



ISO National Mirror Committees Training with Lesotho, Malawi, & Zambia: ISO/TC 34 Food Products



Prepared for:

**Southern African Development
Community & Standards Alliance**

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Discussion Outline

- TC 34 Structure and Background
- TC 34 National Mirror Committees (NMC), Balance and Division of Labour
- TC 34 Subcommittees Detail
- Focus on TC 34/SC 17
- Tips, Tricks and General Recommendations



TC 34 Structure and Background



TC 34 Structure

Secretariat: [AFNOR](#)

Twinned secretariat: [ABNT](#)

Secretary: [Mme Sandrine Espeillac](#)

Twinned secretary: [Mrs. Carolina Martins](#)

Chairperson: Mr. François Falconnet (France) until end 2015

ISO Central Secretariat contact: [Mme Marie-Noëlle Bourquin](#)

Creation date: 1947



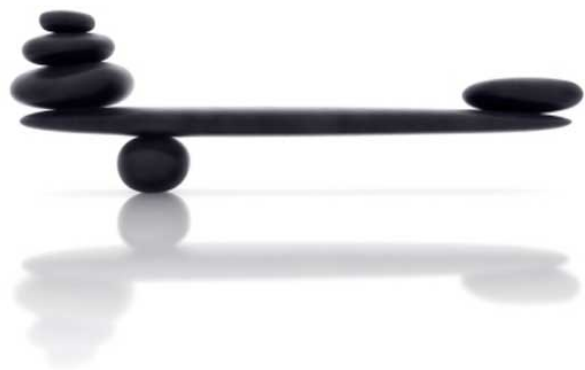
Committee Twinning Arrangements

- TC 34 is a twinned Technical Committee (France and Brazil)
- Within TC 34 the following are twinned committees or working groups:
 - SC 8 Tea (UK and China)
 - SC 16/WG 8 Meat Speciation (China and likely Japan)
 - SC 18 Cocoa (Netherlands and Ghana)
- SC 12 Sensory analysis was a twinned SC previously. Argentina was able to use the arrangement as a training period and eventually took over the SC.



TC 34

- The food and feed industries cover a wide array of topics and interests within TC 34.
- TC 34 is responsible for very few methods directly.
 - Only 18 methods developed directly under TC 34
- Nearly all work is allocated to sector-specific SCs and WGs within TC 34.
 - Currently 813 methods developed by the SCs and WGs.
 - Dozens more under development.



TC 34 National Mirror Committees (NMC), Balance and Division of Labour



TC 34 NMC Dynamics

- The range of stakeholder categories for a broad spectrum group include: Nutrition/Dietetics, Scientific Laboratories, Industry, Government, Industry Associations, Non-governmental Organizations, Veterinary Hospitals, Academia, Biosafety Administrations, Consulting Firms, Standards Development Organizations, International Trade Agencies, Animal Rights Societies, and Certification and Auditing Firms.
- The stakeholder categories for each specific sector, SC and/or WG are unique.



Internal Voting Structure and Commenting on Ballots

- All documents and ballots are circulated to NMC members. Members who have identified themselves as belonging to a particular sector only receive documents from that specific SC.
- All members are encouraged to submit votes and comments.
- Comments are collated. When conflicts in votes and/or comments exist, the NMC holds a meeting to discuss the issue and come to a consensus.



TC 34/WGs

- **WG 13 Royal Jelly**
 - WG 13 Royal Jelly recently closed a DIS ballot on royal jelly specifications.
- **WG 14 Vitamins, Carotenoids and Other Nutrients**
 - WG 14 has four NWIP ballots closing at the beginning of May.
- **WG 16 Animal Welfare**
 - WG 16 Animal Welfare has a meeting with OIE in June in Paris to determine the timeline and direction of the WD/TS 34700. A call for comments on the proposed direction closed in December/early-January.
- **WG 17 Water Activity**
 - The newly added WG 17 recently closed a CD ballot on water activity.
- **WG 18 Natural Food Ingredients**
 - WG 18 Naturals has been addressing comments while attempting to draft a standard on the definition and criterion for “natural” foods.
- **WG 19 Nitrogen Content According to the Dumas Principle**
 - The draft of the Dumas Principle for TC 34 is currently being written by AOCS



