JSP 920
MOD Standardization Management Policy

Part 1: Directive
Foreword

Defence requirements are increasingly complex, and inconsistent approaches between new and legacy defence projects, programmes, systems and organizations can create incoherence, which might impact adversely on military capability. Frequent organizational changes and rapid technological advancements compound this situation, and can result in easy-option, stove-piped solutions leading to inadequate interoperability both nationally and internationally. This incoherence in capability planning and management can drive duplication, re-invention, increased cost and time, and reduce ultimately our flexibility and military effectiveness.

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, products will be more interoperable with international partners, coherent between individual capabilities and efficient as wider market opportunities open up. Plus, standardization supports the extant MOD policy for procuring more ‘off the shelf’ equipments and services, for putting NATO at the heart of defence and for delivering value for money.

This updated Joint Service Publication, prepared by the Defence Standardization team within my Directorate, promulgates the policy requirements for undertaking through-life standardization management and supplements the Government’s strategic intent to use common sets of open principles, rules and standards.

I commend it to you and your staff.

AVM Julian A Young CB OBE
Director Technical DE&S and Defence Authority for Technical & Quality Assurance
Preface

How to use this JSP

1. JSP 920 is a policy document. It is written for all personnel who have responsibility for the specification, acquisition and/or through-life support of defence equipment and services.

2. This JSP contains solely the policy and direction on Standardization Management. Guidance on the application of this policy is published in Defence Standard 00-00 and can be downloaded at http://dstan.uwh.diif.r.mil.uk/00e.html.

3. This JSP is published in accordance with the new direction on all JSPs following adoption of the MOD’s New Operating Model, set out in ‘How Defence Works’

Training

4. Relevant training on this topic can be attained through the Defence Learning Portal, ‘Introduction to Standardization Management Training’ course, MSt1.

Further Advice & Feedback - Contacts

5. The owner of this JSP is Director Technical, DE&S and Defence Authority for Technical & Quality Assurance. For further information on any aspect of this JSP, or questions not answered within the subsequent sections, or to provide feedback on the content, contact:

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1.1 Introduction

This directive is derived from Government policy detailed in the Strategic Defence Review 2010\(^1\) and the National Security through Technology 2012\(^2\) White Papers. It supports the strategic intent to put NATO at the heart of defence by improving the MOD’s approach to standardization management. This is achieved through the use of a common set of principles\(^3\) and standards whenever possible to ensure flexibility and agility to upgrade capability incrementally, and to maintain the right level of interoperability with our allies.

1.2 Standardization Management

You are directed to develop a Standardization Management Plan\(^4\) for a project or programme. In so doing, you **shall**:

a. Use civil standards wherever practicable and military standards only where necessary.

b. Implement NATO STANAGs (Standardization Agreements), as enablers of increased interoperability.


Moreover, you **shall not**:

d. Refer to or use Draft STANAGs, draft Defence Standards, STANAGs unratted by UK and those ratified but not implemented.

e. Use Obsolescent Defence Standards.

f. Refer to or use Cancelled STANAGs and Defence Standards.

1.3 Legislative considerations

To enable interoperability requirements to be addressed, you shall implement UK ratified NATO STANAGs in contracts by invoking the Defence and Security Public Contracts

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3. JSP906: Design Principles for Coherent Capability.
4. Working together with UK Defence Standardization to apply the processes detailed in Defence Standard 00-00
Regulation.\(^5\) When invoking this Regulation 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, e.g., NATO STANAGs.

b. European standards adopted by British Standards (BS EN <number>).

c. European technical approvals, mainly used by the construction industry.

d. Common technical specifications, drawn up to address a specific Defence procurement requirement by Member States, uniformly applied by all Member States and published in the Official Journal.\(^6\)

e. International standards adopted by British Standards (BS ISO <number>).

f. International standards, a civil standard adopted by other international standards organization and made available to the public.

g. British Standards (BS <number>) or other Member States’ national standards.

h. Civil technical specifications originated and recognized by industry

i. UK Defence Standards or other nations’ military standards - only where no other suitable technical specification exists.

When invoking the Public Contracts Regulation,\(^7\) you shall ensure that standards are selected and referenced in contracts in accordance with the following order of preference:

k. European standards adopted by British standards (BS EN <number>).

l. European technical approvals.

m. Common technical specifications, drawn up to address a specific procurement requirement by Member States, uniformly applied by all Member States and published in the Official Journal.\(^8\)

n. International standards, civil standards adopted by other international standards organization or Member States’ national standards. Where British standards are invoked, the order of sub-preference is British standards (BS <number>) first and, secondly, British technical approvals.

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5. Statutory Instrument SI 2011/1848 covers: the supply of military or sensitive equipment, including any parts, components or sub-assemblies of military or sensitive equipment work, works, goods and services directly related to the equipment, specifically military or sensitive purposes; and work or works and sensitive services referred to in Sub-para 1.3a for any and all elements of its life cycle.

6. Common technical specifications now include those related to Information Technology & Communications, which conform to Article 13 of EU Regulation 1025/2012.

7. Statutory Instrument 2006/5 covers Supply/Service contracts awarded by central government for non-military or non-sensitive equipment

8. See Footnote 6.
Each reference to a technical specification made in accordance with these orders of preference shall be accompanied by the words “or equivalent”.

1.4 Maintaining and developing a portfolio of standards

When maintaining and developing the standards portfolio you shall ensure its relevance and requirement by:

a. Only supporting STANAGs or Defence Standards where:
   (1) Project requirement is current and defined; and
   (2) No suitable alternative civil standards exist.

b. Testing for an interoperability requirement and, where one exists, engage the appropriate NATO representative.

c. Reviewing Interim Defence Standards within one calendar year of their date of publication.

d. Taking obsolescence action on extant Defence Standards 4 years after initial publication or up-issue, unless a review or revision has been completed or ongoing relevance and requirement is confirmed.

e. Retaining Obsolescent Defence Standards only where they support the ongoing maintenance of in-service, legacy equipment or services.

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9 Working together with UK Defence Standardization to apply the processes detailed in Defence Standard 00-00