

ISO/IEC JTC 1 "Information technology"

Secretariat: ANSI

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## SC 37 Business Plan 2025

| Document type   | Related content                                      | Document date | Expected action                    |
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### Description

This document is circulated for review and consideration at the November 2025 JTC 1 Plenary.

## 1. Executive Summary

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| <p>Describe the title, scope, and a brief history of the subcommittee. Summarize the markets addressed by the subcommittee, the benefits realized and/or expected from the subcommittee's deliverables and the main objectives or priorities of the subcommittee's work.</p> | <p>SC 37 Biometrics was established after the events of September 11 2001 provided impetus for biometrically enabled machine-readable travel documents. With SC scoped for the <i>“Standardization of generic biometric technologies pertaining to human beings to support interoperability and data interchange among applications and systems.”</i> the SC quickly produced data elements for the data containers of ICAO's e-Passport. Operating with its six initial working groups (1. Vocabulary; 2. Interfaces; 3. Data; 4. Applications; 5. Performance; 6. Societal Issues) it produced standards to support well-tested well-documented national-scale applications, built on common terminology and standard interfaces.</p> <p>While security testing is out of SC37's scope, there are elements of security that are uniquely related to biometrics (for example, analog-domain presentation) and accordingly SC37 and SC27 established a joint working group JWG 7 - Cybersecurity testing and evaluation of biometrics. This initially is a vehicle for development of an urgently needed standard on detection of injection attacks, and for tests of the ability to do that.</p> |
| <p>The summary should identify critical, important and sensitive items so that they become more visible.</p>                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Today the main areas of SC37 activity are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interoperable data – continued development of formats (DNA), compact biometrics for low-cost 2D barcodes, and detection of sub-standard (i.e. low quality) samples</li> <li>2. Universal operability for all demographics groups, including children where biometrics still underperform</li> <li>3. Security projects concerned with the securing the analog-to-digital gap – attack-proof trusted biometric collection from living humans, and cancelable biometrics to support post-breach re-issuance.</li> <li>4. Regulatory imperatives – producing functional and performance specifications for systems subject to regulatory constraints</li> <li>5. Support for consumer-facing mobile biometrics, where even though the biometric system may be closed (“system-on-device”) the performance specifications and test methods are standardized.</li> <li>6. Privacy enhancing technologies and tests thereof.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                     |

## 2. Environment

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| <p>Explain the overall environment that relates to the scope of the subcommittee, which may include</p> | <p>The biometrics marketplace is very strong, particularly in face, fingerprint, iris modalities in many private sector applications. The standardized biometrics marketplace is much smaller – driven by the need for trans-national or trans jurisdictional interoperability. Such programs are usually governmental with have massive populations and federated structure. These are passports, immigration, border control, national or regional ID, and</p> |
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| consideration of market dynamics, technology trends, customer/stakeholder needs, competition, existing and potential policies and regulations. This section may include an explanation of how the environment impacts the subcommittee's work. | <p>civil registration. The adoption environment is generally favorable given mature widely implemented data and testing standards.</p> <p>Low-cost verifiable identity credentials will be driven by including standardized biometric data in a fully standardized stack. These will be used with mobile phones, and external devices.</p> <p>Increasingly civil sector programs do not interoperate at the biometric level because biometric sensors are tightly integrated with biometric algorithms usually within device, supporting passkeys for (non-biometric) interoperability.</p> <p>The standardization environment is conducive for work in areas related to attacks stemming from capabilities of off-the-shelf foundational AI models, particularly in face image modification and synthesis, and in the application of more tailored AI models (derived from generic AI advances) methods applied to all other biometric modalities.</p> |
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### 3. Achievements and benefits