TC 34/SCs

- **SC 2**, Oleaginous seeds and fruits and oilseed meals (France)
- **SC 3**, Fruit and vegetable products (Turkey)
- **SC 4**, Cereals and pulses (China)
- **SC 5**, Milk and milk products (The Netherlands)
- **SC 6**, Meat, poultry, fish, eggs and their products (China)
- **SC 7**, Spices, culinary herbs and condiments (India)
- **SC 8**, Tea (UK and China)
- **SC 9**, Microbiology (France)
- **SC 10**, Animal feeding stuffs (Iran)
- **SC 11**, Animal and vegetable fats and oils (UK)
- **SC 12**, Sensory analysis (Argentina)
- **SC 15**, Coffee (Brazil)
- **SC 16**, Horizontal methods for molecular biomarker analysis (US)
- **SC 17**, Management systems for food safety (Denmark)
- **SC 18**, Cocoa (Ghana and the Netherlands)



TC 34 Subcommittees in Detail





TC 34/SC 2 Oligeanous seeds and fruits and oilseed meals

- SC 2 and SC 11 have similar metrological methods and focus of standards development and therefore are regularly run in conjunction with one another.
- SC 2 has a unique set of stakeholders engaged in the US and AOCS works directly with all of the members outside of ISO activities.
- Work Programme
 - There are two DIS ballots on oilseed extraction methods.
 - There are three CD ballots on sampling, total ash, and moisture content.
 - There is a single FDIS ballot on chlorophyll.



TC 34/SC 3 Fruits and vegetables and their derived products

- SC 3 and SC 14 covered similar sectors of fruits, vegetables and their derived products. A ballot was circulated and closed in January/early-February to combine the work of these SCs. As a result of the vote, the SC 14 work programme was combined with SC 3 and SC 14 was disbanded.
- Currently the US is exploring among stakeholders interest in and development of a new national mirror committee for this work.
- Work Programme
 - There is currently no formal work underway in SC 3.
 - The last documents produced were in 2008 on benzoic and sorbic acids in fruit and vegetable products.



TC 34/SC 4 Cereals and pulses

- Currently the US is not a P-member of SC 4. However AOCS, AOAC International and AACC International are liaisons to SC 4. The US is exploring as before interest in and development of a new national mirror committee for this work.
- Work Programme
 - There is one NP on ochratoxin.
 - There are two drafts being developed: one on colour determination and the other on maize.*
 - There are two DIS documents: one on sensory analysis and the other on nitrogen/protein content.*
 - There are currently five FDIS ballots open covering crude fat content, amylose content, gluten, and dough properties in wheat.
 - Lastly there is a DTR on sampling.*



TC 34/SC 5 Milk and milk products

- Currently the US is not a P-member. Most of the stakeholders involved in SC 5 come from IDF and it's collaboration with AOAC International.
- Work Programme
 - There are five CD ballots covering fat content of cream to capillary gas chromatography for fatty acid content.
 - There are also four DIS ballots covering nitrogen content to lysozyme by HPLC.



TC 34/SC 6 Meat, poultry, fish, eggs and their products

- SC 6 had been under the control of Botswana for a number of years. After nearly 15 years of inactivity and lack of maintenance of published standards, the TC 34 Secretary put out a call for developed countries interested in twinning with Botswana. The result was unfruitful.
- ISO TMB just made the decision to transfer SC 6 to China.
- Work Programme
 - There is currently no formal work underway in SC 6.
 - There are several outdated standards that have not been revised or withdrawn.



TC 34/SC 7 Spices, culinary herbs and condiments

- Currently the US is not a P-member of SC 7. While the US packages and distributes a variety of spices, herbs and condiments, it is not a regular producer of these products. Multinational companies participate and influence the US regulations based on involvement in SC 7 through other member bodies.
- Work Programme
 - There are two amendments to standards being developed.



TC 34/SC 8 Tea

- Currently the US is not a P-member of SC 8. While the US packages and distributes a variety of teas and tea brands, it is not a regular producer of tea. Multinational companies participate and influence the US regulations based on involvement in SC 8 through other member bodies.
- Work Programme:
 - There is currently a WD being developed for theanine analysis in teas.
 - In the past four years there have been three standards produced defining special/varietal differences in teas.

