International Standard ISO 6592

Information processing — Guidelines for the documentation of computer-based application systems

Traitement de l'information — Principes généraux relatifs à la documentation des systèmes d'application informatisés

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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 6592 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems*.

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

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1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard establishes guidelines for the documentation of computer-based application systems. It also contains checklists with the aim of supporting effective activities throughout the system life cycle.

The guidelines given in this International Standard have been developed with the aim of

a) obtaining the necessary commitment of the parties involved with the development of the computer-based application system;

b) contributing to the production of a well-planned, standardized system documentation;

c) enabling the successive production of system documentation in parallel with system development.

Well-defined rules for documentation during the process of system development will facilitate

a) the preparation of the documentation itself;

b) estimation of the time and resources required for the achievement of a project;

c) exchange of information between the parties concerned, resulting in

— selection of attainable objectives for a system;

— a more complete and well-considered functional design;

d) making decisions and briefing of personnel during work on system development.

The system documentation produced in accordance with these guidelines

a) enables the management to exercise control over the development process;

b) enables users of the system to use it efficiently and correctly;

c) enables computer operators to schedule and run the system;

d) aids diagnosis and correction of errors or faults;

e) provides information about the system as support for system maintenance.

This International Standard does not cover the requirements for documenting the hardware design of a computer-based application system.