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| Highlight the subcommittee's achievements and expected benefits of the subcommittee's deliverables to various customers/stakeholders and society overall. Both data and examples would be helpful to illustrate benefits. | <p>ISO/IEC 9868 – Initiated by the European Commission in support of the AI Act, the standard supports formal regulations for pre- and post-deployment of “high risk” systems that capture and process biometrics without subject awareness, in both public and private sector applications. Completed in 24 months, by generating ten working drafts in approximately 18 months, the development process was four times faster than is traditional. Although EU-driven, the standard can be adopted and used worldwide.</p> <p>ISO/IEC 30107 – Supports a wide variety of applications for which biometric capture is vulnerable to subversive presentation, as is typical in at-home consumer applications based on phones or tablets. The standard has been widely cited for tests of technical capability.</p> <p>The ISO/IEC 39794 flagship standards consolidate data elements from the prior 19794 versions. In particular, SC 37 Working Group 3 has delivered, on-time, the ISO/IEC 39794-1 (framework), -4 (fingerprint) and -5 (face) standards that International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will require on all electronic passports from 2030. The key innovation is to support backwards, and forwards compatibility of passport readers. Recently, ICAO indicated that there are 760+ Million e-Passports in the fields, issued by more than 111 states.</p> <p>ISO/IEC 29794-5 – With the EU articulating an immigration entry-exit need, the standard defines a set of measurements on face photographs to quantitatively express compliance with the ISO/IEC 39794-5 photographic specifications.</p> |
| Include a summary of the Sustainable Development Goals and ISO and IEC strategies that are directly impacted by the subcommittee's work.                                                                                  | <p>Many SC37 deliverables support the following SDGs as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ GOAL 1: No Poverty</li> <li>☒ GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</li> <li>☒ GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality</li> <li>☒ GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</li> <li>☒ GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions</li> </ul> <p>Biometric data elements placed on IC chips or, particularly, QR codes allow issuance of inexpensive identity credentials. Such credentials allow verifiable identity - they</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|  | <p>allow those living in poverty to prove who they claim to be, to access banking, phone, and governmental services [GOAL 1]. Together these form layers of societal infrastructure - one-person, one-identity where all people have uniform access [GOALS 9, 10]. Demographic tests of biometrics used in IDs reduce identity fraud, which supports justice and reduces inequality between rich and poor [GOAL 16]. QR codes can be printed on paper; this avoids use integrated circuits and plastic, improving sustainability [GOAL 11]. With the development of the standard, QR codes will be fully standards-based, industry can innovate on size, accuracy, speed and deployers can depend on open-standards. [GOAL 9]</p> |
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4. Participation and cooperation/collaboration.

