

AS/NZS ISO/IEC 25030:2021
ISO/IEC 25030:2019



Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Systems and software engineering — Systems and software quality requirements and evaluation (SQuaRE) — Quality requirements framework



AS/NZS ISO/IEC 25030:2021

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-015 Software and Systems Engineering, to supersede AS/NZS ISO/IEC 25030:2013, Software engineering — Software product Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — Quality requirements.

The objective of this Standard is to provide the framework for quality requirements for systems, software products and data, which includes concept of the quality requirements, and requirements and recommendations for the processes and methods to elicit, define, use and govern them. Intended readers of this document include, but are not limited to —

- (a) acquirers: evaluate if the system/software products/data fulfills their value proposition, i.e. meets the expected quality;
- (b) developers: design, implement and test the system/software products/data to ensure that it meets the expected quality;
- (c) testers: verify and validate that the system/software products/data meets the expected quality;
- (d) project managers: plan, monitor and control the achievement of the expected quality; and
- (e) independent evaluators: evaluate the system/software products/data with the objective criteria.

This document conforms to the technical processes defined in AS/NZS ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288, which are relevant for elicitation of stakeholders' quality needs and for defining, analysing and maintaining quality requirements. In this document, the quality models in AS/NZS ISO/IEC 25010 and AS/NZS ISO/IEC 25012 are used to categorize quality requirements and to provide a basis for quantifying them in terms of quality measures in the quality measure division of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 2502n.

This document does not cover specification of the other requirements (such as functional requirements, process requirements, etc.), and prescribes neither any specific quality measure nor any specific development process.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO/IEC 25030:2019, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software quality requirements and evaluation (SQuaRE) — Quality requirements framework*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International document, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and Systems Engineering*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 25030:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- extension of the view from software to system;
- enhancement and deployment of quality requirements;
- clarification of quality requirements definition steps:
 - stating them exhaustively by using the quality models;
 - specifying them with the quality measures with criteria for evaluation;
- clarification of how to use quality requirements.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

It is important to identify and specify quality requirements as part of system, software and data requirements, because finding the right balance of quality requirements, in addition to well-specified functional requirements, is a critical success factor to meet the stakeholders' objectives. Quality requirements are needed for:

- specifying the system, including contractual agreements and call for tender;
- planning the project, including feasibility analysis;
- developing the system, including identification of architecture drivers or potential quality problems during development; and
- evaluating the system, including objective assessment and certification of quality.

This document focuses on defining, using and governing quality requirements. If not clearly defined, they can be viewed, interpreted, implemented and evaluated differently by the relevant stakeholders. This can result in systems that are inconsistent with user expectations and of poor quality; and time and cost overruns to rework the system. Therefore quality requirements for the system need to be specified clearly at the earliest stage of the development or acquiring process as possible, to provide a critical input to the development or acquisition.

This document can be used to improve the quality of quality requirements, by providing requirements and recommendations for them, and provides guidance for the steps used to define and use them.

Quality requirements can be categorized into characteristics/subcharacteristics by using the quality models defined in the ISO/IEC 2501n family of standards. Measures of these characteristics/subcharacteristics, which are defined in the ISO/IEC 2502n family of standards, can be used to specify quality requirements and evaluate the quality of the target system or data. After ISO/IEC 25030:2007 was published, several international standards which define these models and measures have been published and so the previous edition has become inconsistent with these standards.

Furthermore many systems are now deeply embedded into social infrastructures used in daily life. This requires the systems to achieve much higher quality; e.g., connected systems need to be interoperable and secure, reliable, maintainable and usable.

This revision updates the quality requirements division of SQuaRE series, aligning it with the other divisions, and furthermore providing more practical guidelines for defining and using quality requirements.

[Figure 1](#) illustrates the organization of the SQuaRE series representing families of standards, further called divisions. The SQuaRE series consists of five main divisions and one extension division. The divisions within the SQuaRE series are:

- **ISO/IEC 2500n — Quality Management Division.** The standards that form this division define all common models, terms and definitions used by all other standards in the SQuaRE series. The division also provides requirements and guidance for the planning and management of a project.
- **ISO/IEC 2501n — Quality Model Division.** The standards that form this division provide quality models for system/software products, quality in use (QIU), data, and IT services. Practical guidance on the use of the quality model is also provided.
- **ISO/IEC 2502n — Quality Measurement Division.** The standards that form this division include a system/software product quality measurement reference model, definitions of quality measures, and practical guidance for their application. This division presents internal measures of software quality, external measures of software quality, QIU measures and data quality measures. Quality measure elements forming foundations for the quality measures are defined and presented.

