

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION R 860

INTERNATIONAL UNIFICATION
OF CONCEPTS AND TERMS

1st EDITION
October 1968

COPYRIGHT RESERVED

The copyright of ISO Recommendations and ISO Standards belongs to ISO Member Bodies. Reproduction of these documents, in any country, may be authorized therefore only by the national standards organization of that country, being a member of ISO.

For each individual country the only valid standard is the national standard of that country.

Printed in Switzerland

Also issued in French and Russian. Copies to be obtained through the national standards organizations.

BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 860, *International unification of concepts and terms*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology (Principles and co-ordination)*, the Secretariat of which is held by the Österreichisches Normungsinstitut (ON).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1952 and led, in 1966, to the adoption of a Draft ISO Recommendation.

In May 1967, this Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 1189) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies :

Argentina	Greece	Romania
Australia	India	Spain
Austria	Israel	Switzerland
Chile	Italy	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	U.A.R.
France	Poland	
Germany	Portugal	

Three Member Bodies opposed the approval of the Draft :

Ireland
United Kingdom
U.S.A.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided, in October 1968, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

FOREWORD

Co-operation and communication between experts engaged in all branches of science and technology are assuming ever-increasing importance as essential conditions for progress, both within each country and between countries. For this exchange to be successful, technical terms should have the same meaning for everyone who uses them. This goal can be achieved only if there is general agreement on the meaning of these terms. Hence the importance of technical vocabularies, in which concepts and terms, as well as their definitions, are standardized (terminological standards). It is just such standards which aid to assure mutual understanding.

These vocabularies are prepared by the National Standards Associations and by the Technical Committees of ISO. During the work on terminology carried out by these bodies it quickly became apparent that it was necessary to have directives applicable to any field of knowledge and that it was possible to establish them.

Accordingly, ISO set up a Technical Committee, known as ISO/TC 37, *Terminology (Principles and co-ordination)*, with the mission of finding out and formulating general principles on terminology and terminological lexicography.

The ISO Recommendations prepared by this Technical Committee deal with questions that fall under the following four classes :

1. Vocabulary of terminology;
2. Procedure for producing national or international standardized vocabularies;
3. National and international standardization of concepts, terms and their definitions : principles for their establishment and criteria of value;
4. Layout of monolingual and multilingual vocabularies, including lexicographical symbols.

The ISO Recommendation included in class 2 deals with guidance in the organization of the work, while the other classes are concerned with technical details.

The following ISO Recommendations have been or will be issued :

Class 1

ISO/R . . .,* *Vocabulary of terminology*

Class 2

ISO/R 919, *Guide for the preparation of classified vocabularies (Example of method)*

Class 3

ISO/R 704, *Naming principles*
ISO/R 860, *International unification of concepts and terms*

Class 4

ISO/R . . .,** *Layout of multilingual classified vocabularies*
ISO/R . . ., *Layout of monolingual classified vocabularies*
ISO/R . . ., *Lexicographical symbols*
ISO/R 639, *Symbols for languages, countries and authorities*

The present ISO Recommendation is a supplement to ISO Recommendation R/704, *Naming principles*, which contains principles applicable to any particular language or languages.

* At present Draft ISO Recommendation No. 781.

** At present Draft ISO Recommendation No. 1659.