ISO/TC 217 Cosmetics

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISO/TC 217 cosmetics is the responsible committee for development of International Standards for cosmetics for which there is a market need. At present, ISO/TC 217 has 41 Participating members and 31 Observer members which are both developed and developing countries.

The experts from industries, governmental organizations, technical sectors and other interested parties are also well represented. The number of participating countries and Liaison organizations increases, significantly since the creation of TC 217. Today, the personal care products industry has evolved into a truly international business delivering safe, high quality products to consumers around the world. While operating in a truly global environment offered many new benefits it also presents challenges.

To create the new tools, standards, and approaches needed to operate in this global environment it is important that all the stakeholders can come together to harmonize methods, agree on common approaches to assure quality, and to facilitate a common language for the exchange of information.

While a great deal of expertise lies in industry, authorities should be encouraged to participate in the development of new international standards, with the objective of aiding adoption into regulation or as acceptable alternatives to regulation through industry self-regulation.

Therefore, the most important benefits expected from the work of ISO/TC 217 are facilitating access to the cosmetic global market and improving the quality and safety of the products. ISO/TC 217 standards are technical agreements that provide frameworks for compatible technology worldwide. These standards will respond to market and regulatory needs in the global market and to scientific and technical development in various countries.
The main objectives and priorities of the technical committee are the development of globally relevant International Standards to promote the quality and safety of cosmetics products and facilitate cosmetic world trade.

1. INTRUDUCTION

1.1 ISO technical committees and business planning

The extension of formal business planning to ISO Technical Committees (ISO/TCs) is an important measure which forms part of a major review of business. The aim is to align the ISO work programme with expressed business environment needs and trends and to allow ISO/TCs to prioritize among different projects, to identify the benefits expected from the availability of International Standards, and to ensure adequate resources for projects throughout their development.

1.2 International standardization and the role of ISO

The foremost aim of international standardization is to facilitate the exchange of goods and services through the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

Three bodies are responsible for the planning, development and adoption of International Standards: ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is responsible for all sectors excluding Electro technical, which is the responsibility of IEC (International Electro technical Committee), and most of the Telecommunications Technologies, which are largely the responsibility of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

ISO is a legal association, the members of which are the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of some 140 countries (organizations representing social and economic interests at the international level), supported by a Central Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The principal deliverable of ISO is the International Standard.

An International Standard embodies the essential principles of global openness and transparency, consensus and technical coherence. These are safeguarded through its development in an ISO Technical Committee (ISO/TC), representative of all interested parties, supported by a public comment phase (the ISO Technical Enquiry). ISO and its Technical Committees are also able to offer the ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS), the ISO Public Available Specification (ISO/PAS) and the ISO Technical Report (ISO/TR) as solutions to market needs. These ISO products represent lower levels of consensus and have therefore not the same status as an International Standard.

ISO offers also the International Workshop Agreement (IWA) as a deliverable which aims to bridge the gap between the activities of consortia and the formal process of standardization represented by
ISO and its national members. An important distinction is that the IWA is developed by ISO workshops and fora, comprising only participants with direct interest, and so it is not accorded the status of an International Standard.

2 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF ISO/TC 217

2.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal and social dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this ISO/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

The scope of ISO/TC 217 is standardization in the field of cosmetics and it is expected that the major innovations in the disciplines or practices addressed by the scope of the ISO committee, will improve the quality of the products in the market in the coming years.

It is recognized that the definition of cosmetics varies between jurisdictions. Due to these differences in legal definitions, some products that are considered cosmetics in one jurisdiction may be considered quasi-drugs, over-the counter (OTC) drugs or natural health products in another. In light of this, one needs to understand how the definition in related standards will be interpreted in view of the regulations that apply in the jurisdictions where the product is made available.

As used in the Description of the Business Environment in the Strategic Business Plan for TC 217 the term “cosmetic” includes products intended to be placed with the external parts of the human body mainly to clean, perfume, or generally promote attractiveness and beautify. A non-exhaustive list of examples of cosmetic products is given in clause 2.2.

Cosmetics are considered as important and necessary items in everyone’s daily life. The cosmetic industry is rapidly improving and the technical requirements are becoming exacting. The legislator is demanding more information about residues, stability and toxicology parameters of raw materials and finished products. Besides that, the trade of cosmetics among the different countries is becoming increasingly important, and established international standards play an important role in reducing technical barriers to trade. Consequently, the need for reliable standardized analytical methods and production procedures is becoming very clear. The categories of relevant stakeholders are from industry, scientific institutions, academia, Consumers, Governments and regulators.

2.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the ISO TC 217.