| <p>Note the number of participating and observing members of the subcommittee, indicating any changes since the last plan was published. Include the number of members who participated in at least the last 2 plenary meetings. The section should describe any efforts or plans to increase membership.</p> | <p>Number of Published ISO standards: 145<br/>Number of ISO standards under development: 16<br/>Participating members: 33<br/>Observing members: 22<br/>Number of members who participated in 2025-01 Plenary: 17<br/>Number of members who participated in 2024-01 Plenary: 21<br/>Number of members who participated in both plenaries: 16</p> <p>SC 37 officers have engaged in outreach via Biometrics and Identity Conferences in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and N. America.</p> <p>Participation is expected to be project-driven i.e. experts will attend as (commercially, governmentally) relevant projects are explored (PWI) or proposed (NP). An overarching factor would the S-curve lifecycle of standards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                    |              |            |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                  |                                                       |
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| <p>Report on any current resource shortages and describe plans to support the long-term need for new experts/participants to be able to develop the next generation of standards and changing needs of standardization, and to ensure sufficient resources to account for ongoing attrition.</p>              | <p>Long term participation of experts is needed to form the institutional memory vital to decision regarding the document maintenance (corrigenda, revisions, etc.) and to strategic planning. SC37 was formed in 2002 and produced many standards in many areas within a decade. Many of the experts involved in those standards naturally reduced their participation in SC37 working groups, with some cycling out-and-in on a demand basis driven by maintenance needs. All this exists within an overarching S-curve that some standards are complete and fit-for-purpose requiring very little maintenance activity – the “work of the committee” is done. Of course, this is partial as there are new innovations and application areas of biometrics ripe standardization for which new experts arrived and produced technical reports and standards.</p> <p>SC 37 has never had formal processes to recruit or engage experts. Instead, it is demand-driven: A new standard is proposed, national bodies socialize it, and new experts participate organically.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                    |              |            |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                  |                                                       |
| <p>List all subcommittee liaison relationships, with other ISO and IEC committees and with external organizations, including consortia. Include comments on</p>                                                                                                                                               | <table><tr><th>Status</th><th>Organization</th><th>Noteworthy</th></tr><tr><td>NEW</td><td>FIDO</td><td>Non-standard local closed-system biometric authentication in support of passkey and crypto-based server-side authentication. Leverages SC37 performance standards.</td></tr><tr><td>NEW</td><td>TC42 Photography</td><td>Expertise in photography of human skin is relevant to</td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Status                                                                                                                                                             | Organization | Noteworthy | NEW | FIDO | Non-standard local closed-system biometric authentication in support of passkey and crypto-based server-side authentication. Leverages SC37 performance standards. | NEW | TC42 Photography | Expertise in photography of human skin is relevant to |
| Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Noteworthy                                                                                                                                                         |              |            |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                  |                                                       |
| NEW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | FIDO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Non-standard local closed-system biometric authentication in support of passkey and crypto-based server-side authentication. Leverages SC37 performance standards. |              |            |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                  |                                                       |
| NEW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | TC42 Photography                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Expertise in photography of human skin is relevant to                                                                                                              |              |            |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                    |     |                  |                                                       |

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| specific liaison relationships if desired. Use of a table may be helpful.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       | elimination of demographic variances in face recognition |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>NEW</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | UNHCR |                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>CONT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SC 27 |                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>CONT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SC 17 |                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>CONT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SC 42 |                                                          |
| Note projects that are being developed through cooperative/collaborative relationships with other ISO and IEC committees, whether via liaison or via Joint Working Groups. This should include projects that are placed in other committees where the subcommittee is making contributions. | <p>At the intersection of biometrics and security two standards are being developed by SC37 and SC27 in JWG 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISO/IEC 25456 — Biometric data injection attack detection</li> <li>- ISO/IEC 19989-1 — Criteria and methodology for security evaluation of biometric systems Part 1: Framework</li> </ul> <p>In addition, with SC 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISO/IEC 49794 — In support of next generation passports.</li> </ul> |       |                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |                                                          |

## 5. Objectives and strategies to achieve them

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| Describe the objectives of the subcommittee - looking to the future and considering future directions. Those objectives may relate to specific projects or groups of projects. | <p>The overarching objective of the committee is to provide standards that allow highly performing systems to interoperate. Interoperability in biometrics requires both syntactically correct data exchange <i>and</i> biometric data that has a defined semantic fidelity to the anatomy from which it was sensed. High performance is anchored in terms of the definitional traits of a biometric: uniqueness, universality, permanence, measurability, user acceptance, and immunity to circumvention and subversion.</p> <p>The work of the committee is driven by efforts to close gaps in these respects, particularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Universal function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biometrics in children, from neonatal until growth stabilizes in the teenage years.</li> <li>- Biometrics in the elderly</li> <li>- Biometrics in the infirm</li> <li>- Invariance across demographic groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Preclusion of sample manipulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong traceability to source</li> <li>- Integrity protection of the sensing process and captured digital samples</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Support for new modalities that emerge using new sensing techniques</li> <li>- Support for systems that include human-in-the-loop, either making decisions post-automated biometrics, or in actions taken prior to automated search. (Examples: Forensics, border-guard fraud investigation)</li> </ul> |
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| Describe the strategies that the subcommittee has developed to achieve its objectives. | SC37's strategy toward identifying standardization gaps is via 1. extensive internal road mapping discussions and 2. out-of-meeting expert engagement with industrial, academic, governmental, and customer communities. |
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## 6. Factors affecting completion and adoption of the work program

