STRATEGY PLAN 2013-2017

ISO/TC 34/SC 17
Management systems
for food safety

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Content

Background

ISO/TC 34/SC 17, Management systems for food safety, was formed in 2009 to meet the need for continued work and further development of the ISO 22000 family of standards. The first standards had been drafted in working groups under ISO/TC 34, Food products (WG 8, WG 9 and JWG 11), but these working groups were disbanded when the work was completed. Therefore, it was suggested by members of ISO/TC 34 that a horizontal subcommittee (SC) be established under ISO/TC 34 to pursue the work and ensure overall coordination.

Now, ISO/TC 34/SC 17 works to expand knowledge and use of the ISO 22000 family of standards and is dedicated to their development. To ensure that this work progresses in a structured manner and in accordance with market and user needs, this strategy plan has been developed. It is based on information provided to the Secretariat by members of SC 17, experts of the industry and users of the standards in general, representing a broad group of stakeholders from across the world.

The structure and priority of sectors for the prerequisite programmes (PRP guidelines) of the ISO/TS 22002-series were established after a 2010 survey, which extended to both members of SC 17 as well as all other subcommittees under ISO/TC 34 in order to ensure horizontal coordination of preferences and needs. In response to contributions from this survey, SC 17 decided to initiate the elaboration of a series of PRP guidelines and it was decided to follow a defined structure.

GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) has benchmarked private schemes that are based on ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 22002-1. Different private schemes were established by various scheme owners. It is expected that all the organizations involved will encourage even more companies to use ISO 22000 and additional PRP guidelines in the future.

In 2010, SC 17 established a communication platform (www.myiso22000.com) with the aim of making information about the standards and their application accessible to all potential users.
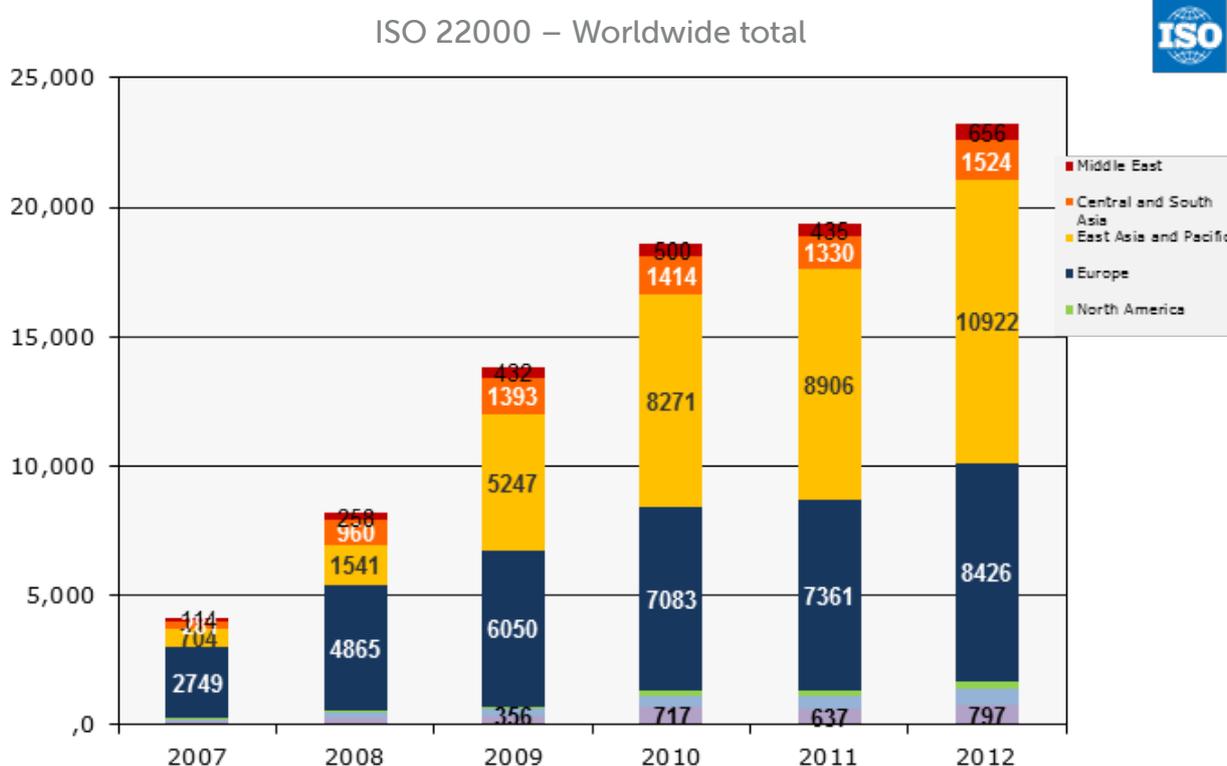
In order to accommodate the need for additional guidance on the ISO 22000 family of standards, the ISO Handbook "How to use ISO 22000" was developed by SC 17 and first published in April 2013. This guide is written in a language that is easy to read, profusely illustrated and contains a wide range of practical tools. SC 17 hopes that in the future, this guide will be linked to an electronic platform, enabling interactive tools for the reader's disposal. Furthermore, an effort has been made to provide this guide at the lowest possible cost, in order to ensure the widest possible diffusion of the ISO 22000 standards.