- **ISO/IEC 2503n — Quality Requirements Division.** The standard that forms this division helps specifying quality requirements. These quality requirements can be used in the process of quality requirements elicitation for a system/software product to be developed, designing a process for achieving necessary quality, or as inputs for an evaluation process.
- **ISO/IEC 2504n — Quality Evaluation Division.** The standards that form this division provide requirements, recommendations and guidelines for system/software product evaluation, whether performed by independent evaluators, acquirers or developers. The support for documenting a measure as an Evaluation Module is also presented.

ISO/IEC 25050 to ISO/IEC 25099 are reserved for SQuaRE extension International Standards, which currently include in ISO/IEC 25051 requirements for quality of Ready to Use Software Products (RUSP) and instructions for testing, and in ISO/IEC TR 25060 to ISO/IEC 25069 common industry format for usability.

Quality Requirements Division 2503n	Quality Model Division 2501n	Quality Evaluation Division 2504n
	Quality Management Division 2500n	
	Quality Measurement Division 2502n	
Extension Division 25050 - 25099		

Figure 1 — Organization of the SQuaRE series of International Standards

NOTES

Australian/New Zealand Standard

Systems and software engineering — Systems and software quality requirements and evaluation (SQuaRE) — Quality requirements framework

1 Scope

This document provides the framework for quality requirements for systems, software products and data, which includes concept of the quality requirements, and requirements and recommendations for the processes and methods to elicit, define, use and govern them. Intended readers of this document include, but are not limited to:

- acquirers: evaluate if the system/software products/data fulfills their value proposition, i.e., meets the expected quality,
- developers: design, implement and test the system/software products/data to ensure that it meets the expected quality,
- testers: verify and validate that the system/software products/data meets the expected quality,
- project managers: plan, monitor and control the achievement of the expected quality, and
- independent evaluators: evaluate the system/software products/data with the objective criteria.

This document complies with the technical processes defined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288, which are relevant for elicitation of stakeholders' quality needs and for defining, analyzing and maintaining quality requirements. In this document, the quality models in ISO/IEC 25010 and ISO/IEC 25012 are used to categorize quality requirements and to provide a basis for quantifying them in terms of quality measures in the quality measure division of ISO/IEC 2502n.

This document does not cover specification of the other requirements (such as functional requirements, process requirements, etc.), and prescribes neither any specific quality measure nor any specific development process.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 25000:2014, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — Guide to SQuaRE*

ISO/IEC 25010:2011, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — System and software quality models*

ISO/IEC 25012, *Software engineering — Software product Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — Data quality model*

ISO/IEC 25022, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software quality requirements and evaluation (SQuaRE) — Measurement of quality in use*

ISO/IEC 25023, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — Measurement of system and software product quality*

ISO/IEC 25024, *Systems and software engineering — Systems and software Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) — Measurement of data quality*

ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015, *Systems and software engineering — System life cycle processes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 25000 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

NOTE The essential definitions from ISO/IEC 25000 and the other ISO standards are reproduced here.

3.1 classification axis

total range of a mapping of systems and software for categorizing them from a particular perspective

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TR 12182:2015, 3.7]

3.2 context of use

conditions and constraints under which *ICT products* (3.8) are used by specific *users* (3.20) in a specific environment to achieve specific goals as part of the larger *information system* (3.10)

Note 1 to entry: Environment includes physical aspects such as equipment and resources as well as social aspects such as demographics and culture.

3.3 deployment deployment of requirements

assignment of *requirements* (3.16) along with the system decomposition

3.4 derivation derivation of requirements

translation and elaboration of *requirements* (3.16) from one type of requirements to another in the same system level

Note 1 to entry: Types of requirements include *quality in use* (3.13) requirements, product *quality requirements* (3.15) and data requirements.

