



**Ministry
of Defence**

**JSP 920
MOD Standardization Management Policy**

Part 1: Directive

Foreword

The rigorous application of Standardization Management through the life of a project or programme supports effective and efficient acquisition of equipment and services. As such, platforms, systems and equipment will offer:

- a. increased value for money.
- b. increased interoperability opportunities with international partners.
- c. coherency between individual capabilities.
- d. through-life development opportunities.
- e. exploitation of export markets.

Applying Standardization Management improves project or programme governance and accountability. When this is aligned with the opportunity to better define system architectures and engage assurance, it enables equipment or service coherence while achieving value for money.

This updated Joint Service Publication (JSP) sets out the policy for through-life Standardization Management. This supplements the Government's strategic intent to use common sets of open principles¹, rules and standards.

Stephen Wilcock
Defence Functional Authority for Technical, Quality and Standardization

¹ 'Open principles' relate to the principle of open procurement allied with the principle of technological advantage (Page 14 clauses 11 - 13 of the National Security Through Technology (NSTT) White Paper). The result of adopting 'open principles' ensures the flexibility and agility to upgrade capability incrementally and ensure interoperability with Allies.

Preface

How to use this JSP

1. JSP 920 Part 1 is a policy document. It is written for all personnel who have responsibility for the specification, requirement setting and acquisition (including through-life support) of Defence equipment and services.
2. This part contains policy and direction on Standardization Management. Guidance on the application of this policy is published in JSP 920 Part 2 and can be downloaded from the [DStan intranet site](#), the [DStan extranet site](#) or [defnet](#). JSP 920 Part 2 can also be accessed via the [KiD](#) (Knowledge in Defence).

Training

3. Training on Standardization can be obtained by accessing the [KiD](#).

Further Advice & Feedback – Contacts

4. The owner of this JSP is the Defence Functional Authority for Technical, Quality & Standardization (DFATQS). For further information on any aspect of this JSP, or to provide feedback on the content, contact:

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5. A feedback form for this JSP is provided at Annex B.

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1 MOD Standardization Management Policy

1.1 Introduction

This directive is derived from Global Britain in a Competitive Age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy dated 2021.

This directive supports the MOD's strategic intent to 'Think NATO' in the delivery of the UK's Capability Targets, by improving the MOD's approach to Standardization Management. This is achieved by using a common set of principles and standards whenever possible to ensure flexibility and agility to upgrade capability incrementally and to maintain the best possible level of interoperability with our allies. Standardization Management is the through-life process that enables the drafting, development and maintenance of standards and the promotion of intelligent selection and implementation of standards, policy, processes and tools for Defence. Definitions for standards referenced are given in Annex A.

This directive complies with BS 202000:2020² and implements its principles and practices for Defence.

1.2 Benefits

The benefits of Standardization Management are:

- a. increased defined by adaptable system architectures; specified by technical constraints that enable a modular and open approach to design. Defence accrues the cost benefits associated with open procurement of systems and services and the ability to integrate advanced technologies into standard equipment.
- b. the development of policy, expertise and systems that enable the intelligent selection and application of standards which underpin the interoperability elements of mission delivery with international partners along with increased safety, repeatability, quality and environmental sustainability.
- c. coherency between individual capabilities that provide clear accountability and reduced risk resulting from uncertainty regarding communication across organisational boundaries. This enables MOD to perform the role of intelligent customer, setting rigorous, robust, realistic and stable system and service requirements for industry as well as verifying and validating the delivered equipment or support.
- d. through-life development of technology leading to the evolution of standards resulting in the ability to specify better equipment. This leads to learning from experience and develops MOD's ability to identify, assess and specify future capability requirements. Together with industry and allies, this works to ensure that standards align with technology developments.
- e. exploitation of export markets to promote our prosperity, expanding our economic relationship with growing powers, helping to build global prosperity, investing in innovation and skills, and supporting UK defence and security exports.

