# REPORT OF PARTICIPATION OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION IN THE MEETINGS OF ISO/TC 224 ‘DRINKING WATER SUPPLY, WASTEWATER AND STORM WATER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES’ AND ITS WORKING GROUPS, FROM 25-28 JUNE 2024

**0 INTRODUCTION**

**ISO/TC 224** is a technical committee formed within the International Organization for [Standardization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Organization_for_Standardization) (ISO), tasked with developing and maintaining [international standards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_standards) on the management concepts for service activities and processes relating to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems. This technical committee consists of delegations from 73 national standardization bodies, out of which 36 are participating and 37 are observing members. The secretariat of this committee is with AFNOR and the Chairperson is Mme Isabelle Vendeuvre.

Within TC 224, there are, at present, one co-ordination group, one task group, one joint group and eight working groups working under different domains of standardization on water utility services. This committee has published 31 standards so far, out of which 08 standards have been adopted by BIS, India. Further, ten more important documents are under development at TC 224.

India is a P-member of TC 224 and its Working Group and actively participates in its activities through the National Mirror Committee – ***Drinking Water Supply, Wastewater and Storm Water Systems and Services Sectional Committee (SSD 14)***. The 18th Plenary meeting of ISO/TC 224 and its working group meetings were held from 25 to 28 June 2024.

The following Indian delegation participated in the above meeting:

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| **Sl No.** | **Name and Organization** | **Meeting Attended** | **Date and Place** | **Mode** |
| 1. | Ms Priyanka Singh, BIS | 1. 09th meeting of ISO TC 224/WG 10 on Flushable Products; | 25-26 June 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. | Physical |
| 1. 35th meeting of ISO TC 224/WG 07 on Crisis Management in water utility; and | 27 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |
| 1. 18th meeting of ISO TC 224. | 28 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |
| 2. | Dr Anshuman, TERI, New Delhi | 1. 09th meeting of ISO TC 224/WG 10 on Flushable Products; and | 25-26 June 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. | Physical |
| 1. 18th meeting of ISO TC 224. | 28 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |
| 3. | Shri Padmanabh Maniyar, In personal capacity (Virtual) | 1. 35th meeting of ISO TC 224/WG 07 on Crisis Management in water utility; and | 27 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |
| 1. 18th meeting of ISO TC 224. | 28 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |
| 4. | Dr Rajesh Singh, Scientist D, NIH Roorkee (Virtual) | 18th meeting of ISO TC 224. | 28 June 2024, Virtual | Virtual |

A briefing meeting for the Indian delegation was held on 19 June 2024 wherein the agenda of the meetings were discussed in detail with respect to India’s standpoint on important issues. During the meeting, the Indian delegates deliberated on the comments shared by BIS on ISO/CD 18671 on Test Methodologies for determining products suitable to be flushed down a toilet and appropriate labelling and ISO/CD 24599 on Guidelines for the Management of Mobile Toilets During Epidemic.

# SUMMARY OF ISO/TC 224/WG 10 MEETING

The WG 10 on Flushable Products conducted its 9th meeting at Japan Sewage Works Associations, Chiyoda City, Japan, on 25-26 June 2024 to discuss the 233 comments received on the ISO CD 18671 on ‘Test methodologies for the assessment of flushability of a product and its labelling’ during its CD stage.

A total of 12 comments provided by India during the balloting were discussed. India also provided its comment in the ongoing discussion and contributed to the redrafting of several clauses. The important changes made by India in ISO/CD 18671 are as follows:

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| Sl No | India’s comment | Changes made |
| 1 | The definition of persistence was not applicable for the document | The definition of persistence provided by India as:   * Existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time   Source: ISO TR 18307:2001 |
| 2 | Addition of definition for methodology | The definition of methodology  provided by India is as:   * Set of means or procedures used for a specific purpose   Source: ISO 14050:2020 |
| 3 | The velocity in a sewer full should be not specific. | To prevent the settlement of wastewater solids, the velocity in a sewer should meet **local minimum flow requirements**. |
| 4 | Environment is an important component of the document hence should be address in separate clause. | 4.7 Environment  For flushable products, consideration should be given to environmental safety, including assessment of toxicity, bioaccumulation and persistence of their components. |
| 5 | The national regulation should be the first criteria to address flushability | The document was modified to address the importance of National regulation on flushability. |
| 6 | Redrafting of 5.4.3.2 and 5.4.3.3 | See the document |
| 7 | Contributed to drafting of labelling requirement | A suitable to flush symbol should be a black toilet image with a product being disposed on a square white background.  A DNF symbol should be a black toilet image with a product being disposed on a square white background with an additional red or black circle with diagonal bar (Annex C). |
| 8 | The reference of Indian standards on test methods to assess flushability (drainline clearance test, imhoff cone test, biodegradability test) to be added in the annex A. | Reference added in the document. |
| 9 | The words “that persist in the environment” may be replaced with the words “that can degrade the environment.” | Accepted |
| 10 | Disintegration - breakdown of a material into small fragments | Partially accepted |
| 11 | In Indian context, drainage is related to storm water drainage also, and therefore, connection of bowl with drainage may be replaced with sewerage | Not accepted, the drainage system connects to the sewerage system. |
| 12 | The sentence says “The typical flush volume for new toilets varies from 2 L to 6 L depending on the region”. Why do we need to say “…depending on the region”, since it will be more about technology/type of toilet? Any region can have such technology/type of toilet. | Accepted. |
| 13 | In small diameter pipes (less than 225 mm), there is an elevated risk that products introduced into the sewer system may become snagged on pipe imperfections or tree roots, and result in pipe blockages. | Not accepted. This is just a statement of fact. It is not a design recommendation. |
| 14 | Can 1st box also ask if product contains nanomaterials, etc.? | The reference of EU directives was deleted by the WG and preference was given to the national standards. |
| 15 | Should effluent after biodegradability test pass through OECD ecotoxicity test? | Not Accepted. |