3.5 domain-based requirement

requirement (3.16) originated from its application domain

3.6 functional requirement

requirement (3.16) that specifies a function that a system or system component shall perform

[SOURCE: IEEE 730:2014, 3.2]

3.7 ICT requirement

requirement (3.16) resulting from adoption of some information and communication technologies (ICTs) technical solutions in the design process

Note 1 to entry: ICT technical solutions include web-based technologies, cloud servers, and so on.

3.8

ICT product

product (3.12) which uses information and communication technologies (ICTs) and can be a part of *information system* (3.10)

Note 1 to entry: [Figure 3](#) describes what ICT product consists of and the relationship to information system.

3.9

indirect user

person who receives output from a system, but does not interact with the system

EXAMPLE Executive manager, service acquirer.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25010:2011, 4.3.6, modified — EXAMPLE has been added.]

3.10

information system

system that comprises of software, hardware, communication facility, data and the people who use it in a given environment to satisfy their information processing needs

Note 1 to entry: [Figure 3](#) describes what information system consists of.

3.11

primary user

user (3.20) who interacts with the system to achieve the primary goals

Note 1 to entry: The definition is adapted from ISO/IEC 25010:2011, 3.6.

3.12

product

artifact that is produced, is quantifiable and is deliverable to the *user* (3.20) as either an end item in itself or a component item

Note 1 to entry: This definition is adapted from A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) Fifth Edition.

Note 2 to entry: Product includes *ICT products* (3.8), software, and software components.

3.13

quality in use

extent to which the behavioral and attitudinal outcomes and consequences of use of a *product* (3.12), system or service meets the needs of *users* (3.20) or other *stakeholders* (3.18) in specific *contexts of use* (3.2)

3.14

quality measure

measure that is defined as a measurement function of two or more values of quality measure elements

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25010:2011, 4.3.10]

3.15

quality requirement

requirement (3.16) for quality properties or attributes of an *ICT product* (3.8), data or service that satisfy needs which ensue from the purpose for which that ICT product, data or service is to be used

Note 1 to entry: Quality requirements in this document do not cover quality requirements for service.

3.16**requirement**

statement which translates or expresses a need and its associated constraints and conditions

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015, 4.1.37]

3.17**secondary user**

user (3.20) who interacts with the *product* (3.12) to support the *primary users* (3.11)

EXAMPLE Content provider, system manager, administrator, security manager, maintainer, installer.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017, 3.3651, modified — The word "person" has been replaced with "user"; EXAMPLE has been added.]

3.18**stakeholder**

individual or organization having a right, share, claim or interest in a system or in its possession of characteristics that meet their needs and expectations

Note 1 to entry: Stakeholders include *users* (3.20), developers, testers, project managers, acquirers, independent evaluators, data owners, supporters, trainers, regulatory bodies and other people influenced by the system.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015, 4.1.44, modified — The original EXAMPLE and Note 1 to entry have been replaced with a new Note 1 to entry.]

3.19**technical product quality requirement**

product (3.12) *quality requirement* (3.15) on its technically identified properties which are used in its development and maintenance processes

3.20**user**

individual or group that interacts with a system or benefits from a system during its utilization

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25010:2011, 4.3.16, modified — NOTE has been removed.]

3.21**validation**

confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence, that the *requirements* (3.16) for a specific intended use or application have been fulfilled

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25000:2014, 4.41, modified — Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

3.22**verification**

confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified *requirements* (3.16) have been fulfilled

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25000:2014, 4.43, modified — Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

4 Abbreviated terms

ICT information and communication technology

PQR product quality requirement

QIUR quality in use requirement

DQR	data quality requirement
SRS	software requirements specification
StRS	stakeholder requirements specification
SyRS	system requirements specification

5 Conformance

Any quality requirements specification that conforms to this document shall meet all the requirements described in [Clauses 6, 7](#) and [8](#).

6 Concept of quality requirements

6.1 General

This clause describes the concept of quality requirements, including their target entities for which the quality requirements are to be defined, and important considerations on them.