² BS 202000: 2020 - Standardization Management System, accessible at <https://bsol.bsigroup.com/Bibliographic/BibliographicInfoData/000000000030387671>, registration required.

1.3 Standardization Management Principles

All Platform, System and Equipment projects shall develop and utilise a Standardization Management Plan (SMP)³ to describe the approach taken to standards selection, management and maintenance throughout project's⁴ lifecycle. In so doing, you shall:

- a. implement UK ratified and promulgated International Military Standardization Agreements or Standards as enablers of increased interoperability⁵.
- b. select civilian standards⁶ wherever practicable and military standards only where necessary.
- c. use extant UK Defence Standards, and only use Beyond Review Date Defence Standards where the risk of selection has been considered and is managed using the project's Standardization Management Plan (SMP).
- d. not over-prescribe standards.

1.4 Legislative Considerations

1.4.1 Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations (DSPCR)

To enable interoperability requirements to be addressed, you shall implement appropriate promulgated UK ratified NATO STANAGs, Allied Standards and Five Eyes Standards in contracts when invoking the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2020⁷. When invoking these Regulations, you shall ensure that standards are selected and referenced in contracts in accordance with the following order of preference:

- a. international treaty-based interoperability requirements.
- b. European standards adopted by British Standards (BS EN <number>).
- c. European technical assessments, mainly used for construction projects.
- d. common technical specifications, drawn up to address a specific Defence procurement requirement.
- e. international standards adopted by British Standards (BS ISO).
- f. international standards, a civilian standard adopted by an international standards organization and made available to the public.

³ Working together with UK Defence Standardization to implement SMPs using StanMIS:

<http://stanmis.gateway.isg-r.r.mil.uk/StandardisationManagementPlan>.

⁴ Standardization Management underpins Engineering governance and assurance activities such as DE&S's GEAR (Guide to Engineering Activities and Reviews) process.

⁵ UK Defence Standards, NATO standards and other military standards from the DStan intranet site:

<http://dstan.gateway.isg-r.r.mil.uk/index.html> or the DStan extranet site:

<https://www.dstan.mod.uk/toolset/index.html>.

⁶ Users seeking access to British or ISO Standards must use this route, facilitated by the BSOL launch page on the DStan intranet site: <http://dstan.gateway.isg-r.r.mil.uk/toolset/csa.html>. For other standards an enabling framework must be used in preference over any other means of obtaining standards iaw <https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/Corp/DINSdefEquipment/2015/2015DIN04-139.pdf>

⁷ Statutory Instrument SI number 1450 of 2020 at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1450/contents/made> covers Supply/Service contracts awarded by central government for military or sensitive equipment.

- g. British Standards (BS) national standards.
- h. Civilian technical specifications originated and recognised by industry.
- i. UK Defence Standards or other nations' military standards. Use only where no other suitable technical specification exists.

Each reference in a contract to a technical specification made in accordance with these orders of preference shall be accompanied by the words 'or equivalent'.

1.4.2 Public Contracts Regulations (PCR)

When contracting through the Public Contracts Regulations 2015⁸, you shall ensure that standards are selected and referenced in contracts in accordance with the following order of preference:

- a. national standards transposing European standards (BS EN).
- b. European technical assessments.
- c. common technical specifications.
- d. international standards, civilian standards adopted by an international standards organization; where British standards are invoked, the order of sub-preference is British Standards (BS) first and, secondly, British technical approvals.
- e. other technical reference systems established by the European Standardization bodies; or
- f. when none of the above exist, national standards (BS), national technical approvals or national technical specifications relating to design, calculation and execution of the works and use of the supplies.

Each reference in a contract to a technical specification made in accordance with these orders of preference shall be accompanied by the words 'or equivalent'.

1.5 Standardization Management Assurance

All Platforms, Systems and Equipment shall undertake Standardization Management assurance⁹ to maximise interoperability through the implementation of UK ratified NATO standards; exploit new technology through the adoption of civilian standards; ensure User, System and Legislative requirements are realised through the selection of national defence standards.

