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## Vocabulary related to rattan materials and products

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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## Foreword

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This document is prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 296, Bamboo and Rattan.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Rattan, a term derived from the Malay word for climbing palms, 'rotan', is a specialised group of scaly-fruited, spiny, climbing palms which belong to the family Palmae<sup>1</sup>. Rattans are monocotyledons with flexible stem and are generally found in tropical humid forest. The slender stem of the rattan is often winding like a rope and armed with thorns or bristle. It has a diameter of less than 10 cm and reaches a length of about 30 meters after ten years of growth. In rare cases some species can grow up to 200 meters long.

About 600 species of rattan occur in the tropical and subtropical rainforest ecosystems of Australia (Queensland), India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Laos, and Vietnam among others), the moist tropical forests of West and Central Africa (most especially Central Africa, Ghana Cameroon, and Nigeria) and the Pacific (e.g., Fiji)<sup>2,3</sup>. However, South East Asian nations primarily the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia are the top producers of rattan products and raw materials. Though a few species of rattan have been cultivated in Indonesia and a few other countries, the greatest proportion of production originates from natural forests.

Rattan is harvested for its cane, a versatile renewable material that has been used for making various products such as furniture, baskets, mats, walking sticks, handbags and crafts. Rattan cultivation, processing and utilisation constitute a major topic of interest in many parts of the globe in view of its role in poverty alleviation, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. According to UN comtrade 2013, imports of rattan products globally neared USD 745 million. Global demand for rattan products is strong and new designs for rattan furniture and basketry products continue to appeal to modern consumers. Indonesia remains the major rattan product exporter, but China and Vietnam are increasing their share of the global rattan trade despite being short of raw rattan, whilst the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos have plentiful resources but export is only relatively limited quantities.

Currently, the global trade of rattan and its products is hampered by presence of a confusing terminology in the rattan sector<sup>4</sup>. Rattan materials and products trade names are often developed by rattan merchants and bear little or no relation to botanical origin. They differ from country to country and even regions to regions and thus it is impossible to ensure any degree of standardization. Usually commercial names are derived from the locality the cane comes from.

This document aims to standardize rattan materials and products terminologies as to improve the trading activities. Standardized terminologies of rattan will also allow for the standardized grading practices that will further improve international trade of rattan materials and the products.

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# Vocabulary related to rattan materials and products

## 1 Scope

This document defines terms relating to rattan source plants, materials, intermediate rattan products and rattan products.

This document is applicable to rattan materials and products in production and trade.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

### 3.1 Terms for Rattan Harvesting

#### 3.1.1 rattan

general term for the spiny climbing palms or sub-family calamoideae with slender tough stems

Note 1 to entry: Calamoideae is a subfamily of the palm family Arecaceae containing 21 genera and about 620 species including the rattan palms, whose stems are harvested for the production of cane furniture and many other products.

#### 3.1.2 rattan stem

part of rattan plant that is above ground and bears the leaves and the plant reproductive parts

#### 3.1.3 rattan cane

part of the rattan stem with leaf sheath and shoot tip removed

#### 3.1.4 rattan cirrus

spiny, whip-like structure at the tip of leaf which serves as a climbing organ in some rattan species

#### 3.1.5 rattan flagellum

sterile inflorescence modified as climbing organ, in the form of a barbed whip, found in some rattan species of the genus calamus

Note 1 to entry: Calamus is a genus of the calamoideae. There are an estimated 400 species in this genus, mostly leaf-climbing lianas with slender, reedy stems.

#### 3.1.6 rattan petiole

stalk of rattan leaf

#### 3.1.7 rattan leaf sheath

lower portion of rattan leaf, located below the petiole, normally spiny and encircles the cane

**3.1.8**

**rattan shoot**

young or tender part of growing rattan stem

**3.1.9**

**rattan spine**

sturdy, sharp-pointed outgrowth derived from a leaf or leaf part

**3.1.10**

**green rattan cane**

fresh rattan cane that has not undergone intentional drying process

**3.1.11**

**mature rattan cane**

rattan cane that has attained full structural development

**3.2 Terms for Rattan Cane**

**3.2.1**

**rattan node**

thickened part of rattan cane, usually marked by a darker colour line encircling the cane

**3.2.2**

**rattan internode**

region between adjacent nodes of a rattan cane

**3.2.3**

**rattan epidermis**

outermost layer of rattan cane consisting of a single row of cells

**3.2.4**

**rattan flesh**

woody material underneath the rattan epidermis

**3.2.5**

**cane diameter**

dimension of cane that is used to determine the cane classes

**3.2.5.1**

**large diameter cane**

class of rattan canes with diameter of 18 mm and above

**3.2.5.2**

**small diameter cane**

class of rattan canes with diameter below 18 mm

**3.3 Terms for Rattan Intermediate Products**

**3.3.1**

**rattan pole**

round, unsplit rattan cane of specified length

**3.3.1.1**

**unpeeled rattan pole**

rattan pole with epidermis intact

**3.3.1.2**

**peeled rattan pole**

rattan pole with epidermis removed



**3.3.2****pre-processed rattan**

green rattan cane that has undergone a quality enhancement treatment or treatments

**3.3.2.1****oil-cured rattan**

rattan cane which has been immersed in hot oil media for a specific amount of time to impart desired surface colour or appearance and prevent biological degradation

**3.3.2.2****fumigated rattan**

rattan cane which has been exposed to suitable chemical fumes for preservation or improved surface appearance

**3.3.2.3****bleached rattan**

rattan cane which has been lightened in colour by bleaching agents to improve surface brightness

**3.3.3****rattan derivatives**

group of flexible slender materials, namely, peels and cores produced by peeling or splitting the cane longitudinally

**3.3.3.1****peel**

material with skin intact obtained from the peripheral portion of the cane

**3.3.3.2****round core**

core in a cylindrical form

**3.3.3.3****half round core**

core with a flat surface on one side and a half circle on the other

**3.3.3.4****flat core**

core with a flat surface on both sides

**3.3.3.5****flat oval core**

core with a flat surface on one side and a convex on the other

**3.3.3.6****oval oval core**

core with a convex on both sides

**3.3.3.7****hollow oval core**

core with a concave on one side and a convex on the other

**3.3.3.8****spline-wedge core**

core having wedge-like surface

**3.3.4****rattan webbing**

woven rattan core or peel mesh, usually in the form of sheet rolls