6.2 Types of quality requirements

Quality in use requirements (QIURs) specify the required levels of quality from the stakeholders' point of view. These requirements are derived from the needs of various stakeholders. QIURs relate to the outcome when the product is used in a particular context of use, and QIURs can be used as the target for validation of the product.

Product quality requirements (PQRs) specify levels of quality required from the viewpoint of the ICT product. Most of them are derived from stakeholder quality requirements including QIURs, which can be used as targets for verification and validation of the target ICT product. Technical product quality requirements are requirements for technically identified attributes (targeting specifications, source code, etc.) to meet the other PQRs. Technical product quality requirements can be used as targets for verification at various stages of development and maintenance.

NOTE 1 PQRs can also be used to specify attributes of deliverable, non-executable software products such as documentation and manuals.

The data quality requirements (DQRs) specify levels of quality required for the data associated with the product. These include requirements derived from QIURs and PQRs of input and output products. DQRs can be used for verification and validation from the data side.

NOTE 2 Many DQRs can be derived from PQRs for the target product, while some DQRs such as data integrity can be derived directly from QIURs.

6.3 Targets for quality requirements

The scope of the three types of quality requirements is shown in [Figure 2](#). QIURs are defined on the information system, which includes not only an ICT product but also its users and relevant environments (e.g., mechanicals monitored/controlled by the ICT product and business processes in which the ICT product is used). PQRs are defined on the ICT product or its constituents (including sub-ICT products, hardware, communication facilities, software and, in some cases, software components), and DQRs are defined on the data inside the ICT product.

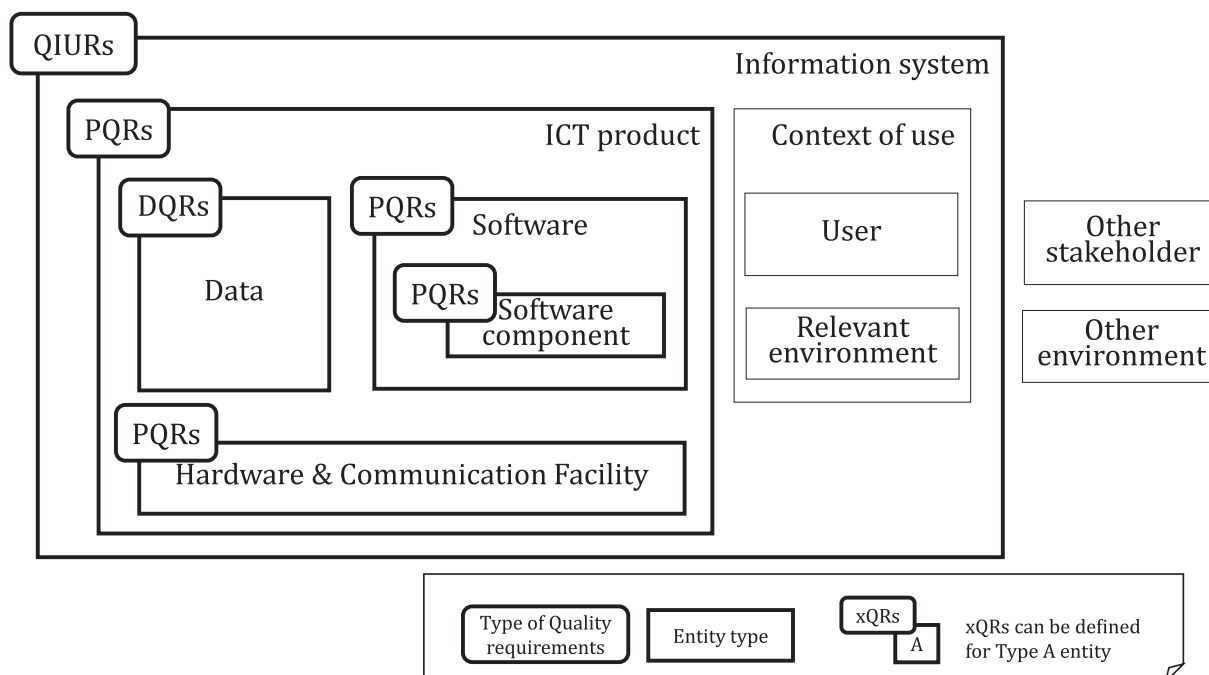


Figure 2 — Scope of quality requirements

[Figure 2](#) describes only the scope of each type of quality requirements, not describing the system hierarchy, which is formally defined in [Figure 3](#).

