



Secretariat of ISO/TC 224

Service activities relating to drinking
water supply and sewerage

AIDIS position paper to ISO/TC 224

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PURPOSE

AIDIS (Inter-American Association on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering) position paper to ISO/TC 224

COMMENTS

Paper provided by Ing. Javier Mijangos, Sub Director DINOSA, Coordinador GT 224, AIDIS Interamericana

ACTION

For information

Association reconnue
d'utilité publique
Comité membre français
du CEN et de l'ISO
Siret 775 724 818 00015
Code NAF 751 E

AIDIS position paper to ISO/TC224

AIDIS, the Inter-American Association on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, is a non-profit civil, technical, scientific organization that brings together the main institutions, professionals and students throughout the Americas with the following objectives:

- ✓ To promote the development of sanitary and environmental engineering,
- ✓ To promote the contributions of science and technology to improve basic sanitation and environment protection in the region,
- ✓ To organize congresses, seminars, conferences, courses and training programs on basic sanitation and environmental engineering,
- ✓ To represent and be the reference point on basic sanitation issues in the Americas.

AIDIS, which is a federation of 24 national engineering and sanitation Chapters covering 32 countries in the Region is expanding its spheres of action and, with these purposes in mind, is trying to increase the number of members from more than 30,000 in the 32 countries. The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association is the member Chapter representing the entire Caribbean region.

Each of the National Chapters addresses local objectives and problems. Without the national Chapters AIDIS would not exist. It is through these Chapters that AIDIS acts to overcome the challenges faced by the water and sanitation sector in each country.

The 32 countries working through 24 national Chapters include: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, USA, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and all the countries of the Caribbean through the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association.

AIDIS –liaison member of ISO/TC224

During the ISO TC 224 plenary meeting of September 22nd and 25th, 2003 in Ottawa, AIDIS was accepted as a liaison member. This was of vital importance for the institution, because it allows AIDIS to participate in the standard's development process and to represent the interests of the Latin- American and Caribbean countries. It also provides the opportunity of contributing knowledge, experience and expertise in the activities of the working groups.

Latin American Countries: Some considerations

Due to social and economic characteristics in Latin-America and the Caribbean, the water and wastewater service providers are, in most cases, small private companies, municipal companies, and user cooperatives. In many cases, there are no regulations at the national level, the customers do not know his/her rights and there is no dialogue between customers and service providers. The service provider provides the service under its own rules and without control or review by a public authority.

For these reasons we have two main problems: The rural populations have no easy access to either drinking water or sanitation services; the local service providers cannot compete against the international companies to provide service in the largest cities.

AIDIS believes that the standardization of services relating to the water supply and wastewater services will help local and small service providers in many Latin American countries improve the services and undertake new projects. But, as first step, is necessary to produce guides and not numerical standards. The guides should help the service providers to improve and make adequate over a period of time, the services offered and delivered. In our view the service providers will be able to begin to comply with the international standard. In this way both the local and small companies will be able to compete with international companies under equal conditions.

Performance indicators (PIS) are an excellent tool to carry out the transitional development described above. The development of this tool will become a new objective of AIDIS which will be accomplished within the framework of ISO/TC224. The PIS developed should be guidelines to help service providers meet the objectives of a sound service, but not include at this time, any numerical values.

AIDIS/GT224

AIDIS has established a Working Group, (Grupo de Trabajo or GT as the Spanish acronym). The first objective of the GT is to encourage the local chapter of AIDIS to establish a corresponding local GT whose activities are coordinated with those of the AIDIS/GT224. The members of the local GT could include: service providers, regulatory authorities, consumers associations, the local standardization organisations, and NGO's in the field on water supply and sanitation. In this way the "voice" of Latin America will be present at the ISO/TC224 meetings to contribute to the development of the Standard.