The SC 17 strategy plan is reviewed and updated each year and discussed at the annual plenary meetings of the subcommittee.

This third edition is updated with input from the 5th meeting of ISO/TC 34/SC 17 in November, 2013 in Sydney.

The number of companies in the food chain opting for certification to ISO 22000:2005 is rapidly increasing and by the end of 2012, a total number of approximately 23.000 companies had been certified. See Table 1.

Table 1: *ISO Survey of certifications*

ISO 22000 – Worldwide total

Scope and work of ISO/TC 34/SC 17 (2013)

The scope of ISO/TC 34/SC 17 is defined as:

Standardization in the field of food safety management systems, covering the food supply chain from primary production to consumption, human and animal food-stuffs as well as animal and vegetable propagation materials.

The SC 17 work program with an overview of the standards already published or under development as of 2013 is listed in Annex 1. The planned work of SC 17 is listed in Annex 2 including the expected year of future publication.

The scope of SC 17 defines that the subcommittee is to deal with matters of food safety, not food quality. However, many companies find these two subjects inseparably linked and have expressed an interest in the synergies that could emerge from a management system that covers both areas.

Therefore, discussions are ongoing as to whether to expand the scope of SC 17 to include quality or not. A final decision on this is yet pending, but should be resolved within the near future.

In the meantime, an agreement has been made between the secretariats of ISO/TC 34 and SC 17 that no "22000"-number will be allocated to documents relating to food quality.

Objectives

The Secretariat will continue to pursue the following objectives:

1. ISO 22000 shall be the leading standard of food safety worldwide and should be used by food chain operators of all types and of all sizes.

2. The SC 17 secretariat will strengthen the link to Codex, ensuring that work done within SC 17 is aligned[1] with documents in the Codex system, and experts from Codex will be invited to participate in SC 17.

3. Tools surrounding the standard and related information shall be of easy access to all potential users.

4. In order for SMEs and developing countries to apply the standards, practical and informative tools must be elaborated as ISO documents.

5. An official panel of experts is established to attend to FAQs related to the standards.

6. All types of stakeholders from all regions are to be represented in the work of ISO/TC 34/SC 17 and its WGs to the extent possible. The SC 17 secretariat works closely with ISO/DEVCO (the ISO committee on developing country matters) to achieve this.

7. The secretariat will invite ISO/CASCO (the ISO committee that works on issues relating to conformity assessment) and other ISO/TCs or SCs to participate in joint work when relevant.

In summary, key objectives are accessibility, applicability, involvement, transparency and dynamic response to market needs.

Dynamic response to market needs

ISO standards must be market-driven. There are compelling market needs for the development of PRP-guidelines to support and supplement the ISO 22000 standard. In the process of delivering the required documents, SC 17 focuses on progress and speed.

Strong representation by industry in the work of SC 17 is important to ensure that the needs of this sector are met and that published documents are applicable in practice and adds value for the users.

This implies that the SC 17 Secretariat closely monitors progress on these documents and encourages the use of different ISO tracks to the extent possible. Furthermore, SC 17 has decided that PRP guidelines will first be developed as TS documents (ISO/TS 22002-series) to ensure fast publication. At the same time, constant focus remains on processes complying with ISO directives, ensuring extensive stakeholder involvement and consensus.

To ensure progress it has been decided to have annual plenary meetings, and in conjunction with the WG and ad hoc group meetings.

SC 17 aims to launch a bi-annual electronic survey on market needs and trends to invite all relevant stakeholders to give input to the future work of SC 17. This survey is disseminated via the national standard bodies (NSB) having O or P membership of SC 17, SC 17 working groups and liaisons and via the secretariats of ISO/TC 34 and its SCs. When open, the survey is also accessible to all users of ISO 22000 at www.myiso22000.com.

[1] The Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by FAO and WHO in 1963 develops harmonised international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of the consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Transparency

The ISO concept of consensus is the basis of all decision making. By following the ISO directives and the procedures described, the SC 17 secretariat ensures that stakeholders are invited to participate in and influence the work.