NOTE 1 [Annex K](#) describes how IT service quality requirements are to be treated.

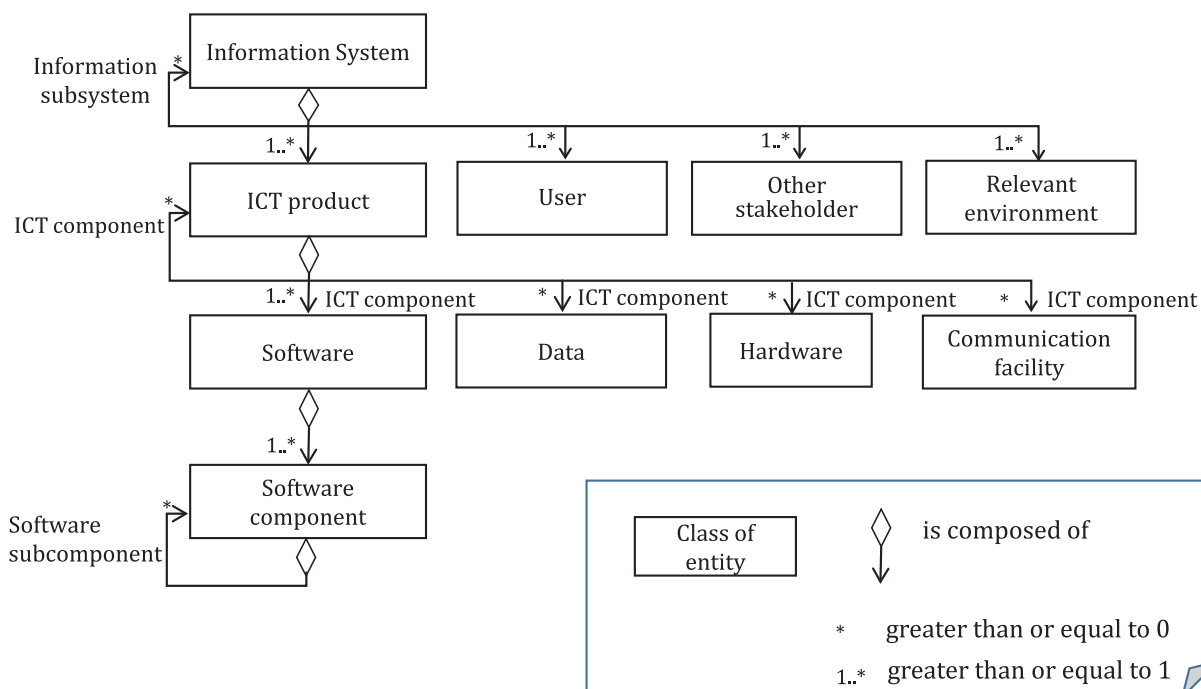


Figure 3 — System hierarchy used in [Figure 2](#)

NOTE 2 Users include primary users, secondary users and indirect users. See [Table 2](#).

NOTE 3 A “system of systems” can be considered an information system, which recursively includes some subsidiary information systems.

NOTE 4 An ICT product includes software, and also can include data, hardware, communication facilities, and other ICT products as its ICT components.

6.4 Quality models and measures for quality requirements

Quality requirements are defined by using quality models and quality measures. [Table 1](#) shows which International Standards can be used for defining each type of quality requirements.

Table 1 — Quality models and measures for quality requirements

Quality requirements	Quality model	Quality measure
QIURs	ISO/IEC 25010 Quality in use model	ISO/IEC 25022 Measurement of quality in use
PQRs	ISO/IEC 25010 System and software product quality model	ISO/IEC 25023 Measurement of system and software product quality
DQRs	ISO/IEC 25012 Data quality model	ISO/IEC 25024 Measurement of data quality

ISO/IEC 25022, ISO/IEC 25023 and ISO/IEC 25024 provide a list of quality measures in a tabular form, categorised by quality characteristics and subcharacteristics. The following information is given for each quality measure in the tables.