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| Note any factors that could negatively impact completion of key projects or adoption of deliverables. | <p><b>Completion:</b> Would-be project editors have non-trivial learning curve in learning Directives II, OSD, ISO development workflows, and SC 37 idiosyncratic "style", and specific ISO drafting limitations – tables-within-tables, equations, editable figures. This is all overhead incurred in addition to the technical work itself</p> <p><b>Adoption:</b> Industry attempts to sell single-vendor solutions by marketing against a standards, claiming insufficiency.</p> |
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## 7. Structure, current projects, and publications

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                                                       |
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| Describe the organizational structure of the subcommittee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Development of the JTC1/SC 37's PoW continues to be performed through the six WGs: |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>WG 1</b>                                                                        | Harmonized biometric vocabulary                                                                                             | <b>WG 4</b>                                                                                    | Technical Implementation of biometric systems         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>WG 2</b>                                                                        | Biometric technical interfaces                                                                                              | <b>WG 5</b>                                                                                    | Biometric testing and reporting and                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>WG 3</b>                                                                        | Biometric data interchange formats                                                                                          | <b>WG 6</b>                                                                                    | Cross-jurisdictional + societal aspects of biometrics |
| List (or show in an architecture diagram) current projects and indicate the new projects since the last update to the plan. The description may include relevant projects in other committees. Highlight the top few projects that should be given visibility and explain why | Current and newly initiated projects are:                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Status</b>                                                                      | <b>Number and Title</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Noteworthy</b>                                                                              |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 59594-1 — Compact biometric samples for 2D barcodes — Framework                                                     |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 59594-5 — Compact biometric samples for 2D barcodes – Face image data                                               | Very large market for tamper-proof facial biometrics stored on low-cost 2D barcodes            |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>REV</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 19795-10 — Part 10: Quantifying biometric system performance variation across demographic groups                    | Tests of demographic effects from <i>all</i> system components not just recognition algorithms |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC AWI TR 25722 — Demographic variability of face image quality measures                                               |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>REV</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 29794-5 — Face image quality                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 25049 — Customizable biometric web services — Part 1: Framework                                                     |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW</b>                                                                         | ISO/IEC 25049-2 — Information technology — Customizable biometric web services — Part 2: XML schema for service description |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>FDIS</b>                                                                        | ISO/IEC 20059 — Information technology — Methodologies to evaluate the resistance of biometric systems to morphing attack   |                                                                                                |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>CD</b>                                                                          | ISO/IEC 30136 — Information technology                                                                                      |                                                                                                |                                                       |

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| they are noteworthy or important.                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | — Performance testing of biometric template protection schemes                                                                                                            |  |
|                                                                          | <b>PWI</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ISO/IEC Guidelines for Palm print and palm vein fusion recognition                                                                                                        |  |
|                                                                          | <b>AWI</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ISO/IEC AWI TR 25050 — Cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects of implementation of biometric technologies<br>— Biometrics and identity management in refugees response |  |
|                                                                          | <b>FDIS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ISO/IEC FDIS 30108-1 — Identity attributes verification services — Part 1: IAVS services                                                                                  |  |
| Provide data on the number of publications with a link to the full list. | <p>The definitive list of published, under development, and withdrawn standards is available from this query: <a href="https://www.iso.org/committee/313770/x/catalogue/p/1/u/1/w/1/d/0">https://www.iso.org/committee/313770/x/catalogue/p/1/u/1/w/1/d/0</a></p> <p>As of August 31, 2025, that query lists 228 documents, which includes revisions and amendments.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                           |  |

Note: where requested information is available on a publicly available website, the report may reference a link.