



BSI Standards Publication

Principles of PAS standardization

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Summary of pages

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Foreword

Publishing information

This PAS is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 29 June 2012.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a PAS cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

PAS 0 sets out the principles underpinning a BSI PAS publication 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.

PAS 0 is intended as an exemplar of a BSI PAS in respect of structure, drafting principles and language, but alternative approaches may be adopted by agreement.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1 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]

2.2 essential intellectual property rights (essential IPR)

intellectual property rights that have been included within a PAS such that it would be impossible to implement the PAS without making use of those rights, and the only way to avoid an infringement of the rights in respect of implementation of the PAS is therefore to request a licence from the owner

2.3 intellectual property rights (IPR)

rights having no tangible form, but representing the product of creative work or invention

NOTE Such rights include copyright and related rights, rights in designs, patents, rights to inventions, whether registered or unregistered.

2.4 sponsor

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

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

2.5 stakeholder

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

3 Standardization

3.1 Purpose

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.

3.2 Context

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

- codified practices within a company;
- company standards for use in procurement;
- industry standards;
- national standards produced by formally acknowledged standards bodies;
- regional (e.g. European) standards; and
- international standards.

3.3 BSI

In the UK, the British Standards Institution (BSI) is formally recognized as being the national standards body (NSB). An organization for which independence and integrity are fundamental values, it develops and publishes over 2000 standardization documents each year, most of them carrying the formal status of British Standard. Most are based on European or international standards to which UK interests make a major contribution. A small proportion of its output comprises standardization documents that are developed wholly within the UK. Amongst these is a category termed "PAS".

NOTE 1 The term PAS was originally an acronym derived from "publicly available specification". However, not all PAS documents are structured as specifications and the term is now sufficiently well-established not to require any further amplification.

NOTE 2 Further details of the role of BSI as the UK NSB, as a developer and publisher of formal British Standards, and as the UK gateway into European and international standardization can be found in BS 0.

4 The PAS

4.1 Purpose

A BSI PAS (PAS) is a standardization document that closely resembles a British Standard in structure and format but which has a different development model (see Clause 5).

NOTE Bodies other than BSI also produce documents termed PAS.

A PAS is developed in response to an identified market need; very often a request from a sponsor for a standardization document that serves the needs of an emergent market, technology, service or public policy interest.

The PAS approach offers an effective means of quickly introducing standardization in such cases, and for testing the value or validity of a particular approach or methodology. It can also serve as the basis for subsequent development towards more formal standardization at UK, European or international level.

A PAS is generally intended for unrestricted use within any markets for which it appears to be relevant and useful. It is not restricted to application within the UK, nor is its development model restricted to UK stakeholders.