Transparency is also ensured in the way the secretariat communicates with the members of SC 17, making all documents available via the ISO online communication platform.

The creation of ISO/TC 34/SC 17 as the horizontal committee responsible for an ISO family of standards covering all food safety related issues across the various technical committees has been important to facilitate a transparent, clear and common understanding of ISO food safety management across industries and sectors. SC 17 welcomes any approach from other committees in order to encompass the identified needs within the structure of the ISO 22000 family.

Applicability

To ensure that ISO 22000 can be used by operators of any type within all sectors and parts of the food supply chain, a series of PRP guidelines is being drafted.

Further work will be done to develop new documents to support the needs of particularly SMEs and developing countries accommodating the need for supplementary guidance with a more practical approach to the implementation, use and understanding of ISO 22000 and its supporting documents.

Existing documents will also be revised and improved when needed.

Accessibility

To improve accessibility, the website www.myiso22000.com was launched at the turn of the year 2010-2011. This platform will be further developed with relevant material, such as practical business cases, PowerPoint presentations by SC 17 experts, an FAQ interpreted by the SC 17 Expert Panel as well as other useful links.

In the years to come, it will be necessary to further develop the website to ensure relevance and user friendliness. The Secretariat depends on members contributing to the contents. Therefore, by input from an 'ad hoc' group a structure for input was established at the 5th meeting of SC 17 in 2013, which forms the basis for further development of the site.
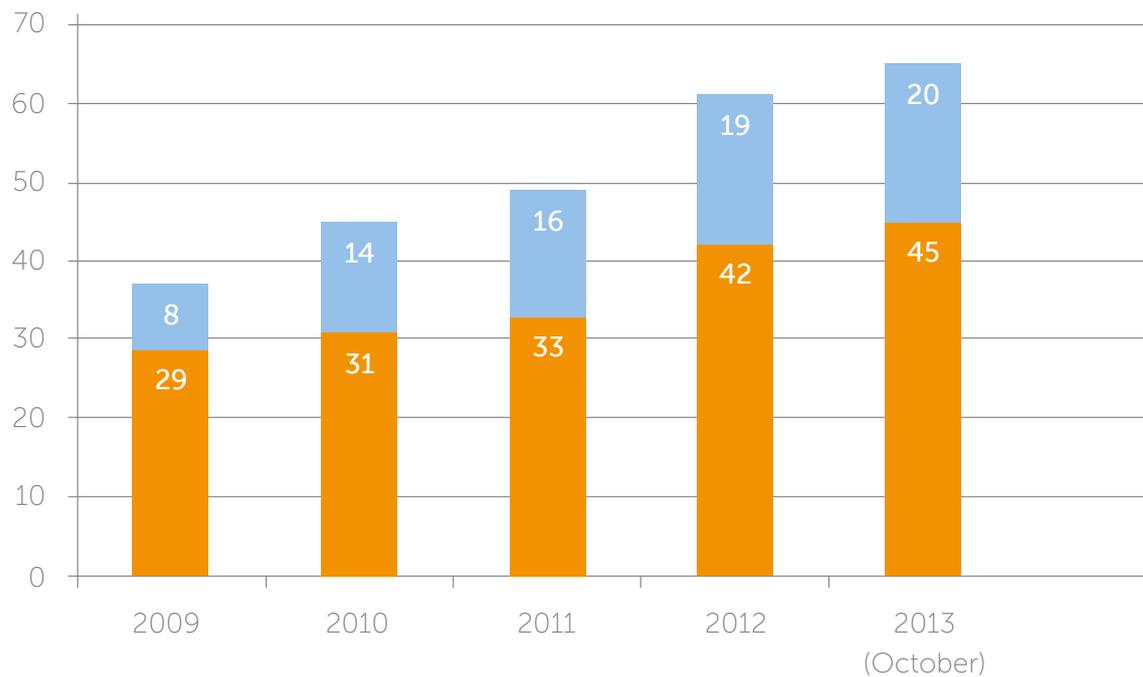
Involvement

As a means to ensure the participation of developing countries, the SC 17 secretariat is in close dialogue with ISO/DEVCO and facilitates information on the possibility to apply for sponsorships as a measure to minimize the financial hurdles of participation in the annual meetings of ISO/TC 34/SC 17.

The Secretariat has been actively canvassing those developing countries that have indicated an interest in the work of SC 17. We have contacted the NSBs directly, sent various material and information i.e on the possibility to apply for sponsoring by ISO/DEVCO, and invited them to join the committee.

