
**Working Party on the Accession
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

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ACCESSION OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Communication from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has submitted the following Technical Directive issued by the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO)¹.

The Annexes mentioned in Part III of the Directive are available in the Secretariat for consultation.

**Groupe de travail de
l'accession du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite**

ACCESSION DU ROYAUME D'ARABIE SAOUDITE

Communication du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite

Le Ministère du commerce du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite a communiqué la Directive technique ci-après publiée par l'Organisation saoudienne de normalisation (SASO).¹

Les annexes dont il est fait mention dans la Partie III de la Directive peuvent être consultées au Secrétariat.

**Grupo de Trabajo sobre la
Adhesión del Reino de Arabia Saudita**

ADHESIÓN DEL REINO DE ARABIA SAUDITA

Comunicación del Reino de Arabia Saudita

El Ministerio de Comercio del Reino de Arabia Saudita ha presentado la siguiente Directiva Técnica expedida por la Organización Árabe Saudita de Normalización (OASN).¹

Los anexos a que se hace referencia en la Parte III de dicha Directiva pueden consultarse en la Secretaría.

¹ English only./En anglais seulement./En inglés solamente.

**SAUDI ARABIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION
(SASO)**

**TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE —
PART ONE:
STANDARDIZATION AND RELATED
ACTIVITIES — GENERAL VOCABULARY**

D6-7-10-2000

FOREWORD

This Part of SASO's Technical Directives is Adopted from ISO/IEC Guide 2/1996: Standardization and Related Activities — General Vocabulary.

1. STANDARDIZATION

1.1 Standardization

Activity of establishing, with regard to actual or potential problems, provisions for common and repeated use, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

Notes

- 1) *In particular, the activity consists of the processes of formulating, issuing and implementing standards.*
- 2) *Important benefits of standardization are improvement of the suitability of products, processes and services for their intended purposes, prevention of barriers to trade and facilitation of technological cooperation.*

1.2 Subject of standardization

Topic to be standardized

Notes

- 1) *The expression ‘product, process or service’ has been adopted throughout this guide to encompass the subject of standardization in a broad sense, and should be understood equally to cover, for example, any material, component, equipment, system, interface, protocol, procedure, function, method or activity.*
- 2) *Standardization may be limited to particular aspects of any subject. For example, in the case of shoes, criteria could be standardized separately for sizes and durability.*

1.3 Field of standardization

Domain of standardization (deprecated)

Group of related subjects of standardization.

Note: *Engineering, transport, agriculture, and quantities and units, for example, could be regarded as field of standardization.*

1.4 State of the art

Developed stage of technical capability at a given time as regards products, processes and services, based on the relevant consolidated findings of science, technology and experience.

1.5 Acknowledged rule of technology

Technical provision acknowledged by a majority of representative experts as reflecting the state of the art.

Note: A normative document on a technical subject, if prepared with the cooperation of concerned interests by consultation and consensus procedures, is presumed to constitute an acknowledged rule of technology at the time of its approval.

1.6 Level of standardization

Geographical, political or economic extent of involvement in standardization.

1.6.1 International standardization

Standardization in which involvement is open to relevant bodies from all countries.

1.6.2 Regional standardization

Standardization in which involvement is open to relevant bodies from countries from only one geographical, political or economic area of the world

1.6.3 National standardization

Standardization that takes place at the level of one specific country

Note: Within a country or a territorial division of a country, standardization may also take place on a branch or sectoral basis (e.g. ministries), at local levels, at association and company levels in industry and in individual factories, workshops and offices.

1.6.4 Provincial standardization

Standardization that takes place at the level of a territorial division of a country.

Note: Within a country or a territorial division of a country, standardization may also take place on a branch or sectoral basis (e.g. ministries), at local levels, at association and company levels in industry and in individual factories, workshops and offices.

1.7 Consensus

General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.

Note: Consensus need not imply unanimity.