ID:	Identification code of the quality measure.
Name:	Quality measure name.
Description:	Information provided by the quality measure.
Measurement function:	Mathematical formula showing how the quality measure elements are combined to produce the quality measure.

NOTE Each quality measure listed in ISO/IEC 25022 can be used to measure effectiveness, efficiency, satisfaction and freedom from risk in specific contexts of use. Each quality measure listed in ISO/IEC 25023 can be used to measure internal properties (typically static measures of intermediate products), external properties (typically by measuring the behavior of the code when executed) or both. Each quality measure listed in ISO/IEC 25024 can be used to measure inherent or system dependent properties.

6.5 Important considerations of quality requirements

6.5.1 Sources of quality requirements

Two types of requirements for ICT products should be considered based on their sources: domain-based requirements, which are derived directly from stakeholder needs for their domain through requirements analysis processes, and ICT requirements, which are newly introduced by the adoption of some ICT technical solutions through design processes. Quality requirements also have the same types.

An example of ICT requirements is as follows. Adopting a web-based system (ICT technical solution) entails some user requirements like how to behave when clicking the back button on browsers (functional requirement), and self-descriptiveness of its user interface (PQR: learnability), and browser compatibility (PQR).

6.5.2 Categories of ICT products

Quality required for one ICT product is different from that for another, and therefore the category of the target system is crucially important to determine which quality characteristics have higher priority and which quality measures should be used.

ISO/IEC TR 12182 provides the framework for categorizations of ICT products, including an exemplary set of classification axes, which are organized hierarchically with the four axes in the first layer: Architecture/Structure, Property, Operational environment, Data, and Stakeholder of target system. These axes can be used for determining which quality characteristics have higher priority. Classification axes which are important for determining priority can include:

- Function (and its problem frame)
- Criticality of system and data
- Stakeholders' characteristics

NOTE Examples of supporting IT decisions on required level of quality are shown in [Annex I](#).

6.5.3 Interrelation with functional/data requirements

Quality requirements cannot be defined and analyzed separately from functional/data requirements. Some quality requirements are attached to functional/data requirements; and also some quality requirements are achieved by specifying requirements for new functions.

EXAMPLE 1 Quality requirements that are attached to functional requirements:

- Time efficiency (response time) is defined as response time for a function

EXAMPLE 2 Quality requirements that are achieved by specifying requirements for new functions:

- Some confidentiality requirements are achieved by requirements for access control function
- Some learnability requirements are achieved by requirements for help function
- Some analyzability requirements are achieved by requirements for logging function

NOTE 1 Unlike functional requirements, most quality requirements represent emergent properties of the system, which appear on a set of components, not on a specific component. Thus it is hard to build and maintain the traceability of quality requirements and as a result to surely implement and verify them throughout the product lifecycle.

Product requirements cannot be defined separately from the data requirements. ICT products consume and generate data. Quality requirements (product quality requirements or data quality requirements) can be developed to product quality requirements and/or data quality requirements along with system decomposition.

NOTE 2 There are three types of data from the perspective of ICT product: input and/or output data outside, data which its components exchange and configuration data.

NOTE 3 An example of the interdependence between the ICT product and data, and the relationship between their PQRs and DQRs is shown below:

- The configuration data file is written for the configuring the ICT product. Its DQRs (e.g., flexibility requirements) are determined from the functions and quality requirements to be fulfilled by ICT products.
- The quality (e.g., accuracy) of customer data, which is an input to a business support system, affects the product quality (e.g., interoperability and functional correctness) of the system.

- Data that are exchanged among software components of the ICT product, and their DQRs (e.g., efficiency) strongly influence the method of component implementation and product quality (e.g., time efficiency) of the ICT product.

6.5.4 Derivation of quality requirements

In the case of a large-scale system, it is important to grasp where the target entity of the quality requirements is located in the system hierarchy because the quality requirements are often derived from the higher level of entities to the lower levels.

[Figure 4](#) describes how each type of quality requirements for entities at some level derive others.