Cosmetics Market can be described by Category such as Skin and Sun Care Products, Hair Care Products, Deodorants, Fragrances, and Makeup and Color Cosmetic
The global cosmetics market\(^1\) size was valued at 380.2 billion USD in 2019. By category, the skin and sun care segment dominated the global market in 2019 and is expected to retain its dominance throughout the cosmetics market forecast period. By gender, the women segment led the global cosmetics market demand in 2019, and is expected to retain its dominance throughout the forecast period. By distribution channel, the hypermarket/supermarket segment dominated the global market in 2019 and is expected to retain its dominance throughout the forecast period. By region, Asia-Pacific accounted for highest cosmetics market share in 2019 and is expected to grow at a CAGR\(^2\) of 6.5%. The worldwide organization takes into consideration four main regions: North America (U.S., Canada, Mexico), Europe (UK, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Spain, Rest of Europe), Asia-Pacific (China, Japan, India, Australia & New Zealand, Korea, ASEAN, Rest of Asia-Pacific), and a region covering Latin America, Middle East and Africa.

On a regulatory point of view, the Cosmetics industry and the regulatory bodies from Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States are involved in the International cooperation on cosmetics regulation (ICCR).

Established in 2007, the International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation (ICCR) is a voluntary international group of cosmetics regulatory authorities from Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the United States. The cosmetic industry participates to the ICCR work via the main cosmetics professional organizations. ICCR reports most of the standards developed through ISO TC 217 committee.

### Structure of the market

A world without cosmetics would be inconceivable. Many personal care products are not solely decorative but, like toothpastes, soaps and deodorants, also play an important part in daily hygiene. Others also play an important health function, for example, in preventing sunburn or providing skin protection. Besides these daily needs there is a large group of “decorative cosmetics” that are used as luxury articles for some people, but as daily needs for others. These decorative cosmetics are products such as lip products, eye products, nail products, etc.

### 3 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF ISO/TC 217

Benefits expected from the work of ISO/TC 217 are:

- Establishing harmonized rules to facilitated market access;
- Advancing of common microbiological, physical and chemical methods;

---

\(^1\) Global cosmetics market, Opportunities and forecast 2021-2027

\(^2\) Compounded Annual Growth Rate
- Clarification of terminology and better understanding;
- Improving communications between industry, consumers and authorities;
- Promoting product quality;
- Reducing costs;
- Improving health, and safety;
- Accessing the global market.

Development and implementation of International Standards in the field of cosmetics, will eliminate or reduce technical barriers to trade and provide access to the global market.

4  REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ISO/TC 217

4.1 Membership

At present, ISO/TC 217 has 41 Participating members and 31 Observer members.

https://www.iso.org/committee/54974.html?view=participation

4.2 Analysis of the participation

ISO/TC 217 members are from developed and developing countries and the experts from industries, governmental organizations, technical sectors and other interested parties are well represented.

5  Identified strategies to achieve the ISO/TC 217’s defined objectives

5.1 Defined objectives of the ISO/TC 217

Based on the considerations above, the ISO/TC 217 proposes the following objectives and strategic directions for its future work:

- developing globally relevant International Standards;
- improving the quality and safety of cosmetic products;
- facilitating cosmetics global trade;
- meeting market needs;
- global dissemination of technologies and good practices in the field of cosmetics
5.2  **Identified strategies to achieve the ISO/TC 217’s defined objectives**

ISO/TC 217 will use the following strategies to reach the objectives:

- To organize one plenary meeting each year in order to discuss the technical activities and to promote progress on the work items within the committee;
- To organize working group meetings as often as needed;
- To ensure the involvement of interested parties, including reviews of P-member participation;
- To establish and continue liaisons with other ISO/TCs and related organizations

6  **FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISO/TC 217 WORK PROGRAMME**

*Risk analysis*

One of the risk factors for the ISO/TC 217 is the target date for the publishing of International Standards (IS).

It is crucial that ISO TC 217 and its stakeholders reach a balanced understanding and acceptance of each other’s position.

ISO/TC 217 should also be aware of the possibility that harmonized standards may be less stringent than described in particular national legislation.

Another risk is the difference between the cosmetic legislation in the different areas. Products might be considered as cosmetics in one area, and as pharmaceuticals in the other. ISO will have problems to solve these differences in interpretation, but it will be helpful in methodology. As usual in ISO, the balance between industry and authorities is crucial. While a great deal of expertise lies in industry, authorities must be fully engaged in the development of new international standards, to assure adoption into regulation. A balance is crucial for the understanding and acceptance of the ISO/TC 217.

7  **STRUCTURE, CURRENT PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE ISO/TC 217**

This section gives an overview of the ISO/TC 217’s structure, scope, projects and publications.
Information on ISO online

The link below is to the TC 217’s page on ISO’s website:

https://www.iso.org/committee/54974.html

Reference information

Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in ISO/TC Business Plans

General information on the principles of ISO’s technical work