



ISO/TC 126 N 1545

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[ISO/TC 126](#)

Tobacco and tobacco products

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Expected action Info

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

ISO/TC 126

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISO/TC 126 sets up International Standards for tobacco, tobacco products and vapour products. Standardization in this committee consists of methods of analyses and internationally harmonized terminology. The standards have relevance to tobacco crops, unmanufactured tobacco, tobacco products such as cigarettes, fine-cut tobacco, cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco and other tobacco products, e. g. smokeless tobacco, water pipe tobacco or e-liquids and electronic vapour devices, materials used for manufacturing of tobacco products, tobacco smoke and tobacco related environmental aspects.

The International Standards are elaborated by the ISO/TC 126 itself and by three subcommittees, SC 1 (Physical and dimensional tests), SC 2 (Leaf tobacco) and SC 3 (Vape and vapour products). There are now 33 participating countries and 28 observer countries in the committee. The liaison organizations represent governmental bodies, non-governmental bodies and tobacco producers and manufacturers.

The availability of internationally harmonized methods is an effective tool to check whether internal requirements and the different legal requirements which exist in different countries for tobacco, tobacco products and vapour products are fulfilled. International Standards are quotable reference documents for existing and future international, regional or national legislation. Additionally, the standards for leaf tobacco can facilitate trade by serving as the basis of contracts between tobacco producers and tobacco product manufacturers.

The worldwide structure of the market for tobacco and tobacco products, the market for vapour products, e-liquids and electronic vapour devices and the basic political conditions require reliable and worldwide accepted standard methods, used by regulatory bodies, tobacco producers, manufacturers, official and private inspection services.

1. INTRODUCTION

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 Electrotechnical, which is the responsibility of [IEC](#) (International Electrotechnical 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 164 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 THE ISO/TC

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:

Apart from cigarettes, major categories of tobacco products are fine-cut tobacco, cigars and cigarillos, pipe tobacco and other tobacco products, e. g. snuff or water pipe tobacco. Another category of products includes vapour products, e-liquids and electronic vapour devices.

The structure of the cigarette market is characterised by concentration of cigarette production and sale. Fine-cut tobacco has a meaningful market share in some regions of Europe and in Canada. In contrast to the structure of the cigarette market, the market of the other tobacco products and of vapour products is characterised by small and medium sized companies although multinationals also play an important role in these product ranges.

During recent years increasing legal requirements on products and markets (advertising and marketing restrictions) led to a stronger interest and participation of governmental and non-governmental bodies in the standard work of ISO/TC 126. These new conditions lead to further development of new standards and the revision of existing standards to fit the purpose of new tobacco regulations.

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:

Major customer groups for ISO/TC 126 standards are the tobacco producers, manufacturers and suppliers of tobacco, tobacco products and vapour products, official and private inspection services and governmental regulatory bodies.

Due to the specific situation as mentioned before classical quantitative indicators are not useful to describe the business environment of ISO/TC 126.

3. BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE ISO/TC

The availability of International Standards elaborated by ISO/TC 126 takes into account the view of the members and the interested parties concerned. That means, that an internationally harmonized terminology and a comprehensive list of methods exist, which give repeatable and reproducible results. Time consuming duplication of research to choose an appropriate method may be avoided.

The internationally harmonized methods can be an effective tool to check whether internal and the different legal requirements which exist in different countries for tobacco, tobacco products and vapour products are fulfilled. International Standards are quotable reference documents for existing and future international, regional or national legislation (e.g. the Council of the European Union together with the European Parliament refer to ISO 4387, ISO 10315, ISO 8454 and ISO 8243 elaborated by ISO/TC 126 in the European directive on tobacco and related products¹).

Additionally, the standards now available for leaf tobacco (elaborated by ISO/TC 126/SC 2) can facilitate trade by serving as the basis of contracts between tobacco producers and tobacco product manufacturers.

The groups who profit from ISO/TC 126 standards are tobacco producers, manufacturers and suppliers of tobacco and tobacco products and producers, manufacturers and suppliers of vapour products (who profit mainly from ISO/TC 126/SC 3 standards), official and private inspection services and governmental regulatory bodies.

¹ Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC

4. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ISO/TC

4.1 Membership

Countries/ISO member bodies that are P and O members of the ISO committee

4.2 Analysis of the participation

~~ISO/TC 126 has 33 P members (Participating countries) and 28 O members (Observer countries) participating on a regular basis from all continents.~~ The members represent tobacco producing countries, tobacco products manufacturing countries and countries producing and manufacturing vapour products. Furthermore, both developing and developed countries are represented. The national delegations comprise experts from manufacturers and suppliers concerned, official inspection services and governmental bodies. Geographically, the representation is quite diversified and corresponds to the global market for tobacco, tobacco products and vapour products. The growing interest of liaison organizations in the work of ISO/TC 126 can be recognized by their active participation in different working groups, TC meetings and project work.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE ISO/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

5.1 Defined objectives of the ISO/TC

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

Elaboration of standards on terminology and test methods for unmanufactured tobacco, all types of tobacco products, materials used for manufacturing tobacco products and tobacco smoke including environmental tobacco smoke aspects. Elaboration of standards about handling, storage, packaging and transport are covered where appropriate.

Elaboration of standards for vapour products, e-liquids and electronic vapour devices.

These International Standards shall provide means to check whether internal requirements and the different legal requirements for tobacco and tobacco products and for vapour products are met.

5.2 Identified strategies to achieve the ISO/TC's defined objectives

In order to reach these objectives ISO/TC 126 realizes the following strategy:

- Most of the technical work is managed by the TC itself.
- For the development of each project a project leader is appointed.
- The committee uses the possibility of meetings of experts in working groups or ad hoc groups for specific tasks.
- Additionally, the committee is structured in three subcommittees SC 1, SC 2 and SC 3.
- The committee makes use of electronic means of communication using the Livelink document server.
- The committee makes use of the work done by international bodies being in liaison with ISO/TC 126.
- Joint work with other TCs is established where appropriate (e. g. with ISO/TC 92/SC 1 *Fire initiation and growth*).

To ensure full cooperation, ISO/TC 126 is in liaison with the following international bodies:

- CORESTA (Cooperation Centre for Scientific Research relative to Tobacco)
- EC (European Commission)
- ERPA (European Rolling Paper Association)
- ESTA (European Smoking Tobacco Association)
- FCA (Framework Convention Alliance)
- UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
- WCO (World Customs Organization)
- WHO (World Health Organization)

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

The factors that could put constraints on the completion of the work programme include the following:

- Initiation of new work items when they are insufficiently developed by a national standards body or a body in liaison for the production of a first working draft. In such a case the inclusion of a preliminary work item would be a supportive measure.
- To exceed available resources by adoption of new work items with the bare minimum of member bodies prepared to undertake active participation.

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

Information on ISO online

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

[ISO TC 126 on ISO Online](#)

Click on the tabs and links on this page to find the following information:

- About (Secretariat, Secretary, Chair, Date of creation, Scope, etc.)
- Contact details
- Structure (Subcommittees and working groups)
- Liaisons
- Meetings
- Tools
- Work programme (published standards and standards under development)

Reference information

[*Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in ISO/TC Business Plans*](#)

[*General information on the principles of ISO's technical work*](#)