

Report on 5th Meeting of International Standards Organisation

Sub-Committee of Textile Products for Fishing Nets
of Technical Committee 38 - Textiles

by

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I attended this meeting, held in Ostend, Belgium on May 15th and 16th, 1968, both as a member of the United Kingdom delegation and as official observer of ICES.

The following countries were represented:-

Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of West Germany, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom. Iceland sent an observer. M. Hovart (Belgium) took the chair, and the Secretariat was Mr. Hentschel and Miss Berger of Textilnorm, Berlin.

Four subjects occupied the meeting:-

1. Secretariat's report.
2. Inclusion of knotless netting within the Draft ISO Recommendation No. 1198 "Netting for Fishing: Basic Terms and Definitions".
3. Cutting netting to shape.
4. Working group on Test Methods.

Secretariat's Report

Following the previous ISO/TC 38/SC 9 meeting in Paris, 1966, three documents agreed at that meeting had had minor amendments incorporated as a result of comments received and had been submitted to ISO Central Secretariat for circulation to member countries in accordance with ISO procedure. These three documents were:-

- 38/9 N. 95 "Requirements for describing and designating knotted netting for fishing nets". This includes definitions useful in the exchange of information between purchasers and suppliers of sheet netting, e.g. size of sheet, type of yarn material, direction of stretch of netting, and packaging.
- 38/9 N. 96 "Hanging of netting, basic terms".
- 38/9 N. 97 "Cutting netting to shape". This deals with the types of cuts and rules for designation of the cutting rate.

Document 38/9 N.98 "Determination of the cutting rate", from the previous meeting, which described some of the various methods of determining the cutting rate both with and without reference to the taper ratio, had been revised and amplified as 38/9 N.102 and was for discussion. Attention was drawn to comments received concerning Draft ISO recommendation No. 1198.

Draft ISO Recommendation No. 1198 "Netting for Fishing: Basic Terms and Definitions"

This document which covers general terminology for such as netting, netting yarn and twine, mesh size, size of netting and direction in netting had deliberately excluded knotless netting from the definitions of mesh size and directions in netting because the direction of stretch in knotless netting sometimes cannot be referred to the direction of the twine and, when it can, the N- and T-directions are reversed, as compared with knotted netting. At this meeting it was decided that knotless

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netting should be included within the definitions. Agreement was reached upon an appropriate re-draft of part of this document. The revised Draft Recommendation is to be re-circulated to member countries.

Cutting netting to shape

The document 38/9 N.102 on this subject referred to in the Secretariat's report above gave rise to very lengthy discussion. All delegations present found its content of many of the ways of determining cutting rate to be too complicated and unsuitable as the subject of a standard. It was ultimately decided to reject this document, to refer back to document 38/9 N.98 upon which it was based, and to extract for use from that just a diagram illustrating the taper achieved by certain designated cuts and a section dealing with how to calculate cutting rate by means of the taper ratio. The diagram is to be added to the document 38/9 N.97 "Cutting netting to shape" (see Secretariat's Report on first page) and it was thought that the description of calculation of cutting rate might also logically fit into the same document as an example of one way in which cutting rate could be calculated.

Working Group on Test Methods

The working group set up at a previous meeting had been charged with drawing up proposed standards for test methods for the following features of netting and net materials:-

1. Knot strength of twines.
2. Extension of twines at knot breakage.
3. Mesh size of netting.
4. Mesh strength of netting.
5. Dimensional change of netting in cold water.
6. Stiffness of yarn.
7. Stretch and recovery of netting.

Over the past year the working group had collected together all available data and compared results of many tests specially done in laboratories of various countries on items 1 and 4 above. Recommendations of definitions, principle, apparatus, testing method and procedure, expression of results, and contents of report were unanimously agreed for method of determining the breaking load and knot breaking load of netting yarns and for method of determining the mesh breaking load of netting. These were circulated to member countries for postal comment and thence to the I.S.O. secretariat for further action in accordance with I.S.O. procedure.

The working group continues in being to devote attention to test methods of the five features of netting remaining from the original list of seven.

Future programme

Besides the continuation of the working group on test methods, it was agreed that the subjects of standardisation of the method of illustrating nets and of further standardisation of terminology used in relation to nets and especially their mounting and joining should be considered. The former is the subject of a document already being prepared by the Netherlands, and Professor von Brandt with assistance from Mr. Margetts, will draft a document on the latter.

Observer's comments

So far, the subject dealt with by I.S.O. which have a direct bearing on the work within I.C.E.S. have been the adoption of the Tex system of designating netting twine size (already agreed for a standard) and now the definition of mesh size. The definition of mesh size distinguishes between length of mesh side, length of mesh, and opening of mesh, and relates the direction of measurement to the axis of the mesh or the length of the netting (which is, in turn, related to the direction of run of the netting twine).

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The I.S.O. sub-committee working group is about to consider how best to measure mesh size: undoubtedly it must recommend a method of accurately measuring the mesh size under standard conditions in such a way as to give reproducible results independent of who is measuring. The work and recommendation of I.C.E.S. Comparative Fishing

Committee led the way in this but, being concerned more with trawls, did not pay attention to very fine netting or to very small-meshed netting. The I.C.E.S. findings have so far scarcely been reflected in regulations propounded by fisheries conservation commissions whose interests lie more with determining whether mesh is above or below a certain size rather than with knowing the exact measured size of the mesh. There is a great difference between mesh measurement for enforcement purposes and measurement to determine the precise mesh size. I.C.E.S. has recommended the use of the I.C.E.S. mesh gauge for comparability of mesh measurement between member countries. The I.S.O. working group will surely welcome any further recommendation or data (such as concerning the actual loading of the spring in the gauge for different net twine runnages, and concerning the numbers of meshes to be measured in calculating an acceptable mean value) that the Gear and Behaviour Committee of I.C.E.S. can offer during the next year.