



GUIDE 59

**Code of good practice for
standardization**

Withdrawn

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.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

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1 Introductory commentary

1.1 Standards play an important role in trade and commerce within and between all countries of the world. These standards are developed by many bodies, at sub-national, national, regional and international levels, a significant number of which prepare their documents by consensus processes. Alongside the growth of international trade and technological cooperation, standardizing bodies have developed procedures and modes of cooperation which are commonly considered to constitute good practices for standards development at all levels. These practices are set out here in the form of a code, applicable to governmental and non-governmental consensus bodies.

1.2 At international level, the voluntary standardization process is essentially coordinated under the auspices of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). These bodies are apex organizations for an extensive infrastructure which has its foundations at national level, and extends into regional activities whenever necessary. This global system (i.e. standardization at national, regional and international level) is linked together via collaboration agreements between ISO, IEC and ITU at international level; by similar agreements between standardization organizations at regional level, such as CEN, CENELEC and ETSI in Europe; and at the base, through an extensive array of collaboration agreements between the national members of the three apex organizations.

1.3 Within the global standardization system, the national members of the three apex organizations assume the major responsibility for ensuring coherency and coordination. For this reason a distinction is made, in the definitions and under clauses 6 and 7 of this code, between a **standardizing body** (of which there may be many in the same country) and a national **standards body** which in addition is the national member of one or more of the international apex bodies, and of the corresponding regional organizations where relevant.

1.4 Adoption of this code is voluntary and intended to ensure openness and transparency, together with an optimum degree of order, coherence and effectiveness in worldwide standardization processes. Provisions which should be of a binding nature are given in the form of requirements, using the modal auxiliary "shall".