Consequently, the share of developing countries participating in the work of SC 17 has increased over the past two years. By 2013-10-23:

- a total of 45 countries are P-members – of these 25 are DEVCO countries (56%),

- a total of 20 countries are O-members – of these 12 are DEVCO countries (60%).

Current information on members is available on www.iso.org.

For a graphical illustration of the development of SC 17 members over the years, see Table 2.

An effort is made to have meetings in alternating continents in order to increase the possibility for participation by regional countries.

A meeting schedule for the plenary sessions will be planned at least 2 years in advance, to make the planning and financing of attendance easier for all parties.

Currently, the following meetings are planned:
2014   Copenhagen, Denmark
2015   Paris, France

The Chairman of SC 17 has been very active in the dialogue with major organizations and stakeholders of the food sector. As a result, the work developing the ISO 22000-series is anchored in genuine needs of the industry and users of the standards.

A number of liaisons have been established with industrial associations and professional and industrial bodies. This network will be further expanded in coming years.

It is an objective to involve all major operators within a sector when work within that sector is initiated. This applies not least to the development of PRP-guidelines (ISO/TS 22002-series), as they are intended to be practical guides and as such need to be easy to use and relevant for the users of the specific sector.

■ O-members

■ P-members

The SC 17 secretariat has been approached by ISO's Committee on Consumer Policy (CO-POLCO), who recommends the participation of consumer's representatives in SC 17, and specifically the review of *Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005*. Since all the experts/delegates are appointed by NSBs the SC 17 secretariat cannot directly affect which stakeholder categories are involved. Nevertheless, the secretariat will identify and make contact with relevant consumer organizations, and if relevant suggest liaisons with such organizations. Furthermore, the SC 17 secretariat strongly recommends the conveners of SC 17 WGs to be conscious about the representation of consumers in the work.

The aim is eventually to draw a stakeholder map, with representation from all relevant stakeholder categories in the work of SC 17 and its WGs.

The ISO stakeholders' categories are: Industry and commerce, Government, Consumers, Labour, Academic and research bodies, Standards application and Non-governmental organization-NGO.

Annex 1

ISO/TC 34/SC 17, Management systems for food safety

Scope:
Standardization in the field of food safety management systems, covering the food supply chain from primary production to consumption, human and animal foodstuffs as well as animal and vegetable propagation materials.

