



International Organization for Standardization
Organisation internationale de normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации



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ISO/TC 219

Strategic business plan



STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

ISO/TC 219

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISO/TC 219 is responsible for the development of standards within the flooring sector of the construction industry. It deals with standardization of all aspects of resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings and ensures that duplication of effort is avoided by adequate liaison with other committees concerned with flooring as well as subjects of common interest to all products.

The main use areas for floor coverings within the scope of ISO/TC 219 are residential (homes, apartments) and commercial, (health care, education, hospitality, public buildings, offices, retail, transportation). These areas are limited to indoor use. Excluded from the scope are screeds, raised access floors, paving, surfaces for sports areas, wood-based panels and sawn timber. The global flooring market in 2018 was estimated to be \$302 billion, with projections of a 5.5 CAGR through 2027 and the largest growth expected in resilient. Estimates of up to \$540 + billion market by 2027. EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) and APAC (Asia-Pacific) account for approx. 65% market share.

The main priority of ISO/TC 219 is to develop standards in the area of resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings for indoor use and to keep them updated to follow new developments and trends in this area. These international standards aim to provide a common ground for testing and specifying floor covering products internationally, replacing or supplementing national or regional testing and specification methods, including a classification of use system.

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:

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ISO/TC 219 keeps up to date with recent and expected technical changes within the flooring sector, including modular flooring, floating flooring, various mechanical locking systems, loose lay flooring and hybrid products and develops new standards or amends current standards when needed.

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ISO/TC 219 is committed to considering the environment in general and applying the principles of circular economy within the scope and development of the standards.

Stakeholders in the standardization process for floor coverings all of whom will benefit from the use of International Standards are (in alphabetical order):

- architects, specifiers and interior designers
- building/ construction industry
- business/ trade associations
- certification organizations
- environmental organizations
- flooring contractors
- flooring manufacturers
- national or regional authorities
- NGOs
- private and public consumers and users.
- recyclers
- standardization organizations
- test houses/ institutes/ laboratories

The main interests of the stakeholders are (in alphabetical order):

- Assessment of compliance and consistency with the product specifications
- Health and Safety of the product

- Installation and maintenance
- Product characterization and testing.
- Tools for making an informed choice
- Waste management and ecodesign
- Where and how to use the product and classifications.

ISO/TC 219 standards address the following health and safety issues which are applicable during the lifetime of the products (in alphabetical order):

- Biological contamination/degradation
- Content/ release of dangerous substances/ materials of concern
- End of life/ disposal/ recycling/ recovery
- Fire safety
- Indoor air quality
- Slip resistance

Since test methods and specifications for some of the above issues are developed in separate Technical Committees (TC's), liaisons with these TCs have been established (see section 7) or will be established in the future when deemed necessary.

ISO/TC 219 also follows up on other relevant international, regional or national standards or voluntary initiatives, such as ASTM F06 (resilient), ASTM D13.21 Pile Floor coverings (test methods) + CRI (specifications), NALFA (laminates), and other standardization organizations, e.g. Europe (CEN/ TC134), China, Japan and Australia. Some of the Regional and national standards developed are in competition with ISO standards (e.g. USA, Australia, Japan, China), as explained more in detail in section 4.2).

Products in the scope of ISO/TC 219 may also need to comply with other regulatory and legal issues, such as national or regional building codes and/ or (technical) 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:

The global flooring market in 2018 was estimated to \$302 billion. With projections of a 5.5 CAGR through 2027 with the largest growth expected in resilient. Estimates of up to \$540 + billion market by 2027. EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) and APAC (Asia-Pacific) account for approx. 65% market share.

A minimum of 60 out of a total of 81 standards of ISO TC219 are cited as normative references in international or regional/ national standards.

Systematic reviews of the standards published by TC 219 demonstrate that they are used and adopted by ISO members

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

The main priority of ISO/TC 219 is to develop standards in the area of resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings for indoor use and to keep them updated to follow new developments and trends in this area. These international standards aim to provide a common ground for testing and specifying floor covering products internationally, replacing or supplementing national or regional testing and specification methods, including a classification of use system. This results in a common basis for evaluating floor covering products in the different countries and regions worldwide, facilitating trade and reducing the cost for product testing and development of new products.