TC 34/SC 9 Microbiology

- Jason is involved with SC9. SC 16 is a liaison to SC 9.
- Work Programme:
 - There are an inordinant number of projects being developed currently under SC 9 (something like 15 DISs, 10 NWIPs, 5 FDISs, and 4 CDs amongst others).
- If you have questions, feel free to ask Jason.



TC 34/SC 10 Animal feeding stuffs

- Currently the US is not a P-member of SC 10 though the US and others in SC 17/WG 9 Feed production have attempted to contact and collaborate with SC 10.
- Work Programme:
 - Recently a proposal to develop guideline on NIR Spectroscopy was approved.
 - There is a DIS ballot on tryptophan content.
 - There is an amendment being developed to a prior standard.



TC 34/SC 11 Animal and vegetable fats and oils

- Again SC 11 and SC 2 have similar metrological methods and focus of standards development and therefore are regularly run in conjunction with one another.
- SC 11 like SC 2 has a unique set of stakeholders engaged in the US and AOCS works directly with all of the members outside of ISO activities.
- Work Programme
 - There are three DIS ballots of which one was first an AOCS method adopted by ISO and introduced in CODEX.
 - There is a systematic review awaiting the report of voting.
 - There are a couple amendments under development for previous standards.



TC 34/SC 12 Sensory analysis

- The US is a P-member of sensory analysis.
- While AOCS does not oversee this NMC, the stakeholder categories that could be engaged are numerous.
- Work Programme
 - There are three WDs on methodology and guidelines.
 - There is a DIS guidance document on the establishment of a sensory profile.
 - There is a FDIS on shelf life assessment.



TC 34/SC 15 Coffee

- The US is a P-member of coffee.
- Work Programme
 - There is a single WD on terms for sensory analysis.
 - There is a CD on the determination of acrylamide.



TC 34/SC 16 Horizontal methods for molecular biomarker analysis

- AOCS oversees both the international secretariat and NMC secretariat for SC 16 under the chairmanship of the USDA.
- There are very distinct differences between the stakeholders involved internationally in the SC and the WGs (through NSBs) compared to the US NMC.
- Work Programme
 - There are three NPs on meat speciation that will be advanced as parts of a general document about to be proposed.
 - There is a FDIS about to be circulated on terms and definitions.
 - There is a CD about to be circulated on plants and plant pathogens.



TC 34/SC 18 Cocoa

- SC 18 is a group like none other in TC 34. It is fully CEN led though there has been a influx of participation from developing countries in the work of this committee.
- Like SC 2 and SC 11, SC 18 has a unique set of stakeholders engaged in the US.
- Work Programme
 - There are three NPs that are currently under development.



Focus on TC 34/SC 17

FOOD SAFETY



TC 34/SC 17

- SC 17 is one of the most active US national mirror committees under TC 34.
- Work Programme:
 - The biggest area of work is in WG 8 which is the revision of ISO 22000.
 - There is a consultation/ballot asking for P-members to approve/disapprove the cancellation of work on TS 22002-5: Transportation and Storage.
 - Recently the US hosted the second WG 9 meeting to continue the drafting of ISO/TS 22002-6: Feed Production.



TC 34/SC 17 NMC Dynamics

- Stakeholders and engagement: Academia, Government, Auditing Firms, Consulting Firms, Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry Associations, Standards Development Organizations.
- Internal voting structure and commenting on ballots
- Determination of delegates and hosting meetings
 - Development of delegations and identifying a head of delegation.
 - Preparation for meetings.
 - US is hosting the 2016 plenary meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Tips, Tricks and General Recommendations

- For marketing, finding financial support, attracting participants: “Think outside the box.”
- If interested in increased involvement, there are people, committees, and countries willing to aid in the process. If you want to have a voice, you need to be involved.
- Each WG and SC within TC 34 is unique and requires expertise not utilized by other groups. Key to try for balance in all NMCs but understand that in the food sector it is not always possible.

Thank You



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