ISO/TC 97 SPECIAL GROUP ON FUNCTIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Report of Group 1 for definition of functional standardization

Participants

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Documents

(contributions)
The group identified annexes 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 as relevant to their work.

Report

The group set out with the intention of
a) providing definitions for functional standards, functional standard-
   ization and related terms;
b) defining the relationship between functional standards, base stan-
   dards and application standards;
c) the relationship between functional standards and conformance and
   testing;
d) the content and form of functional standards.

Presentations were given on the main contributions from CEN/SPAG, Japan
and the UK.

The group decided that consideration of procedures and of taxonomy were
outside its terms of reference.

It was decided to retain the term "functional standard" for the purpose
of the group meeting, although the term may not be acceptable to all
participants. It was thought that too much time would be wasted in try-
ing to reach an alternative.

The group found it difficult to come up with suitable definitions
within the allotted time, but eventually agreed on the following
provisional definitions for consideration by the plenary session:

ISP
A document which identifies a co-ordinated and non-contradictory group
of standards, together with appropriate options and parameters, neces-
sary to accomplish an identified function not specific to an applica-
tion.

functional standardization:
A process for harmonizing the application of standards by providing a
system of referencing specific uses of standards.

These definitions need to be backed up by explanatory text covering,
among other topics,

a) functional (standards) specific to ISO;
b) explanation of "application" (and/or application systems, applica-
   tion standards);
c) "process" - which covers the procedures leading to the publication
   of functional (stahdards);
d) promotion of interoperability;
e) meaningful reference for users;
f) availability for procurement.

In the remaining time, the following items related to functional (stan-
dards) were agreed in principle:

1. They may include reference to:
   - ISO base standards;
   - IEC base standards;
   - CCITT base standards.
   There was no attempt to agree on reference to regional/national/not
   yet approved standards.

2. The scope of the standards should be within the TC97 area of work;
   they should be "generic" and not application-specific.

3. Conformance criteria should be taken from the base standards. There
   was no attempt to agree on whether there should be additional con-
   formance criteria.

4. They should specify options and parameters in the base standards.

5. They should be allowed to contain options at the functional level
   (e.g. they may provide "classes" of function, rather than producing
   separate functional standards.