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SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 60-106

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STANDARDIZATION

**INTERNATIONAL MILITARY
STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM**

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 60-1, *Air Force Standardization Program* and is consistent with the Air Force Interoperability Council (AFIC) Instructions and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allied Administrative Publication (AAP)-03, *Directive for the Production, Maintenance and Management of NATO Standardization Documents*. It sets guidance and procedures for the development, ratification, and implementation of International Standardization Agreements by bodies for which the United States Air Force (USAF) is the Lead Agent and for USAF coordination on and implementation of International Standardization Agreements affecting the USAF. It applies to all USAF organizations including the Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFR) Units. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Form 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Field activities must send implementing publications to the higher headquarters functional Office of Primary Responsibility for review and coordination before publishing. The authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier ("T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3") number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit

requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the requestors commander for non-tiered compliance items.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This revision clarifies policy, removes duplicated sections, deletes unnecessary acronyms, and removed non-directive information in order to meet Secretary of the Air Force guidance.

Chapter 1

USAF INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STANDARDIZATION

1.1. Purpose. This chapter describes the distinction between standardization and international military standardization, their relationship to Interoperability, the Department of Air Force's role, the Lead Agent concept, the different levels of standardization, and basic policy guidelines for international military standardization.

1.2. Standardization. Standardization is the process by which the Department of Defense (DoD) achieves cooperation among the Services and DoD agencies for the use of research, development, and production resources. The Services and DoD agencies agree to adopt the use of:

- 1.2.1. Common or compatible operational, administrative, and logistic procedures;
- 1.2.2. Common or compatible technical procedures and criteria;
- 1.2.3. Common, compatible, or interchangeable supplies, components, weapons, or equipment; and,
- 1.2.4. Common or compatible tactical doctrine with corresponding organizational compatibility.

1.3. International Military Standardization. International military standardization is the process by which DoD achieves the closest practicable standardization with the military forces of its allies and friendly nations. Standardization is pursued in both materiel and operational domains.

1.4. Interoperability. It is in the best interests of the United States (U.S.) that its Armed Forces be interoperable with our multinational partners. Interoperability is the ability to act together coherently, effectively, and efficiently to achieve tactical, operational, and strategic objectives. The USAF advances interoperability by promoting materiel and operational standardization between allies and possible coalition partners.

1.5. Air Force Role. The Air Force provides advice on international military standardization efforts with allies and coalition partners; establishes and maintains close parallel relationships with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) organizations and allies, major non-NATO allies, and friendly foreign nations; provides representation at appropriate NATO groups and other forums affecting standardization and interoperability; and provides coordination on standardization and interoperability matters with other DoD Components.

1.6. Lead Agent. The USAF is identified as the Lead Agent for a number of air domain related international military standardization bodies in the NATO and with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in accordance with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 2700.01F, *Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability (RSI) Activities*.

1.7. Levels of Standardization. The DoD and NATO identify, in requirements documents, several different levels of standardization that are necessary for achieving interoperability with allies and coalition partners. They include:

- 1.7.1. Compatibility - the use of products, processes or services that are suitable together under specific conditions to fulfill relevant requirements without causing unsatisfactory issues.

1.7.2. Interchangeability - the ability to use one product, process, or service in place of another to fulfill the same requirements.

1.7.3. Commonality - the state achieved when the same doctrine, procedures, or equipment are used.

Chapter 2

RESPONSIBILITIES OF USAF PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STANDARDIZATION

2.1. Purpose. This chapter outlines the roles and responsibilities of the international military standardization participants and organizations from the Air Force.

2.2. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics) (SAF/AQ). SAF/AQ shall appoint the U.S. National Representative to the NATO Air Force Armaments Group nominated by SAF/AQI (see [paragraph 2.3.1](#) below).

2.3. Information Dominance (SAF/AQI). SAF/AQI shall:

2.3.1. Be responsible for overall U.S. participation in NATO Air Force Armament Group and its substructure. Specific information on the NATO Air Force Armament Group, including nomination of U.S. representatives, is contained in AFMAN 16-114, *Procedures for USAF Participation in International Armaments Cooperation (IAC) Programs*.

2.3.2. Serve as the Lead Agent for the Air Force Petroleum Office for the Fuels and Lubricants working group and the Air Force Civil Engineering Center for the Petroleum Handling Equipment working group.

2.3.3. Coordinate with Armament Cooperation Division, SAF/IAPC, and SAF/AQRE on NATO Air Force Armament Group matters.

2.4. Air Force Departmental Standardization Office (SAF/AQRE). SAF/AQRE shall:

2.4.1. Serve as Office of Primary Responsibility for implementing materiel international standardization agreements.

2.4.2. Be responsible for all USAF materiel standardization matters and the Air Force portion of international military standardization for materiel standardization activities (see AFI 60-101, *Materiel Standardization*).

2.4.3. Coordinate on the development and ratification of international standardization agreements.

2.4.4. Support AF/A5SP, when requested, in identifying and appointing engineering-related Heads of Delegations and members of delegations for working groups that develop materiel international standardization agreements.

