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International Standardization Program

The Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) International Standardization Program aim is to promote the use and implementation of standardization as one of the essential elements to interoperability with allies and partners. Generally, the DSPO International Standardization Program focuses on International Standardization Agreements (ISAs) generated by military treaty alliance organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the American, British, Canadian, and Australian Armies (ABCA); the Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC); and the Australia Canada New Zealand United Kingdom and United States Naval C4 Organization (AUSCANNZUKUS).

In doing so, the DSPO supports and participates in the development of standardization policy, training, and interagency coordination of standardization efforts involving multinational treaty organizations and forums as follows:

- **Policy Development**. Plan, direct, coordinate, manage and review policies and procedures within the purview of the DSP that impact DoD use of international standardization agreements. Also, provide staff support to the Defense Standardization Executive in reviewing and commenting on domestic and international standardization policy.

- **Interagency Coordination**. Coordinate with Military Departments and Defense Agencies to support the development, review, and ratification of materiel international standardization agreements, and initiatives that impact materiel standardization. Also, help determine or support the development of the US position on standardization with materiel implications.

- **Conduct Studies**. Initiate and participate in studies and ad-hoc working groups to determine the best solution to fulfill standardization, logistics and interoperability requirements for multinational operations.

- **Civil Standards Activities**. Facilitate cooperative work among military and civilian practitioners by participating in activities that support the development, and use of the most suitable civil standards to satisfy multinational military standardization requirements. Additional information on civil standards, and non-government standards activities and guidance can be found at the following websites:
  - Non-Government Standards Website
  - SD-9, DoD Guidance on Participation in the Development and Use of Non-Government Standards.

- **Training**. Offers a variety of training programs for DoD military, civilian and contractor personnel; and cross training activities with other allies and partner countries.

Document Distribution. Develop and manage DoD-wide programs for automation of the indexing, authoring, coordination, identification, selection, application, publication, distribution, retrieval, and management of international standardization agreements and other associated documents. In addition to domestic standards and specifications, the Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST) provides electronic copies of ISAs ratified by the US, their national points of contact, implementing documents, and reservations. To access standardization documents, users must establish an account at: http://assist.daps.dla.mil.

Guiding Principles

Now more than ever, there is a reliance on multinational military forces to operate effectively together in accomplishing evolving missions and addressing shifting security requirements. This further emphasizes the need for interoperability between the United States and its allies, and effective U.S. participation in working groups (committees) that develop international standardization agreements (ISAs) is essential.

The following are some guiding principles which highlight the need for, and importance of, international standardization agreements:

- It is important to ensure that standardization requirements critical to coalition operations are identified and documented in the form of international standardization agreements, and made easily available for implementation.
- ISAs increase the ability of joint and coalition operations to achieve information technology superiority, improve logistics support, and enhance technological sophistication.
- Establishing an International Standardization Agreement is not an end in itself, but one strep to enhancing interoperability among coalition forces. Interoperability is the primary aim of standardization, and standardization agreements should be developed in support of this objective.

Helpful Links

+ DSP Literature
+ International Forums
+ ISA Pocket Guide

+ Locating ISAs
+ US-NATO Study
+ Training

The underlining principle of participating in the development, ratification and implementation of international standardization agreements is to enable military forces of the United States and its allies to operate together in an effective and economical manner.

Policy and Guidance

While many DoD directives and instructions deal with ISAs, these are some of the essential policy documents that relate to ISAs:

- **DoD Policy**:
    - Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 2700.01, "*International Military Agreements for Rationalization, Standardization and Interoperability Between the United States and Its Allies, and Other Friendly Nations*." This CJCSI and others can be found at http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives.
    - DoD Directive 2010.6, "*Materiel Interoperability with Allies and Coalition Partners*." The full text of this and other DoD directives is located at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives.
    - DoD 4120.24-M, "*Defense Standardization Program Policies and Procedures*," provides guidance and procedures for participating in materiel ISA committees, and ratifying and implementing materiel ISAs. This

document can be found at http://www.dsp.dla.mil.

- **US Army Policy**:
  - AR 34-1, "*Multinational Force Compatibility*," provides policy for enhancing MFC through international military standardization and other Army security cooperation activities. Also, it prescribes responsibilities and procedures for international military standardization activities that support MFC. This document and other Army publications can be found at http://www.usapa.army.mil.

- **US NAVY Policy**:
  - 5711.95C, "*U.S. Navy Participation in the International Standardization Process*," provides guidance and delineate the responsibilities for U.S. Navy participation in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC) and American-British-Canadian-Australian Armies (ABCA) Standardization Program, the development of NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs), ASIC Air Standards (AIRSTDs), and ABCA Standards, and the implementation of these international standardization agreements. This document and other US Navy publications can be found at http://doni.daps.dla.mil.

- **US Air Force Policy**:
  - Air Force Policy Directive 60-1, "*Air Force Standardization Program*," establishes policy and responsibilities for the AF Standardization Program consisting of two parts: Materiel Standardization (DSP), and International Military Standardization (IMS - both operational and materiel).
  - Air Force Instruction 60-106, "*The United States Air Force International Military Standardization Program*," establishes policy and procedures for IMS including special requirements for materiel ISAs.
  - Air Force Instruction 60-101, "*Materiel Standardization*," establishes policy and procedures for Materiel Standardization, including the responsibilities at the interface with IMS for materiel ISAs.

These documents and other US Air Force publications can be found at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil.

DoD Links

- Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
- International Cooperation Office
- Navy Warfare Development Command
- U.S. National Codification Bureau (NCB)
- US Army International Affairs
- US Army Standardization Program

DSPO Point of Contact

For more information on the DSPO International Standardization Program, and to obtain copies of the Pocket Guide for DoD Participation in the Development of Material International Standardization Agreements, please Contact Us.