⁸ Statutory Instrument SI number 102 of 2015 at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/102/contents/made> and http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/102/pdfs/uksi_20150102_en.pdf covers Supply/Service contracts awarded by central government for non-military or non-sensitive equipment.

⁹ Working together with UK Defence Standardization to implement SMPs using StanMIS: <http://stanmis.gateway.isg-r.r.mil.uk/StandardisationManagementPlan>. This will assist in the intelligent selection of standards. Engaging StanMIS (Standardization Management Information System) and the Standardization Management Plan will support your project through the assurance process.

1.6 Maintaining and Developing Standards

1.6.1 NATO Standards

Those involved in the introduction, maintenance and development of NATO standards shall validate relevance and requirement by ensuring:

- a. there is an expectation to implement nationally and no suitable alternative civilian standards exist.
- b. ratification decisions are returned by the date specified; decisions shall detail the date or intended date of implementation together with an implementation reference; where no Ratification decision is returned within 6 months of this specified date a UK 'Not Participating'¹⁰ response will be recorded.
- c. a 'ratifying, future implementation' response is upgraded to 'ratifying and implementing' as soon as the implementation date is confirmed.
- d. national reservations are reviewed five years after the date of Promulgation and updated where required

1.6.2 Defence Standards

The demand for a new Defence Standard as well as the ongoing relevance and requirement of existing Defence Standards shall be validated by ensuring that:

- a. the project requirement is current, defined and no suitable alternative civilian or NATO standard exists.
- b. the continued requirement for a Defence Standard shall be reviewed and where required, revised on a five yearly maintenance cycle to maintain technical relevance.

All normative references quoted in a Defence Standard at its time of development or maintenance shall be current for the purposes of technical integrity.

Beyond Review Date action is taken on extant Defence Standards five years after initial publication or up-issue, unless a formal review has confirmed the standard as fit for continued use as written for a further maximum period of up to five years.

1.6.3 Five Eyes Standards

Those involved in the introduction, maintenance and development of Five Eyes standards shall validate relevance and requirement by ensuring there is an expectation to implement nationally, and no suitable alternative NATO or civilian standards exist.

¹⁰ AAP-3 'Production, Maintenance and Management of NATO Standardization Documents' Section 2.5 STANAG Ratification Process. Clause 1.8 of AAP-3 refers to the Core Principles for DTAs (Delegated Tasking Authorities).

ANNEX A - DEFINITIONS

A.1 Allied Standard

An Allied Standard is developed or selected in the framework of the NATO standardization process.

A.2 Civilian Standard

A Civilian Standard is a standard published by a civilian standardizing body and made available to the public. Civilian standards are developed, established and coordinated by Civilian Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs).

A.3 Defence Standard

A Defence Standard is a document, established by consensus in accordance with JSP 920 and approved by the Ministry of Defence, 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 Defence context.

A.4 Five Eyes Standard

A formal agreement between the Five Eyes Nations (America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) defining requirements for interoperability in materiel, procedural or technical area.

A.5 International Military Standardization Agreements or Standards

Standards of this type are classed as being:

- a. NATO STANAGS.
- b. Allied Standards.
- c. Five Eyes Standards.

A.6 NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG)

A STANAG is a NATO standardization document that specifies the agreement of member nations to implement a standard, in whole or in part, with or without reservation, in order to meet an interoperability requirement.

ANNEX B - FEEDBACK FORM

Sender's Reference:

To: Gail.Murray106@mod.gov.uk

From: Name:

Role:

Address, including email address and telephone no:

Comment(s):

Paragraph:

Date:

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Author Response

Thank you for commenting on JSP 920 Part 1:

Your reference:

Date:

Action being taken (tick):

- issue a revised/amended JSP 920 Part 1.
- investigate further.
- incorporate comment(s) in future amendments.
- no action required.