
Terminology work — Harmonization of concepts and terms

Travaux terminologiques — Harmonisation des concepts et des termes



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 860 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Principles and methods*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 860:1996), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

0.1 Overview

In spite of all the efforts made to coordinate terminologies as they develop, it is inevitable that overlapping and inconsistent terminologies will continue to be used because documents and policies are produced in different contexts. Differences between concepts and misleading similarities at the designation level create barriers to communication. Concepts and terms develop differently in individual languages and language communities, depending on professional, technical, scientific, social, economic, linguistic, cultural or other factors. Harmonization is, therefore, desirable because

- differences between concepts do not necessarily become apparent at the designation level,
- similarity at the designation level does not necessarily mean that the concepts behind the designations are identical,
- mistakes occur when a single concept is designated by two synonyms which by error are considered to designate two different concepts.

Harmonization starts at the concept level and continues at the term level. It is an integral part of standardization.

0.2 Conventions and notation

In this International Standard, tree diagrams are used to represent generic concept relations. The following notation is used throughout this International Standard.

- concepts are indicated by single quotes;
- designations are in boldface;
- characteristics are underlined;
- alpha-2 language codes are in small letters, boldface and italics;
- country codes are in capital letters;
- examples are boxed.

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Terminology work — Harmonization of concepts and terms

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a methodological approach to the harmonization of concepts, concept systems, definitions and terms.

This International Standard applies to the development of harmonized terminologies, at either the national or international level, in either a monolingual or a multilingual context.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 704:2000 ¹⁾, *Terminology work — Principles and methods*

ISO 1087-1:2000 ²⁾, *Terminology work — Vocabulary — Part 1: Theory and application*

ISO 10241:1992, *International terminology standards — Preparation and layout*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1087-1 and the following apply.

3.1

concept harmonization

activity leading to the establishment of a correspondence between two or more closely related or overlapping concepts having professional, technical, scientific, social, economic, linguistic, cultural or other differences, in order to eliminate or reduce minor differences between them

NOTE The purpose of concept harmonization is to improve communication.

3.2

concept system harmonization

activity leading to the establishment of a correspondence between two or more closely related or overlapping concept systems having professional, technical, scientific, social, economic, linguistic, cultural or other differences, in order to eliminate or reduce minor differences between them

NOTE The purpose of concept system harmonization is to improve communication.

1) Under revision.

2) To be revised.