2.5. International Affairs (SAF/IA). SAF/IA shall:

2.5.1. Serve as the Office of Primary Responsibility for developing, coordinating, and negotiating international agreements.

2.5.2. Provide final approval of all Test and Evaluation Agreements.

2.6. Armament Cooperation Division (SAF/IAPC). SAF/IAPC shall:

2.6.1. Review draft test and evaluation agreements and supporting documentation.

2.6.2. Staff draft test and evaluation agreements with appropriate Headquarters Air Force offices.

2.6.3. Initiate negotiations and develop test and evaluation agreements for the Air Force.

2.7. Foreign Disclosure, Weapons and Technology Transfer Division (SAF/IAPT). SAF/IAPT shall:

2.7.1. Review draft test and evaluation agreements and supporting documentation.

2.7.2. Provide disclosure guidance, coordination, and authorization to Air Force personnel and organizations involved in international military standardization.

2.7.3. Specify the classification level of U.S Information that may be viewed by foreign nationals in visit authorization documents upon receipt of visit request.

2.8. Deputy General Counsel for International and Civil Aviation (SAF/GCI). SAF/GCI shall:

2.8.1. Review international standardization agreements, including NATO Standardization Agreements and Air Force Interoperability Council Air Standards.

2.8.2. Review draft test and evaluation agreements and supporting documentation.

2.9. Deputy Chief of Staff Strategy, Integration, and Requirements (AF/A5). AF/A5 shall:

2.9.1. Maintain responsibility for operational standardization

2.9.2. Maintain the management of operational capability requirements and development.

2.10. Directorate of Strategy, Concepts and Assessments (AF/A5S). AF/A5S shall:

2.10.1. Direct the accomplishment of international military standardization.

2.10.2. Serve as the U.S. National Director on the Air Force Interoperability Council for all the Services.

2.10.3. Designate AF/A5SP as the U.S. National Representative to the NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board.

2.10.4. Appoint Heads of Delegation to Air Force Interoperability Council and NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board working groups.

2.10.5. Delegate signature and ratification authority to AF/A5SP for Air Force Interoperability Council and NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board standards and agreements.

2.11. Regional Plans and Posture Division (AF/A5SP). AF/A5SP shall:

2.11.1. Manage U.S. participation in the Air Force Interoperability Council and NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board as the Air Force Lead Agent office of primary responsibility.

2.11.2. Develop procedures and administer USAF participation in the NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board; other NATO Standardization Boards; Air Force Interoperability Council; the American, British, Canadian, Australian Armies, and Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and U.S. Navies.

2.11.3. Assist, as requested, with the coordination of Air Force international military standardization activities conducted by the Major Commands, Numbered Air Forces, direct reporting units, or field operating agencies.

2.11.4. Coordinate with SAF/AQRE on materiel standardization issues, actions, and agreements.

2.11.5. Serve as the U.S. National Representative to the NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board and single point of contact with the Board Staff Officers on Board activities.

2.11.6. Serve as the U.S. National Representative to the Air Force Interoperability Council Management Committee and single point of contact with the Air Force Interoperability Council on Council activities.

2.11.6.1. Provide office space and local office logistics support for the Air Force Interoperability Council Management Committee.

2.11.6.2. Obtain from SAF/IAPT, extended visit authorizations for allied personnel assigned as foreign liaison officers to the Air Force Interoperability Council Management Committee.

2.11.7. Coordinate the assignment of U.S. Heads of Delegations and subject matter experts to NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board and Air Force Interoperability Council working groups.

2.11.8. Coordinate and submit U.S. national ratification for NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board Standardization Agreements. Coordinate USAF subscription to other related NATO Standardization Board agreements, as requested by the Lead Agent Service or DoD Component.

2.11.9. Review working group or panel proposals, reports, agenda, directives, and other correspondence to ensure timely engagement and dissemination of information.

2.11.10. Monitor and evaluate service participation in international military standardization organizations to ensure U.S. and USAF meet their objectives.

2.11.11. Serve as the Office of Record for U.S. participation in the Air Force Interoperability Council and NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board and maintain files on the associated agreements, meetings, and general correspondence.

2.11.12. Liaise with and coordinate actions, positions, and documentation with Air Force Action Offices, Major Commands, Department of Defense Components, Joint Staff, and Office of the Secretary of Defense.

2.11.13. Coordinate test and evaluation proposals for Air Force Interoperability Council Test Project agreements and NATO Combined Test Project agreements with the involved Head of Delegation, SAF/IAPC, and SAF/IAPT.

2.11.14. Identify Action Offices, with overall USAF responsibility for specific functional areas, to provide Heads of Delegations and subject matter experts for NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board and Air Force Interoperability Council working groups.

2.12. Director of Operations (AF/A3O). AF/A3O shall manage U.S. participation in the NATO Aviation Committee.

2.13. Air Force Petroleum Office. The Air Force Petroleum Office shall manage U.S. participation in the NATO Fuels and Lubricants working group.