2. AIMS OF STANDARDIZATION

Note: The general aims of standardization follow from the definition in 1.1. Standardization may have one or more specific aims, to make a product, process or service fit for its purpose. Such aims can be, but are not restricted to variety control, usability, compatibility, interchangeability, health, safety, protection of the environment, product protection, mutual understanding, economic performance, trade. They can be overlapping.

2.1 Fitness for purposes

Ability of a product, process or service to serve a defined purpose under specific conditions.

2.2 Compatibility

Suitability of products, processes or services for use together under specific conditions to fulfill relevant requirements without causing unacceptable interactions.

2.3 Interchangeability

Ability of one product, process or service to be used in place of another to fulfill the same requirements.

Note: The functional aspect of interchangeability is called "Functional interchangeability", and the dimensional aspect "dimensional interchangeability".

2.4 Variety control

Selection of the optimum number of sizes or types of products, processes or services to meet prevailing needs.

Note: Variety control is usually concerned with variety reduction.

2.5 **Safety**

Freedom from unacceptable risk of harm

***Note:** In standardization, the safety of products, processes and services is generally considered with a view to achieving the optimum balance of a number of factors, including non-technical factors such as human behaviour, that will eliminate avoidable risks of harm to persons and goods to an acceptable degree.*

2.6 **Protection of the environment**

Preservation of the environment from unacceptable damage from the effects and operations of products, processes and services.

2.7 **Product protection**

Environmental protection (deprecated)

Protection of a product against climatic or other adverse conditions during its use, transport or storage.

3. **NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS**

3.1 **Normative document**

Document that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results.

Notes

- 1) *The term ‘normative document’ is a generic term that covers such documents as standards, technical specifications, codes of practice and regulations.*
- 2) *A “document” is to be understood as any medium with information recorded on or in it.*
- 3) *The terms for different kinds of normative documents are defined considering the document and its content as a single entity.*

3.2 **Standard**

Document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

***Note:** Standards should be based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.*

3.2.1 **Publicly available standards**

***Note:** By virtue of their status as standards, their public availability and their amendment or revision as necessary to keep pace with the state of the art, international, regional, national and provincial standards (3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.3 and 3.2.1.4) are presumed to constitute acknowledged rules of technology.*

3.2.1.1 **International standard**

Standard that is adopted by an international standardizing/standards organization and made available to the public.

3.2.1.2 **Regional standard**

Standard that is adopted by a regional standardizing/standards organization and made available to the public.

3.2.1.3 **National standard**

Standard that is adopted by a national standards body and made available to the public.

3.2.1.4 **Provincial standard**

Standard that is adopted at the level of a territorial division of a country and made available to the public.

3.2.2 **Other standards**

***Note:** Standards may also be adopted on other bases, e.g. branch standards and company standards. Such standards may have a geographical impact covering several countries.*

3.3 **Prestandard**

Document that is adopted provisionally by a standardizing body and made available to the public in order that the necessary experience may be gained from its application on which to base a standard.

3.4 **Technical specification**

Document that prescribes technical requirements to be fulfilled by a product, process or service.

Notes

- 1) *A technical specification should indicate, whenever appropriate, the procedure(s) by means of which it may be determined whether the requirements given are fulfilled.*
- 2) *A technical specification may be a standard, a part of a standard or independent of a standard.*

3.5 Code of practice

Document that recommends practices or procedures for the design, manufacture, installation, maintenance or utilization of equipment, structures or products.

***Note:** A code of practice may be a standard, a part of a standard or independent of a standard.*

3.6 Regulation

Document providing binding legislative rules, that is adopted by an authority.

3.6.1 Technical regulation

Regulation that provides technical requirements, either directly or by referring to or incorporating the content of a standard, technical specification or code of practice.

***Note:** A technical regulation may be supplemented by technical guidance that outlines some means of compliance with the requirements of the regulation, i.e deemed-to-satisfy provision.*

4. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**4.1 Body**

(Responsible for standards and regulations) legal or administrative entity that has specific tasks and composition.

