



GUIDE 21

Adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards

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Printed in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

Guides are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft Guides adopted by the responsible Committee or Group are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as a Guide requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

ISO/IEC Guide 21 was prepared by the ISO/IEC ad hoc Technical Advisory Group for the revision of ISO/IEC Guides 3 and 21.

This second edition of ISO/IEC Guide 21 cancels and replaces the second edition of ISO/IEC Guide 3:1981, *Identification of national standards that are equivalent to International Standards*, the first edition of ISO/IEC Guide 21:1981, *Adoption of International Standards in national standards*, and ISO/IEC Guide 21:1981/Add.1:1983, *Indication of the degree of equivalence between national standards and International Standards*.

Annexes A to E of this Guide are for information only.

0 Introduction

0.1 This Guide provides the methods for adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards and includes a system for indicating the degree of correspondence so as to promote coherence in the way regional or national standards bodies adopt International Standards and indicate the degree of correspondence with International Standards. It applies equally to the adoption of other international normative and informative documents such as Technical Reports. Greater uniformity in the indication of both correspondence and deviations among countries will aid communication, avoid confusion and facilitate trade.

0.2 International Standards are widely adopted at the regional or national level and applied by manufacturers, trade organizations, purchasers, consumers, testing laboratories, authorities and other interested parties. Since these standards generally reflect the best experience of industry, researchers, consumers and regulators worldwide and cover common needs in a variety of countries, they constitute one of the important bases for the removal of technical barriers to trade. This has been explicitly acknowledged in the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the World Trade Organization (WTO TBT Agreement).

It is important that every effort should be made to adopt and use International Standards and, consequently, to withdraw conflicting regional or national standards as soon as practicable for the reasons mentioned above. Only by developing a global approach can the benefits of standardization be fully realized. However, full adoption may not be practicable in all cases for reasons such as regional or national security, protection of human health or safety, or protection of the environment, or because of fundamental climatic, geographical or technological problems. The WTO TBT Agreement recognizes that these are legitimate reasons for regional or national deviations.

0.3 The adoption of an International Standard as a regional or national standard will be extremely difficult if the regional or national rules or traditions concerning structure and layout of regional or national standards differ from those of the standard being adopted. It is therefore recommended to apply, as far as possible, the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3, for the preparation of regional and national standards.

Even for the cases referred to in 0.2, every effort should be made to reduce the deviations to a rational minimum. Moreover, where deviations from International Standards exist, it is important to identify the deviations clearly and to state the reasons for the deviations. If International Standards are adopted only by means of a re-edited version, it is extremely difficult to identify the technical deviations owing to the presentation differences, i.e. differences in the structure and wording, of the original standard. On the other hand, a clearly identified deviation will have a tendency to disappear because as long as it remains visible, the question as to whether it is still necessary will arise repeatedly, while a hidden deviation may not disappear even when no longer justified.

0.4 It is recommended that as much information as possible is given about the correspondence of regional or national standards that adopt International Standards (or are based on them). This information should be displayed in a

prominent place on the regional or national standard (preferably on the title page and in the foreword), in standards lists, catalogues, year-books and any other media for retrieval purposes. When quoting an International Standard, at least its number and date of publication should be given. If a regional or national standard does not exist materially (for example, if the International Standard has been adopted by the endorsement method), this information about correspondence should be given in standards listing media as mentioned above.

0.5 Although the scope of this Guide covers only the adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards, the methods of adoption described and the degrees of correspondence may also be applied to the adoption of regional or national standards by other regional or national standards.

Adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards

1 Scope

This Guide provides methods for

- determination of the degree of correspondence between regional or national standards and relevant International Standards (clause 4),
- adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards (clause 5),
- indication of technical deviations which would facilitate immediate recognition of any deviation (clause 6),
- numbering of regional or national standards that are identical adoptions of International Standards (clause 7), and
- indication of the degree of correspondence between the regional or national standard and the International Standard (clause 8).

This Guide does not contain any rules for the use of an International Standard in production, trade, legislation or similar activities. It also does not deal with

- adoption of regional or national standards as International Standards,
- adoption of regional or national standards as other regional or national standards,
- adoption of regional standards as national standards, or
- adoption in or of technical regulations.

2 Normative reference

The following normative document contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Guide. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, this publication do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this Guide are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative document indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996, *Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Guide, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2 (some of which are repeated below for convenience) and the following apply.

3.1 standard

document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their result, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context