The primary source of quality requirements is users, from whom first QIURs for the information system including the target entities are elicited and documented. Then they evolve into PQRs and DQRs for the target entities. Other stakeholders, such as developers and regulatory bodies, also give some quality requirements on the target entities. Finally other entities give some requirements as constraints to the target entities, including non-target ICT products, software and data which are connected to or used in the targets, and hardware and communication which are used in them.

NOTE A QIUR can derive a set of functions to each of which some PQRs are attached, e.g., an efficiency requirement of a user task can derive a function to automate some portion of the task with a time behavior requirement. Similarly in their deployment to the lower level of targets, PQRs can also derive a set of functions to each of which some PQRs are attached. See [6.5.3](#).

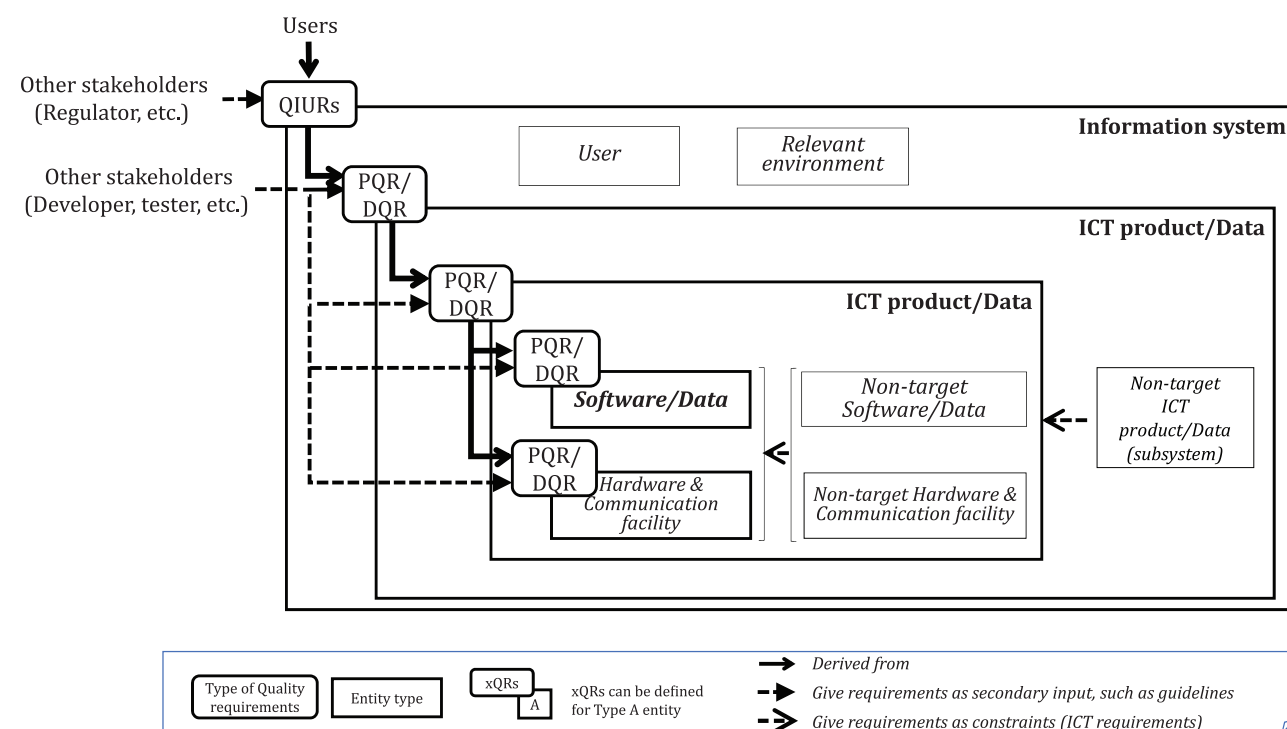


Figure 4 — Derivation of quality requirements

6.5.5 Quality requirements trade-offs

Quality requirements can have conflicts with one other. These conflicts inevitably arise as a result of the inter-relationships between quality characteristics. In case that some quality characteristic can negatively influence on another, trade-offs should be conducted to resolve the conflict to find the right balance of them.

NOTE Examples of inter-relationship between product quality characteristics are shown in [Annex G](#).