***Note:** Examples of bodies are organizations, authorities, companies and foundations.*

4.2 Organization

Body that is based on the membership of other bodies or individuals and has an established constitution and its own administration.

4.3 Standardizing body

Body that has recognized activities in standardization.

4.3.1 Regional standardizing organization

Standardizing organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from each country within one geographical, political or economic area only.

4.3.2 International standardizing organization

Standardizing organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from every country.

4.4 Standards body

Standardizing body recognized at national, regional or international level, that has a principal function, by virtue of its statutes, the preparation, approval or adoption of standards that are made available to the public.

Note: A standards body may also have other principal functions.

4.4.1 National standards body

Standards body recognized at the national level, that is eligible to be the national member of the corresponding international and regional standards organizations.

4.4.2 Regional standards organization

Standards organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from each country within one geographical, political or economic area only.

4.4.3 International standards organization

Standards organization whose membership is open to the relevant national body from every country.

4.5 Authority

Body that has legal powers and rights

Note: An authority can be regional, national or local.

4.5.1 Regulatory authority

Authority that is responsible for preparing or adopting regulations.

4.5.2 **Enforcement authority**

Authority that is responsible for enforcing regulations

Note: The enforcement authority may or may not be the regulatory authority.

5. **TYPES OF STANDARDS**

Note: The following terms and definitions are not intended to provide a systematic classification or comprehensive list of possible types of standards. They indicate some common types only. These are not mutually exclusive; for instance, a particular product standard may also be regarded as a testing standard if it provides test methods for characteristics of the product in question.

5.1 **Basic standard**

Standard that has a wide-ranging coverage or contains general provisions for one particular field

Note: A basic standard may function as a standard for direct application or as a basis for other standards.

5.2 **Terminology standard**

Standard that is concerned with terms, usually accompanied by their definitions, and sometimes by explanatory notes, illustrations, examples etc.

5.3 **Testing standard**

Standard that is concerned with test methods, sometimes supplemented with other provisions related to testing, such as sampling, use of statistical methods, sequence of tests.

5.4 **Product standard**

Standard that specifies requirements to be fulfilled by a product or a group of products, to establish its fitness for purpose.

Notes

- 1) *A product standard may include in additions to the fitness for purpose requirements, directly or by reference, aspects such as terminology, sampling, testing, packaging and labelling and, sometimes, processing requirements.*
- 2) *A product standard can be either complete or not, according to whether it specifies all or only a part of the necessary requirements. In this respect, one may differentiate between standards such as dimensional, material, and technical delivery standards.*

5.5 Process standard

Standard that specifies requirements to be fulfilled by a process, to establish its fitness for purpose

5.6 Service standard

Standard that specifies requirements to be fulfilled by a service, to establish its fitness for purpose.

***Note:** Service standards may be prepared in fields such as laundering, hotel-keeping, transport, car-servicing, telecommunications, insurance, banking, trading.*

5.7 Interface standard

Standard that specifies requirements concerned with the compatibility of products or systems at their points of interconnection.

5.8 Standard on data to be provided

Standard that contains a list of characteristics for which values or other data are to be stated for specifying the product, process or service.

***Note:** Some standards, typically, provide for data to be stated by suppliers, others by purchasers.*

6. HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS

***Note:** Technical regulations can be harmonized like standards corresponding terms and definitions are obtained by replacing “standards” by “technical regulations” in the definitions 6.1 to 6.9 and “standardizing bodies” by “authorities” in definition 6.1.*

6.1 Harmonized standards

Equivalent standards

Standards on the same subject approved by different standardizing bodies, that establish interchangeability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards.

***Note:** Within this definition, harmonized standards might have difference in presentation and even in substance. e.g. in explanatory notes, guidance on how to fulfill the requirements of the standard, preferences for alternatives and varieties.*