

BSI Flex 0 v1.0:2021-11



BSI Standards Publication

Principles of BSI Flex standardization



Publishing and copyright information

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this BSI Flex indicates when the BSI Flex was last issued.

© The British Standards Institution 2021

Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021

ICS 01.120

No copying without BSI permission except as permitted by copyright law.

BSI's Flex Standards provide a new, flexible way to develop consensus-based good practice that dynamically adapts to keep pace with fast-changing markets. For more information, go to: <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/our-services/standards-services/flex/>

Release history

First version November 2021

Contents

	Page
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principles of standardization	1
4.1 Context	1
4.2 Purpose of standardization	2
4.3 BSI	2
4.4 Application of BSI Flex standards	2
5 BSI Flex	3
5.1 Purpose of BSI Flex standards	3
5.2 Distinctive features	4
5.3 Legal status	4
5.4 Relationship with other BSI standardization activities	5
5.5 Authorship and content	5
5.6 Consensus	5
6 BSI Flex development process	6
6.1 Overview	6
6.2 Project inception	6
6.3 Contract	6
6.4 Project development	6
7 Roles and responsibilities	9
7.1 BSI	9
7.2 BSI employees	9
7.3 Sponsor	10
7.4 Technical author	10
7.5 Advisory group	10
7.6 Identified broader stakeholders	10
8 Content and drafting of a BSI Flex	10
8.1 Principles	10
8.2 Legal considerations	11
8.3 Drafting	11
8.4 Types of BSI Flex	12
8.5 Intellectual property rights (IPR)	12
Bibliography	15

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 17, and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

The development of this BSI Flex was facilitated by BSI Standards Limited and it was released under licence from The British Standards Institution. It came into effect on 30 November 2021.

The advisory group was composed of BSI employees.

The British Standards Institution retains ownership and copyright of this BSI Flex. BSI Standards Limited as the publisher of the BSI Flex reserves the right to withdraw or amend this BSI Flex on receipt of authoritative advice that it is appropriate to do so.

This BSI Flex is not to be regarded as a British Standard or PAS.

The agile BSI Flex development process enables a standard to be rapidly developed, and on an iterative basis, in order to fulfil an immediate need in industry. A BSI Flex can be considered for further development as a PAS or British Standard or constitute part of the UK input into the development of a European or International Standard. BSI Flex 0 is unique in that it is the governance document for the development of BSI Flex standards, and it will therefore not be developed as a PAS, British Standard, or European or international standard.

Because the content in this version is part of an iterative process, it is likely to change from time to time with subsequent iterations.

Information about this document

This release is Version 1 of BSI Flex 0, which has been released to enable industry to engage with the initial content and feedback comments for further version of the standard to be developed. This is the first public consultation of this BSI Flex and so the content should not be considered as having received wider feedback. Users are therefore encouraged to comment on this version.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at bsigroup.com/standards, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this BSI Flex are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its principles are expressed as statements, or in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is and is to be used at the recipient's own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This BSI Flex is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a BSI Flex cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

THIS PAGE DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

1 Scope

BSI Flex 0 sets out the principles for the development of a BSI Flex and the principal features of the process by which it is developed. It does not discuss procedural detail and, reflecting the flexible nature of the product and process, is generally indicative rather than definitive in nature.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.¹⁾

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this BSI Flex, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 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.

[ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004, definition 1.7]

3.2 intellectual property rights (IPR)

patents, rights to inventions, copyright, trade marks, domain names, designs, database rights, confidential information and similar rights anywhere in the world whether registered or unregistered along with the right to apply for protection of such rights

3.3 sponsor

party, or parties acting together, who provide funding to BSI on a commercial basis to enable the development of a BSI Flex

NOTE The sponsor is not necessarily the proposer of the project.

3.4 stakeholder

individual, company or other collective body, having a direct interest in the outcome of a standardization project

3.5 standardization product

product published by BSI having broadly the character of a standard or part of a standard, or service provided by BSI to others to assist in the development of such products

¹⁾ Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

4 Principles of standardization

4.1 Context

Standardization can be undertaken by any group of people who share a common objective. It can be undertaken informally amongst groups of colleagues in a workplace, and in a more structured environment, by means of:

- a) codified practices within a company;
- b) company standards for use in procurement;
- c) industry standards;
- d) national standards developed and adopted by formally acknowledged national standards bodies;
- e) regional (e.g. European) standards; and
- f) international standards.

4.2 Purpose of standardization

Standardization is the activity of establishing agreed criteria that provide a reliable basis on which common expectations can be shared regarding specific characteristics of a product (including a service) or a process.

It provides a framework for achieving economies, efficiencies and interoperability that facilitate trade and enhance consumer protection and confidence. Increasingly it is also used to support public policy objectives by offering effective alternatives to regulation.

4.3 BSI

BSI is the UK National Standards Body (NSB). Its role is established under its Royal Charter and codified in the *Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom Government and the British Standards Institution* (the MoU)²⁾. The role includes:

- a) coordinating and facilitating the development of British Standards of UK origin;
- b) participating in international standardization through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC); and
- c) participating in regional (i.e. European) standardization through the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).

BSI is permitted under its MoU to produce other standardization products such as BSI PAS and BSI Flex.

4.4 Application of BSI Flex standards

4.4.1 Principles of application

Responsibility for selecting and applying a BSI Flex lies with its user. In general, BSI is not able to assist in this, nor take any responsibility for it, other than to provide an indication of the scope and contents of a BSI Flex.

²⁾ Available at www.bsigroup.com.

Available at <https://www.bsigroup.com/globalassets/documents/about-bsi/bsi-uk-nsb-memorandum-of-understanding-uk-en.pdf>