Work program – January 2014 – current and future

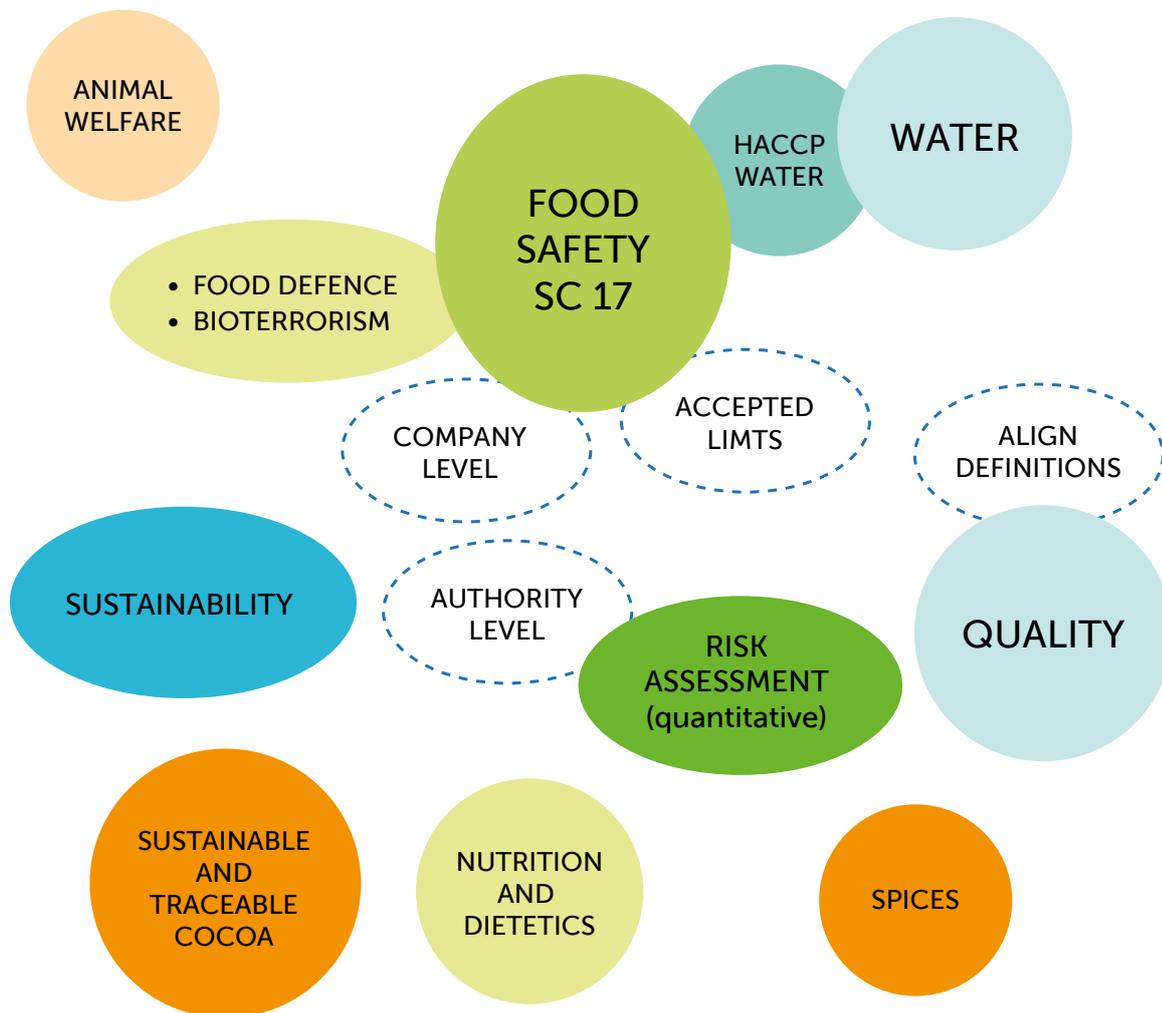|		
The Base	**ISO 22000:2005**, *Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain*	Revision decided and will be initiated 2014
Specific guidelines To be used together with ISO 22000	**ISO/TS 22002**, *Prerequisite programmes on food safety* *Part 1: Food manufacturing (2009)* *Part 2: Catering (2013)* *Part 3: Farming (2011)* *Part 4: Food packaging manufacturing*	 Confirmed 2013 Systematic Review in 2015 Systematic Review in 2014 Published December 2013
Guidance on how to use ISO 22000	**ISO 22005:2007**, *Traceability in the feed and food chain – General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation* **ISO/TS 22004:2005**, *Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005* **ISO 22000 – Are you ready?** (2007) **How to use ISO 22000** (ISO Handbook, 2013)	Revision will be initiated in 2014 Revision ongoing, publication expected Q3 2014 No revision planned No revision planned
How to do accredited certification Link to CASCO (ISO 19011, ISO 17021, ISO 17065)	**ISO/TS 22003:2013**, *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*	Published December 2013

Annex 2

Proposal for work plan on categories/sectors (PRP-guidelines)

Category	Status	Timeframe
Farming 1 (Animals)	Covered by ISO TS 22002-3 Farming	Published 2011
Farming 2 (Plants)		
Processing 1 (Animal perishable product)	Covered by ISO TS 22002-1 Food manufacturing	Published 2009
Processing 2 (Vegetal perishable product)		
Processing 3 (long shelf life at ambient temperature)		
Feed production	Submitted as proposal for new work in 2014	Initiated in 2014 if approval of NWIP
Catering	Covered by ISO TS 22002-2 Catering	Published 2013
Distribution	Put on hold	To be initiated 2014 if survey indicates a need
Services	Put on hold	To be initiated 2014 if survey indicates a need
Transport and storage	In progress (SC 17/WG 6)	To be re-initiated in 2014
Equipment manufacturer	Put on hold	To be initiated 2014 if survey indicates a need
(Bio)chemical manufacturer	Put on hold	To be initiated 2014 if survey indicates a need
Packaging material manufacturer	Covered by ISO/TS 22002-4 Part 4: Food packaging manufacturing	Published in 2013

Annex 3

An informative illustration of the complex world around ISO/TC 34 SC17

Annex 4

How to get involved in ISO/TC 34/SC 17

The ISO website www.iso.org provides valuable information on how to get involved and gain influence on the development of work. In particular, we recommend the following ISO publications, which are freely available:

Joining in,
My ISO Job, and
Developing Talent

If you are an expert wishing to participate, please contact the national standards body (NSB).

Contact details can be found via the ISO/TC 34/SC 17 committee information page or the ISO member list on the ISO website www.iso.org.

National standards bodies (NSBs) who wish to appoint national experts to the SC 17 working groups where work on specific documents is conducted, must be full members (P-members) of ISO/TC 34/SC 17.

Useful links:

www.iso.org

www.myiso22000.com

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