

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 7

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirty-second Session

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Comments of ISO

Agenda item 7 - Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards

COMMUNICATION FROM ISO ON THE USE OF ISO STANDARDS

What is the systematic review process in ISO ?

ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 165 national standards bodies (one per country). ISO publishes ISO International Standards and other deliverables that represent a consensus among international experts in a relevant field. To ensure that they remain up-to-date and globally relevant, there is an enquiry at least **every five years** after publication through what is called “**the Systematic Review process**”.

What are the two objectives of this process ?

- 1) It provides valuable information on the **global relevance of the standards** and ensures that the ISO catalogue is always **up-to-date**.
- 2) It is also currently the only systematic way for the ISO Central Secretariat (ISO/CS) to **collect information on the use of ISO standards and their national adoption**.

In order to understand the global relevance of International Standards, we must understand where and how they are used. The Systematic Review process is ISO's main tool for collecting this information, and it is therefore very important that ISO members respond accurately to Systematic Review enquiries.

For example, if the results of the Systematic Review show that a standard is not widely used around the world (by at least 5 countries), its global relevance is called into question and it would likely be proposed for withdrawal.

The information collected on the use of the standard is also of interest for the committee that developed it. Comments obtained at Systematic Review can be used as input for the next revision of the standard, and can make the dedicated committee aware of factors that have an important impact on the implementation of the standard in different countries. Systematic Review can therefore lead to a revision of the standard, incorporating changes that facilitate its implementation in countries that have not adopted or used the standard yet

What does this enquiry look like ?

Through this process, national standards bodies review the document and its use in their own country, in consultation with their stakeholders, to decide whether:

- it is still valid → confirmation
- it should be updated → revision
- it should be withdrawn → withdrawal

It is an obligation for the participating countries of a committee to vote on systematic reviews. The Systematic Review ballot is 20 weeks long in order to allow sufficient time for national standards bodies to contact their national stakeholders and get feedback on the standard.

There are six questions raised in each country. each national standards body must consult their national stakeholders in order to give a national answer).

<p>Q1: <i>what is your recommended action ?</i></p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - withdraw - revise/amend - confirm - abstain due to lack of consensus - abstain due to lack of access to national expertise
<p>Q2: <i>Has this International Standard been adopted or is it intended to be adopted in the future as a national standard or other publication ?</i></p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>If the standard has been adopted, the reference of the nationally adopted document needs to be provided with the answer.</p> <p>If it has not been adopted, the answer needs to include information on why it has not been adopted and on what is being used instead.</p> <p>ISO has been collecting data on national adoptions of International Standards. The purpose is to provide the market with greater transparency regarding the use of International Standards in member countries. The information provided here will be added to the ISO National Adoptions Reference Database. The database has currently some 230 000 records on national adoptions of ISO standards.</p>
<p>Q.3 <i>(Reply only if the answer to Question 2 is Yes)</i></p>	<p>Is the national publication identical to the International Standard or was it modified ?</p> <p>Possible answers : Identical/Modified. If you answer Modified, comments are required.</p>
<p>Q.4 <i>If this International Standard has not been nationally adopted, is it applied or used in your country without national adoption or are products/processes/services used in your country based on this standard ?</i></p>	<p>Possible answers : Yes/No. If you answer Yes, comments are required</p>
<p>Q.5 <i>Is this International Standard, or its national adoption, referenced in regulations in your country ?</i></p>	<p>Possible answers : Yes/No. If you answer Yes, comments are required.</p>
<p>Q6. <i>In case the committee decides to Revise/Amend, will/are you committed to participate actively in the development of the project ?</i></p>	<p>Possible answers : Yes (experts nominated)/No. If you answer Yes, it is recommended to nominate experts.</p>

ISO certification survey

Every year ISO performs a survey of certifications to the ISO management system standards. The survey shows the number of valid certificates to ISO management standards (such as ISO 9001 or ISO 22000) reported for each country, each year. ISO does not perform certification. The ISO Survey counts the number of certificates issued by certification bodies that have been accredited by members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

e.g. for ISO 22000:2018 (the ISO management food safety standard, based on HACCP principles from CCFH): 33 000 certificates reported in 2019 (underestimated figure).