



COMMUNICATION FROM ISO (REPORT OF ACTIVITIES)

The following communication, received on 22 June 2018, 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 the current work undertaken by ISO that may be of interest to the 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 22,150 published ISO deliverables, 238 active technical committees and 488 active subcommittees managing some 2,431 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 Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), as well as at the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). ISO has also entered into a liaison relationship with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2 ISO AND STANDARDS FOR THE SDGS

2.1. A conference is co-organized by ISO and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), represented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Taking place during the same week as the 41st ISO General Assembly, it will bring together ISO's members (representatives from the National Standards Bodies of more than 160 countries) with UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs, diplomats and national policymakers to explore how standards can support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.2. Governments, businesses and organizations around the world have committed to help achieve these 17 goals and this conference will explore how voluntary standards can be powerful tools to support their efforts.

2.3. Participants will discover case studies demonstrating how standards can further environmental sustainability by supporting the uptake of resource-saving products and equipment; or how they can promote economic development through bringing technological innovations to scale and increasing economic productivity.

2.4. The objectives of the conference are:

- strengthening partnerships between standards bodies and UN organizations;
- raising awareness amongst standards bodies of the 2030 Agenda;
- promoting the use of standards as a tool for policymakers, authorities, civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders.

3 CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN ISO

3.1. In 2017, technical assistance and training projects were carried out under the ISO Action Plan for developing countries 2016-2020 to strengthen standardization capacities of ISO members in various areas.

3.2. Sponsorships were granted to experts from developing countries to participate in the standardization work of the committees dealing with sustainable cocoa, cereals and pulses and food safety management systems.

3.3. 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. In September 2017, DEVCO created working groups tasked at identifying standardization needs of members in developing countries and to consider ways to share resources for the development and use of standards.

3.4. 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>)

4 ISO TECHNICAL WORK UPDATES

4.1. 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).

5 ISO'S CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – CASCO

5.1. 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 139 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.

5.2. Topical issues currently being addressed in CASCO:

- in December 2017, the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR) supported the CASCO Engagement Strategy for the next five years and its commitment to continue engaging with the insurance industry and to initiate the dialogue with the procurement sector in 2018.
- Over 2017-2018, CASCO Secretariat has continued the promotion of the CASCO Toolbox and highlighted the importance of implementing well established and recognized conformity assessment practices in different events.

5.3. Published in 2017 and 2018:

- ISO/IEC 17011:2017, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*;
- ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems*;
- ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018, *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of OHAS management systems*;

- ISO/IEC 17025:2017, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

5.4. Under development:

- Draft ISO/IEC TS 17021-8, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 8: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities*;
- Draft ISO/IEC 17029, *General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities*;
- Revision of ISO/TS 22003, *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management system* (Joint work with ISO/TC 34/SC 17).

5.5. A full description of the technical work is available on the CASCO Committee page.

6 ISO/TC 34 COOPERATION WITH CODEX, OIE AND OTHERS

6.1. 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 other's work.

6.2. 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.

6.3. 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 the consumers of these products. ISO/TC 34 also works on how to involve more developing countries in the works.

6.4. 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.

6.5. Annex 1 lists the projects that might be of interest to the SPS Committee. The following projects published or under development can be mentioned too:

- 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. Standards on vitamins C and D were published beginning of July 2018.
- There is a growing amount of food ingredients and food products with natural claims due to the growing demand by consumers and therefore by the food industry. This demand is expected to maintain a sustainable trend. To address those requirements and to provide common understanding, ISO/TC 34/WG 18 has established an ISO technical specification ISO/TS 19657, Definitions and technical criteria for food ingredients 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 was published mid-June. More information can be found at <https://www.iso.org/news/ref2301.html>.
- 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.
- A new subcommittee (SC 19) was created on bee products.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1. 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 increase market confidence.

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

7.3. 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 JUNE 2018)**

Project number	Title	Status
ISO 18787	<i>Foodstuffs — Determination of water activity</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 2451	<i>Cocoa beans — Specification and quality requirements</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 2292	<i>Cocoa beans — Sampling</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 22000	<i>Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain</i>	Published in June 2018
ISO/DTS 22002-5	<i>Prerequisite programmes on food safety — Part 5: Transport and storage</i>	Under development
ISO/TS 19657	<i>Definitions and technical criteria for food ingredients to be considered as natural</i>	Published in 2017
ISO 20635	<i>Infant formula and adult nutritionals -- Determination of vitamin C by (ultra) high performance liquid chromatography with ultraviolet detection ((U)HPLC-UV)</i>	Published in July 2018
ISO 20636	<i>Fortified milk powders, infant formula and adult nutritionals — Determination of vitamin D by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry</i>	Published in July 2018
ISO/DIS 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 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