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**Information technology — User  
interfaces — Procedures for the  
registration of cultural elements**

*Technologies de l'information — Interfaces utilisateur — Procédures  
pour l'enregistrement des éléments culturels*



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# Contents

Page

Foreword .....	v
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Terms and definitions .....	2
4 International Register.....	3
4.1 Content .....	3
4.2 Format.....	3
4.3 Indices to the registrations .....	3
4.4 Identification of an approved registration .....	4
4.5 No modification nor deletion of registrations .....	4
5 ISO/IEC supervisory body .....	4
6 Registration Authority.....	4
6.1 Appointment .....	4
6.2 Responsibilities .....	5
6.3 Identity .....	5
7 Sponsoring Authority.....	6
7.1 Identity .....	6
7.2 Responsibilities .....	6
8 Source of Information .....	7
8.1 Identity .....	7
8.2 Responsibilities .....	7
9 The Registration Authority's Joint Advisory Committee .....	7
9.1 Membership .....	7
9.2 Appointment .....	7
9.3 Responsibilities .....	7
10 Types and relationships of Cultural Specifications.....	8
10.1 Types of Cultural Specifications.....	8
10.2 Relations between registration types.....	8
11 Format of a Narrative Cultural Specification .....	9
12 Contents of a Narrative Cultural Specification (informative).....	11
12.1 Mandatory clauses .....	11
12.2 Optional clauses.....	12
13 Format of a Repertoiremap .....	15
14 Rules for Cultural Specifications .....	15
15 Specification of the token identifier .....	17
16 Initial registration procedures.....	18
17 Processing of an approved application .....	19
18 Appeal procedures .....	20
18.1 Appeals against rejection.....	20
18.2 Appeals against registration .....	20
18.3 Invalid reasons for an appeal.....	20
18.4 Procedure for filing an appeal.....	20

<b>18.5</b>	<b>Resolution of an appeal .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Revisions .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Additions of token identifiers to an existing registration.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Withdrawal.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>21.1</b>	<b>Withdrawal of an application for registration .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>21.2</b>	<b>Withdrawal of an entire existing registration.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>21.3</b>	<b>Procedures for parts .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(normative) Application form for a Cultural Specification .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(informative) Sample application for a Cultural Specification .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(normative) External references to Cultural Specifications .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Annex D</b>	<b>(informative) Example of a Narrative Cultural Specification .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Annex E</b>	<b>(normative) "reorder-after" construct in LC_COLLATE .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Annex F</b>	<b>(informative) Information on "reorder-after" construct in LC-COLLATE .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Annex G</b>	<b>(informative) Sample POSIX Locale specification for Danish.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Annex H</b>	<b>(informative) Differences from ISO/IEC 15897:1999 and CEN ENV 12005:1996 .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>44</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15897 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 15897:1999), which has been technically revised. ISO/IEC 15897:1999 was the result of a “fast-track” adoption of ENV 12005:1996.

This second edition adds support for registering specifications meant for machine processing, such as ISO/IEC TR 14652 specifications, SGML and XML. It enlarges the group of organizations that may be Sponsoring Authorities, and an effort has been made to align it with the registration procedures of ISO/IEC 2375. The changes to the first edition are outlined in Annex H.

## Introduction

Cultural differences throughout the world make it necessary to adapt IT equipment to each local culture. Standard methods being developed by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 35 make such adaptation easier. Registering the local conventions in a globally available registry makes it still easier. CEN/TC 304 was the first committee to start work on such a registry and the European prestandard ENV 12005:1996 was the result. ISO/IEC 15897:1999 was the result of the “fast-track” adoption of DS/ENV 12005, a Danish Standards Association standard publication equivalent to ENV 12005.

This International Standard registers amongst other items Narrative Cultural Specifications and Repertoiremaps, POSIX Locales and POSIX Charmaps as defined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 9945, and other machine-parsable Cultural Specifications such as ISO/IEC TR 14652 FDCC-sets, Charmaps and Repertoiremaps, and Cultural Specifications in SGML or XML.

The registration will be free-of-charge and the registered cultural elements will also be freely available on the Internet (see 6.3). This will make information on cultural conventions freely and easily available to producers in the IT market. Some of these specifications may even be applied without any change by downloading the formatted specifications and processing them, for example by POSIX-compliant software.

# Information technology — User interfaces — Procedures for the registration of cultural elements

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the information that can appear in a Cultural Specification and defines the procedures for registering such specifications. The Cultural Specifications can include freeform Narrative Cultural Specifications and Repertoiremaps as described in this International Standard, POSIX Locales and Charmaps conforming to ISO/IEC/IEEE 9945, and other machine-parsable specifications such as FDCC-sets, Repertoiremaps and Charmaps following the recommendations of ISO/IEC TR 14652, and Cultural Specifications formatted using SGML or XML. The registry is in printed and electronic form.

Each cultural convention registration has unique identifiers in a particular standard format defined in this International Standard. A numeric identifier and a token identifier are assigned to each registered cultural convention specification, POSIX Locale, POSIX Charmap and Repertoiremap, FDCC-set and ISO/IEC TR 14652 Charmap, and other machine-processable descriptions of cultural conventions. These identifiers are for unique identification of the Cultural Specification, and are intended to be used with POSIX Locale handling mechanisms and possibly other Locale and Charmap usage, such as in programming languages, database handling and communication protocols and for identification and specification by human operators.

The field of application of this International Standard is to provide reference for implementers, procurers, users, and standardization organizations to determine cultural requirements in a given cultural environment. Registered items using certain POSIX formal specification methods can also be used by POSIX-conformant operating systems and other software capable of using such specifications.

**NOTE** The title of this International Standard contains the term “cultural elements”. The preferred term in this International Standard is “cultural conventions”, but the term “cultural elements” is retained in the title for consistency with earlier versions of this International Standard.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 639-1, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 1: Alpha-2 code*

ISO 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO/IEC 646, *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*

ISO 3166 (all parts), *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions*

ISO 4217, *Codes for the representation of currencies and funds*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/IEC 8824 (all parts), *Information technology — Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1)*

ISO/IEC 8825 (all parts), *Information technology — ASN.1 encoding rules*

ISO/IEC/IEEE 9945, *Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX®) Base Specifications, Issue 7*

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS)*