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## GUIDE 51

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### **Safety aspects — Guidelines for their inclusion in standards**

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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.

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

ISO/IEC Guide 51 was prepared by the Joint ISO/IEC Technical Advisory Group, *Safety*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC Guide 51:1990), which has been technically revised.

This Guide may be revised in due course on the basis of practical experience. Committees writing standards are invited to inform the ISO Central Secretariat or the IEC Central Office of any difficulties encountered with the implementation of its provisions.

As safety will pose different problems it is impossible to provide a set of precise provisions that will apply in every case. Consequently, this Guide may need to be supplemented by other publications for particular fields of interest.

# Safety aspects — Guidelines for their inclusion in standards

## 1 Scope

This Guide provides standards writers with guidelines for the inclusion of safety aspects in standards. It is applicable to any safety aspect related to people, property or the environment, or a combination of one or more of these (e.g. people only; people and property; people, property and the environment).

This Guide adopts an approach aimed at reducing the **risk** arising from the use of products, processes or services. The complete life cycle of a product, process or service, including both the **intended use** and the **reasonably foreseeable misuse**, is considered.

NOTE 1 Quality is not a synonym for **safety** and consequently the respective roles of quality and of **safety** should not be confused. However it may be necessary to consider quality requirements in standards to ensure that the safety requirements are consistently met.

NOTE 2 The term “standard” used throughout this Guide includes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Publicly Available Specifications and Guides.

NOTE 3 Although this Guide is intended primarily for use by standards writers, its underlying principles may be used wherever safety aspects are being considered.

NOTE 4 Standards may deal exclusively with safety aspects or may include clauses specific to **safety**.

NOTE 5 Unless otherwise stated, the term “committee(s)”, when used in this Guide, is meant to cover both ISO and IEC technical committees, subcommittees or working groups.

NOTE 6 Terms defined in clause 3 are printed in bold type throughout this Guide.

## 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Guide. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this Guide are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents 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 3864:1984, *Safety colours and safety signs*.

ISO 7000:1989, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Index and synopsis*.

ISO 7001:1990, *Public information symbols*.

IEC 60417:1998 (all parts), *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*.

ISO/IEC Guide 14:1977, *Product information for consumers*.

ISO/IEC Guide 37:1995, *Instructions for use of products of consumer interest*.

ISO Guide 41:1984, *Standards for packaging — Consumer requirements.*

ISO/IEC Guide 50:1987, *Child safety and standards — General guidelines.*

IEC Guide 104:1997, *The preparation of safety publications and the use of basic safety publications and group safety publications.*