



ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 "Artificial intelligence"
Secretariat: ANSI
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Canada National Body Contribution - Creation of a terminology coordination task group

Document type	Related content	Document date	Expected action
Meeting / Other	Meeting: Le Chesnay-Rocquencourt (France) 7 Oct 2024	2024-08-14	INFO

Description

This National Body Contribution will be considered during the April, 2024, SC 42 Plenary

Canadian National Body contribution on the implementation of a terminology coordination process

Canada recognizes the increasing need for consistent and harmonized terminology across the rapidly expanding portfolio of standards within SC 42. Canada also acknowledges that harmonizing terms, definitions and concepts throughout every project and standard from all working groups is challenging.

The rapid expansion of SC 42's portfolio, particularly with the introduction of a management system standard such as ISO/IEC 42001, has highlighted the need for a more structured approach to terminology coordination. Inconsistent use of terminology can lead to confusion, reduced interoperability, and increased complexity for users and experts participating in deliverable development, particularly when projects intersect with other disciplines, inside and outside the scope of SC 42, such as data quality, functional safety, AI system management, compliance and governance.

Proposal

To address this challenge, Canada proposes that SC 42 consider the establishment of a terminology coordination process and discuss this proposal at the upcoming Plenary. This horizontal process will play a crucial role in ensuring that terminology, including terms, definitions and concepts, developed and used across different projects in the portfolio is consistent, coherent, and harmonized, thereby enhancing the overall quality and usability of SC 42 standards.

This proposition echoes the contributions related to the importance of consistency of terminology in the development of deliverables made by Germany ([SC42 N1342](#)) and France ([SC42 N1386](#)) at the April 2023 plenary.

Objectives

The terminology coordination process would cover the coordination and oversight of the use of terminology, including terms, definition and concepts, during the development of deliverables, with the objective of ensuring that it aligns with the principles set out in relevant ISO/IEC Directives and the JTC 1 Consolidated Supplement, with the concepts and terminology standards in SC 42, such as ISO/IEC 22989 and ISO/IEC 23053, and with existing standards.

Establishing this coordination process would also reinforce accountability for the development and use of terminology across all working groups, thus ensuring that SC 42 standards remain reliable and effective tools for international interoperability, compliance and trade.

This initiative is in line with Canada's commitment to enhancing the global relevance and applicability of SC 42 standards by ensuring they are developed with consistent, clear, and harmonized terminology.

Proposed Components of the Coordination Process

The proposed coordination process would focus on:

- Guiding terminology use: Providing guidance to the Chair, Convenors, Project Editors, National Member Bodies, and experts within SC 42 on the consistent use of terminology.
- Identifying gaps and risks: Analyzing potential inconsistencies or conflicts in terminology across projects and recommending solutions.
- Ensuring consistency: Overseeing the use of terminology, including terms, definitions and concepts, at all stages of development, from preliminary work to approval, ensuring alignment with the principles in ISO/IEC Directives and the JTC 1 Consolidated Supplement.
- Facilitating collaboration: Engaging with other JTC 1 Subcommittees and ISO and IEC Technical Committees to promote consistency across related areas of standardization.
- Developing tools: Creating resources and tools to aid in the standardization and harmonization of terminology within SC 42.

Actions Requested

Canada proposes that SC 42 form a short-term ad hoc group, in National Body mode, during the Versailles Plenary week to discuss the establishment of a terminology coordination process and to make recommendations on the best course of action to ensure coordination, oversight and accountability of terminology management within SC 42.

Canada proposes Nicholas Poirier as a candidate to lead the proposed short term ad hoc group.