BUSINESS PLAN

ISO/TC 83
Sports and recreational equipment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main field of technical activity is the preparation of International standards for sports and recreational equipment.

International standardization for sports equipment represents a considerable advantage to manufacturers as well as to users of this equipment: on the one hand, it allows factories to create the most economical manufacturing processes possible by producing larger quantities for an international market, while, on the other, it reassures purchasers that they are acquiring products of uniform quality of material and execution, corresponding to the requirements and desiderata of national and international gymnastic and sports associations.

Another factor of importance for manufacturers is that active sportspeople are able to obtain identical equipment in any city or country visited, enabling them to continue using at any time the same sports equipment they are used to back home. Gymnastic and sports performances thus improve, and the danger of sportspeople losing interest or dropping out of a sport is reduced.

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 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 THE ISO/TC 83

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 83, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

Safety first

The reason for an ISO International Standard stems as a general rule from a single but imperative need: safety requirements. Safety regulations differ from country to country. Manufacturers have to incorporate any current safety regulations. Thus and the grounds of sheer product viability and production at economically supportable costs, they ', are pressed to know what is required universally to surmount trade barriers and call for an ISO International Standard. A patent example of this is for winter sports equipment that has been fairly thoroughly standardized internationally for, essentially, reasons of safety (see below).

Other factors, however, play a role and can influence the decision to develop a standard, such as:

1. A need for standardized test methods for the performance characteristics of a product, e.g., skis, inflatables or tennis rackets.
2. A desire to create equal conditions in competitions by standardized equipment, e.g., gymnastic equipment.
3. To improve communication by standardized terminology and nomenclature, e.g., ISO 6289, Skis - Terms and definitions, and ISO 7152, Camping tents - Nomenciature.
4. The consumers' and public's need for product information, e.g., on the volume and capacity of a camping tent (ISO 5912, Camping tents Requirements and testing).

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Another factor of importance for manufacturers is that active sportspeople are able to obtain identical equipment in any city or country visited, enabling them to continue using at any time the same sports equipment they are used to back home. Gymnastic and sports performances thus improve, and the danger of sportspeople losing interest or dropping out of a sport is reduced.

Demand and supply

In all fair logic, it would be natural to think that International Sports Federations want to avail themselves of ISO committees to have their sports equipment standards specified, agreed or their quality assessments defined; this, however, has never actually been the case to any great extent, due to a variety of reasons, among them an insufficient awareness that the descriptions of equipment laid down in the Federation's own rules and regulations may not always be adequate for manufacturers from a technical point of view. Some Federations do actually organize their own technical groups that develop equipment for competitions, produced under licence. Sometimes, too, the Federation's own test authorities replace the precise specifications and reproducible test methods of an ISO International Standard by their own, that will test and certify a product according to the Federation's own sometimes narrow rules and Interpretation.

Implementation

International Standards are voluntary. They also, by being international, cover a vast territory- the world - and it's tricky to know with any precision how well they are implemented universally. The chances are it varies a lot, by item as well as by country.

But it is instructive to look at the different sub-committees individually in this context of implementation to get an idea of the type of problems that arise and where:

SC 1, Gymnastic equipment has been dissolved in 1976 because of lacking cooperation with the International Gymnastic Federation. Today it is the aim to improve the cooperation with Internatinal Federations.

SC 2, Camping tents has been changed to a working group directly under ISO/TC 83. Having been the prime movers behind the standardization of camping tents, consumers are its keenest promoters, and are constantly encouraging manufacturers to put tents on the market more in accordance with ISO International Standards. Where tents of a high quality can find a market, the ISO standards have a good chance of being applied; a good slice of the market, however, is for low-cost goods, where manufacturers are forced to offer tents that often do not comply with ISO standards.

SC 4 "Snowsports equipment" has been created at the beginning of the year 2009, when the former SC 3 and former SC 4 were merged into the new ISO/TC 83/SC 4 "Snowsports equipment".

In the early 1980s, the ISO standards were implemented in the various countries but in different ways. This proved inadequate for the manufacturers who therefore subsequently agreed to implement the ISO standards.A considerable approach has been reached in the last few years in cooperation with ASTM experts to harmonize the ISO and ASTM standards.

SC 5 Ice hockey equipment and facilities, the ISO standards on head and face protectors (ISO 10256) and on face protectors and visors (ISO 10257) seem to be used by the manufacturers of the main ice hockey playing countries, as they are participating in SC 5.

