Progress of ISO Standard on Tactile Walking Surface Indicators for Blind and Vision-impaired Persons

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Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSIs) provide information to navigate blind and visually impaired persons. After five decades since invented in 1965 in Japan, TWSIs have become such popular travel aids as to prevail not only in Japan but also in many foreign countries. In the course of this spread, the shape and the rule of the installation of TWSIs were modified in many countries. As a result, there are so many variations in the shape and the rule of the installation of TWSIs. To cope with such a situation, ISO 23599 was published in 2012, as the first international standard on TWSIs. This paper reviews the progress of ISO 23599, and discusses the tasks to be solved with TWSIs in the future.