an observer to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). It is also an observer at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and of course the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). In the area of technical assistance, ISO cooperates regularly with WTO and ITC, and has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with UNIDO.

3. Of special note, ISO has a long-standing and productive cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Commission with more than 300 ISO Standards having been adopted by Codex in such areas as food products, water quality, chemistry and conformity assessment.

4. Of particular interest to WTO Members is a new international standard under preparation entitled ISO 22000, Food safety management systems - Requirements for organizations in the food chain. The standard's requirements are applicable to operators along the whole food chain wishing to design and implement an effective food safety management system. The standard has been aligned with ISO 9001:2000 and incorporates the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system and application steps developed by Codex.

5. The new ISO international standard is partly a response to the diversity of national standards that have been developed as well as several retailer organizations having prepared such documents for the establishment and auditing of food safety systems, sometimes including HACCP requirements. ISO 22000 should become an internationally accepted standard on a management system to address food safety requirements and may thus help to clarify and harmonize the present situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin McKinley, Deputy Secretary-General

6. Another document, ISO/TS 22004, will give guidance on the application of ISO 22000 that could assist and provide guidance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as developing countries. It is hoped that this will be published at the same time as ISO 22000 in the last quarter of 2005.

7. Another project I wish to bring to the attention of WTO Members is work on a new international standard entitled ISO 22005, Traceability in the feed and food chain -- General principles and guidance for system design and development. This will soon be at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage and is intended to provide recommendations for the implementation of a traceability system both within and among organizations in the food chain.

8. Other projects of worthy of note include:

- Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products;
- Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended for human consumption, and
- numerous other methods of analysis that support and complement the work of Codex.

9. A final mention of ISO work relevant to WTO Members are the International Standards and Guides relevant to conformity assessment. In this area, ISO provides generic internationally-agreed procedures that are used as the basis for such activities as testing, inspection, certification, accreditation and even suppliers' declaration of conformity.

10. I wish to thank the Chair and WTO Members for this opportunity to have provided a brief overview of ISO's activities and we look forward to providing a more detailed information paper at the next meeting of the SPS Committee.

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