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Referencing Explanatory Report for UNICODE

Reference Specification (RS):

The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0
(The Unicode Consortium)

1.   Justification

1.1   Relationship to International Standards

The Unicode Standard is a character encoding standard designed to meet goals of universality, uniformity and uniqueness, and to consolidate and extend the range of character encodings supported in ISO standards, and in other national character encoding standards.

1.2   Degree of Market Acceptance

UNICODE enjoys global industry acceptance, and the Unicode Consortium is actively supported by major industry participants.

1.3   Rationale for Non-transposition

UNICODE has been developed by an industry consortium (the Unicode Consortium), and has achieved stability and global industry acceptance, without requiring transposition into a formal standard of the ISO.

2.   Evaluation Criteria

2.1   Cooperative Stance

The Unicode Consortium is a liaison organization to JTC1. Formal Class C liaison status is maintained to JTC1 SC2, and JTC1 SC22. The Unicode standard is fully compatible with ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000

The Unicode standard also sources ISO/IEC 6937, ISO/IEC 8859 and ISO/IEC 8879 amongst others. A complete list of ISO and national standards incorporated is provided in the references section of the Unicode document.

The Unicode document is freely available from the Unicode Consortium web site (www.unicode.org).

2.2   On-going Maintenance

Unicode is actively maintained by the Unicode Consortium via the Unicode Technical Committee, which oversees Unicode   development activity. Full details are published and regularly updated on the Unicode Consortium web site (www.unicode.org/unicode/consortium/utc.html)

2.3   Changes

Changes and additions to the Unicode standard are published on the Unicode Consortium web site (www.unicode.org).

2.4   Availability

The Unicode specification is freely available from the Unicode Consortium web site (www.unicode.org).

2.5   Intellectual property rights

Public documents on the Unicode web site are made freely available, subject to Unicode copyright. The Unicode copyright terms permit free use, copying and distribution of the Unicode specification, subject to the terms and conditions published at (www.unicode.org/unicode/copyright.html).

3.   Quality

The Unicode specification has been in development since 1988, and has been consistent with ISO standards since 1989. The Unicode specification is freely available from the Unicode Consortium web site (www.unicode.org).