It is therefore the aim to cite or even take over these international standards as national or regional standards where feasible. Since there may be specific national or regional legislation requiring testing, specifying or classifying floor coverings not relevant in other countries or regions, additional national or regional standards may always be required. The aim is to align them with the international standards as closely as possible.

As of today, more than 33 % of the ISO TC219 standards have been implemented in other countries or regions.

4. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ISO/TC

4.1 Membership

An overview over the countries/ ISO member bodies that are P and O members of ISO TC219 can be found here:

<https://www.iso.org/committee/54988.html?view=participation>

4.2 Analysis of the participation

All countries with a major production of resilient, textile or laminate floor coverings are member of ISO TC219, but International Standards are struggling to gain market acceptance due to the long history and use of existing national and regional standards. Acceptance of (International) Standards is highly dependent upon the key stakeholders such as the architect and design community, general contractors, specifiers and end users not so much the manufacture representatives. The ISO committee's key role is the development of the standards.

An effort is made to engage as many countries and stakeholders as possible to participate in the work and to attend meetings. On the other hand it is difficult and expensive to get all global national and regional experts to meetings all over the globe. ISO meetings gain in quality and are more effective when national mirror committees ensure that their members are representative for their national stakeholders.

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

5.1 *Defined objectives of the ISO/TC*

ISO TC219 has developed a portfolio of test method and product specification standards. Since there are differences between resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings towards testing and specifications, the work program is elaborated by three working groups, complemented by a fourth working group on horizontal topics addressing all three product groups:

- WG1 Textile floor coverings
- WG2 Resilient floor coverings
- WG3 Laminate floor coverings
- WG4 Horizontal topics

In the past WG1 has focused on test method standards, while WG2 has developed both test methods and specification standards (almost all international standards have been implemented as EN ISO standards using the Vienna agreement). WG3 has developed a series of test methods with the number of product standards still being limited. WG 4 was established in 2022 to revise ISO 4918:2016 “Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings — Castor chair test”, which is applicable to all product groups covered by ISO TC219. This WG will in general also address other horizontal topics and develop or revise standards covering more than one product group.

A major task for all working groups is to regularly evaluate their standards portfolio and update them according to current developments and the current state of the art and to ensure that novel products being placed on the market are also being addressed.

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

ISO TC219 will employ the following strategies to satisfy the preceding objectives:

- establish priority of work items within working groups;
- establish project teams for each work item with designated project leaders and progress with a project-based approach to development of standards;
- give priority to the timely circulation of documents and adherence to target dates;
- limit meetings to when necessary and use other means of communication to resolve issues and progress documents e.g. conference calls; e-mail; minimal 1 plenary and WG meeting per year;
- co-ordinate concurrent meetings in the same location;
- make maximum use of the Vienna Agreement in co-operation with CEN TC134;
- continue using a single language for meetings to obviate the problems and expense of organizing translation;
- establish close liaison with relevant ISO committees and international organizations.

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

ISO TC219 aims to maximize the acceptance and use of the standards it develops by its business community. For this the tools offered by the ISO/CS are utilized as much as possible:

- there is a regular check with chairperson, secretariat and convenors on their intention to continue their work in order to identify as early as possible when a replacement is necessary
- if specific expertise is needed for a project, an effort will be made to find the necessary expert and invite them to participate in the work
- for validation of a test method support from relevant stakeholders is sought. This includes financial support if required.

Concerning the limited resources of experts, ISO TC219 has so far relied on its members to search for the necessary financial support. In the future the possibilities for using tele- and video conferencing, as offered by ISO/CS, will be established as valid alternative to travel. It is considered important, though, to have a physical meeting at least once per year.

The work of ISO TC219 has not been affected by EC or other national or regional legislative matters, as floor covering standards supporting such legislative matters have so far only been developed at national or regional level.

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

For the work program priority is given to projects supported by a broad group of stakeholders. The aim is to involve these stakeholders as strongly as possible in the development of the international standards.

The project leaders and working group convenors aim to keep the time allocated to a project as low as possible in order to not delay the development of the project. The TC secretariat, supported by the available ISO/CS tools, follows up on this timing, adjusting when necessary.

Information on ISO online

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

<https://www.iso.org/committee/54988.html>

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***](#)