# SUMMARY OF ISO/TC 224/WG 07 MEETING

The WG 07 on Crisis Management in Water Utility conducted its 36th meeting (virtual) on 27 June 2024 to discuss the comments received on the ISO CD 24599 on ‘Guidelines on the management of mobile toilets during epidemic’ during its CD stage.

A total of 22 comments provided by India on the document were discussed and all the comments were accepted.

WG 7 recommended processing DIS for ISO 24599 on Guidelines for the management of mobile toilets under public epidemic emergency.

# SUMMARY OF ISO/TC 224 MEETING

The ISO TC 224 on Drinking Water Supply, Wastewater and Stormwater Systems and Services conducted its 18th meeting (virtual) on 28 June 2024.

During the meeting, the TC focused on the following agenda points:

1. ISO TC 224 supported the WG 6 recommendation and decided to appoint Duncan Ellison as the new Project leader of ISO/AWI TR 24594 Service activities relating to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems — Water loss management good practice;
2. ISO TC 224 supported the WG 7 recommendation and decided to launch the ISO DIS process for ISO 24599 on Guidelines for the management of mobile toilets under public epidemic emergency;
3. ISO TC 224 supported the WG 10 recommendation and decided to launch the ISO DIS process for ISO 18671 on Method for determining products suitable to be flushed down a domestic toilet and establishment of appropriate labelling requirements;
4. ISO TC 224 supported the WG 15 recommendation and decided to register ISO/TR: Smart water management: Examples and best practices in ISO TC 224 work program;
5. Considering the result of the consultation regarding the systematic review of ISO 24513:2019 on Vocabulary and the need for updating in relation to recently published standards, ISO TC 224 decides to launch its revision inside WG 1 “Terminology” with Duncan Ellison as Project Leader;
6. ISO TC 224 decides to disband WG 14 Effective corporate governance and service to users and WG 17 ISO 24511 and ISO 24512 revisions - Management and assessment of water services;
7. ISO TC 224 decides to launch the following new projects:
8. Guidelines for smart management of wastewater system under WG 15;
9. Guidelines for smart drinking water service management integrating AI technology under WG 15;
10. Guidelines for management of microplastics in water supply systems under new WG;
11. ISO TC 224 decided to launch the following new projects for the adoption as ISO standard of EN 16194 Mobile non-sewer-connected toilet cabins — Requirements of services and products relating to the deployment of cabins and sanitary products allocated to the WG 7 Crisis Management of Water Utilities.

Indian delegation took part in the discussion on the agenda items of the plenary meeting and provided inputs on decisions taken during the meeting.

# BENEFITS ACCRUED TO BIS

India is a P-member of ISO/TC 224 and its Working Group. Indian delegation in the past actively participated in the meeting and provided comments during the development of ISO standards on water utility services.

During the eighteenth plenary meeting of TC 224, Indian delegation actively participated in the deliberations. The details of the contribution by the Indian delegation are covered in Item 1 of the report. Further, the active participation of the Indian delegation has bolstered and cemented India’s strong representation in the TC 224 committee alongside active participants like Australia, UK, Japan, USA, etc., and will benefit BIS in cementing its position in other ISO committees.

# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Further, participation in the discussion of new standards like *Guidelines for smart management system of wastewater treatment, Guidelines for the design and management of the smart wastewater networks, AI for the management of water sector* would be of key importance. The comments/ suggestions proposed by India in various draft documents have been appreciated by the members of TC 224.

The Plenary meetings are held once in a year and such meetings provide opportunity to interact with the global experts and members from other national standards bodies. It provides a great platform to learn from international experts and share India’s comments/viewpoints on various ISO documents/ standards and other issues to the concerned Committees. This also helps BIS to harmonize Indian Standards with international standards and ensure their acceptance and implementation by stakeholders of the Indian service sector. Therefore, it is recommended that India should continue to actively participate in these meetings to put forward its point of views and protect interests of Indian stakeholders at the international level.

***Photographs of the Meeting***:

A group of people in a meeting

Description automatically generated

A group of people in a room

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A group of people posing for a photo

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