



What's new?

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Introduction:

ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 167 national standards bodies.

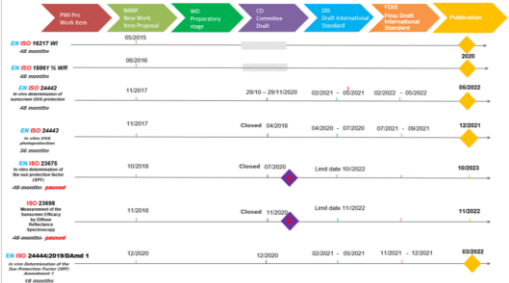
With more than 24000 International standards, ISO covering today almost all aspects of technology and manufacturing. Across its 167 members representing ISO in their country, it brings together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market-relevant International Standards that support innovation and provide solutions to global challenges.

The ISO TC217 working group 7, "Sun Protection Test Methods", is one of the 802 technical committees and subcommittees. It was set up in 2006 and since then a lot of standardisation work has been done.

What is the current situation?

Working group 7 has done remarkable work over the past 15 years by producing 5 standards for repeatable and reproducible testing of sun protection products.

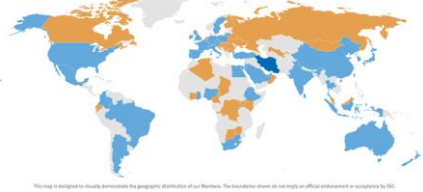
First, the 2 historical methods, *in vivo* SPF and UVA were published by ISO in 2010 and 2011 respectively, followed one year later by the *in vitro* UVA methods. In 2016, a systematic review of the *in vivo* SPF was launched, followed in 2017 by the *in vivo* and *in vitro* UVA methods. At the same time (2016), the validation process of *in vivo* water resistance began. Today, all these methods are up to date and published.



Discussion:

41 countries in blue have an active role and therefore can vote during the standards validation process, the 31 countries in yellow are observers, i.e. they receive information but cannot vote.

ISO/TC 217 PARTICIPATION



To participate in the standardization process, it is generally necessary to be an active member of the national standardization agency.

However, there is still the *in vitro* SPF method to be published as recommended by the European Commission.

Thanks to great efforts, in particular from Cosmetics Europe for the SPF *in vitro* double plate method and from a group of researchers who have developed another method based on diffuse reflection this might be overcome. ISO is currently studying these 2 alternative methods to 24444 in order to publish them probably in 2025-2026.

Only the *in vitro* water resistance method remains to be able to offer a complete alternative to the currently validated *in vivo* measurements.

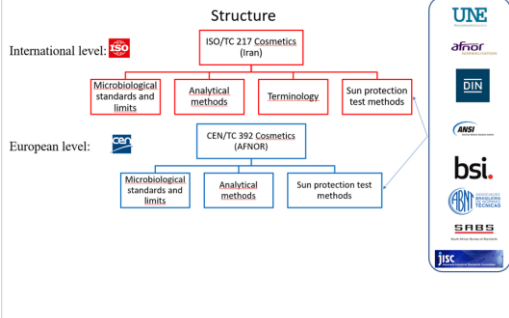
Conclusions:

It seems obvious nowadays that test methods must be harmonized, repeatable and reproducible, cosmetics cannot be an exception. The enormous work initiated in 2006 by ISO TC217 now allows players in the cosmetics industry to be able to use standardized *in vivo* methods for all commonly used protection factors and for most *in vitro* methods.

There is still work to be done in order to standardize the *in vitro* SPF method, but the future looks promising and it is hoped that the two methods currently in progress in the ISO process will be published in 2025-2026.

Acknowledgements:

All the WG7 experts



References:

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