SC 6, Tennis rackets has been created in 1990 with a number of participant members but due to decreasing interest only ISO 11416 "Tennis rackets – Racket components and physical parameters" has been published in 1995. Thereafter SC 6 has been dissolved in 1996.

Major factors which may have an impact on the development of the markets □

Winterport

□In wintersport the climatic conditions play a major role for the market. If there is notenough snow at the right time at the right place, skiing will not be done as expected and the market will decrease. The technological developement has increased considerably in the last few years. In the beginning of standardization questions of interface between ski – binding – boot were the main items to be dealt with. Now the performance of the ski has been improved to make skiing easier and more exiting. The ski binding must ensure a safe connection to the ski as long as necessary to avoid overloading of the legs but also prevent unintended release. In addition the binding must now give freedom to the ski in all kinds of terrain (e.g. bending) without reducing its level of safety. The mounting of the binding on the ski, which was made by srews until now will be made in future by rails, integrated in the ski, thus facilitating the mounting of the binding and increasing the performance of the binding.

In the past few years snowboarding has come up and became very popular. As for the alpine and touring skiing, safety was an import aspect and lead to a series of standards as well for the boards as for the boots and bindings.

□ice Hockey

□The major factor facing the market is that there are three separate standards (Canadian, American and European) and certification is needed

□The SC 5 is seeking developing a single ISO/EN standard that can be used throughout the world and that would require just one certification to be undertaken.

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 parties interested in the work of ISO/TC 83 are:

- sports equipment manufacturers
- health and safety organisation
- retailers and rental shops
- consumers and consumer organisation
- test laboratories
- sports government bodies
- sports federations

The total size of the market is unknown but must be immense and also the turn-off rate is immense.

3 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE ISO/TC

In addtion to what has been said under clause 2 it can be summarized:

- benefit for the manufacturers to avoid product liability (to a great extent) and to reduce costs in the production and in the marketing of products
- benefit for the user to get compliant products

4 REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ISO/TC

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

Liaison TC/Org	***Cat.***
TC 83	
TC 94/SC 13	
TC 188/SC 1	
TC 254	
TC 228	
WFSGI	A

4.2 Analysis of the participation

The representation is as the following:

- sports equipment manufacturers
- health and safety organisation

- retailers and rental shops
- consumers and consumer organisation
- test laboratories
- sports government bodies
- sports federations

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

5.1 Defined objectives of the ISO/TC

The TC will elaborate a package of International Standards in the sports sector including aspects sports and other recreational facilities and equipment but excluding amusement rides and amusement devices covered by International Standards within the scope of ISO/TC 254.

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

The main task of TC 83 is the systematic review of its standards and a revision of certain standards due to technical developement. It is the aim to enlarge the work program regarding new developments in the sports and other recreational facilities and equipment.

The work is done in ISO/TC 83/WG 1, ISO/TC 83/SC 4 with three WGs and ISO/TC83/SC 5. Preparatory work is done by correspondance to make the meetings more efficient. The work is done electronically using the Livelink system.

The working language of ISO/TC 83 is English.

ISO/TC 83 continues to coordinate its work with other standards development organisations.

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

In ISO/TC 83 the following factors could negatively impact the work:

1. generally, due to cost reasons, companies are more and more reducing the number of experts necessary for the standardization work;

2. For the same reason the financial support for enough personal capacity in the secretariats is more and more reduced. Compensation with more electronic tools and working is possible as the documents are available throughout the world just after submission by the secretariat.

3. In addition to the inflation of the items to deal with, the experts and the secretariat are stressed by the time pressure coming from the 3-years rule. As nobody of the participating stakeholders in TC 83 has complained that the standardization goes too slowly, they are wondering why they are pressed, being pressed in their companies as well because of lean management.

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

This section gives an overview of the ISO/TC's structure, scopes of the ISO/TCs and any existing subcommittees and information on existing and planned standardization projects, publication of the ISO/TC and its subcommittees.

7.1 Structure of the ISO committee

7.2 Current projects of the ISO technical committee and its subcommittees

7.3 Publications of the ISO technical committee and its subcommittees

Publications of the SC 4

Publications of the SC 5

Reference information

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

General information on the principles of ISO's technical work