2.14. Air Force Civil Engineering Center. The Air Force Civil Engineering Center shall manage U.S. participation in the NATO Petroleum Handling Equipment working group.

2.15. Major Commands. Major Commands shall:

2.15.1. Evaluate and implement the international standardization agreements to which USAF subscribes.

2.15.2. Provide support and representation, as requested by USAF Lead Agent offices, for USAF participation in international military standardization activities.

2.15.3. Coordinate on international standardization agreements with the U.S. Head of Delegation or USAF Lead Agent office, as requested.

2.15.4. Implement all U.S. ratified standardization agreements and standards which affect their operations.

2.15.5. Refer requests for authorization to deviate from an operational international standardization agreements to the appropriate USAF Lead Agent office. Refer requests for authorization to deviate from materiel international standardization agreements to both SAF/AQRE and appropriate USAF Lead Agent office.

2.15.6. Promote USAF international military standardization objectives by recommending to the appropriate Head of Delegation or USAF Lead Agent office proposed standardization studies or projects.

2.16. Head of Delegation. The Head of Delegation shall:

2.16.1. Lead U.S. delegations at working groups and reports to the Air Force Lead Agent office of primary responsibility for the international military standardization organization or activity. Heads of Delegations shall:

2.16.2. Be nominated as Head of Delegation by their supervisory management from the appropriate Action Office, for coordination with and approval by the Air Force office of primary responsibility for the standardization organization or activity.

2.16.3. Supervise and coordinate all phases of U.S. working group efforts.

2.16.4. Identify subject matter experts to participate in their delegation, as needed.

2.16.5. Coordinate delegation pre-meetings and comments on working group agenda items.

2.16.6. Oversee U.S. involvement in developing international standardization agreements. U.S. Joint Publications related to working group documents must be the basis for U.S. international military standardization positions as required by CJCSI 2700.01F.

2.16.7. Coordinate test and evaluation proposals for Air Force Interoperability Council Test Project agreements and NATO Combined Test Project agreements with their Air Force Lead Agent office, SAF/IAPC, and SAF/IAPT.

2.16.8. When hosting a meeting, coordinate all meeting activities with the hosting facility, the USAF Lead Agent office, each nation's delegation, and appropriate international standardization agency.

2.16.9. Identify a U.S. implementing document and date for an international standardization agreement, when tasked to formulate a U.S. national or USAF position.

2.16.9.1. Inform the U.S. document's office of primary responsibility which international standardization agreement the document implements.

2.16.9.2. Ensure, in coordination with the SAF/AQRE for materiel agreements, the document's office of primary responsibility completes any implementing document revisions in accordance with the international standardization agreement. Updates to the U.S. document shall include references to the international standardization agreement and their provisions, if necessary.

2.17. Action Offices. Action Offices shall:

2.17.1. Provide the USAF subject matter representatives and experts for the standardization working groups and panels. They will be sourced from appropriate offices and agencies within the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Staff, Major Commands, field operating agencies, and direct reporting units.

2.17.2. Nominate qualified individuals as Heads of Delegations or Subject Matter Experts for NATO Military Committee Air Standardization Board and Air Force Interoperability Council working groups, by a letter to AF/A5SP when requested. Also, notify AF/A5SP of the names of other international military standardization representatives as required. **(T-3)**

2.17.3. Ensure delegates and representatives work international military standardization action items in a timely manner. **(T-3)**

2.17.4. Coordinate on international standardization agreements with the U.S. Head of Delegation or USAF Lead Agent office, as requested. **(T-3)**

2.17.5. Identify a U.S. implementing document and date for an international standardization agreement when tasked to formulate a U.S. national or USAF position. **(T-3)**

2.17.5.1. Inform the U.S. document's office of primary responsibility what international standardization agreement the document implements. **(T-3)**

2.17.5.2. Ensure, in coordination with the SAF/AQRE for materiel agreements, the document's office of primary responsibility completes any implementing document revisions in accordance with the international standardization agreement. Updates to the U.S. document shall include references to and provisions of the international standardization agreement, if necessary. **(T-3)**

2.18. Custodians for International Standardization Agreements. Custodians shall:

2.18.1. Responsible for developing NATO standardization task and agreements for NATO bodies, nations, or persons.

2.18.2. Execute a Custodian's duties as provided in the NATO AAP-03. **(T-3)**

2.18.3. Ensure international standardization agreements are appropriately referenced and their provisions are incorporated as required in U.S. implementing documents. **(T-3)**

Chapter 3

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENTS

3.1. Purpose. The NATO and Air Force Interoperability Council have different procedures for developing and ratifying international standardization agreements. However, the overall processes are similar. This chapter describes in general terms the document creation processes, with a focus on NATO Standardization Agreements and Air Force Interoperability Council Air Standards.

3.2. NATO Standardization Agreements.

3.2.1. The NATO standardization forum, including the Military Committee Air Standardization Board, use the proposal system to develop standards. Any NATO Nation or Major Command can submit a proposal for standardization to the Air Standardization Board or other appropriate standardization organization.

3.2.2. Once validated, the Standardization Board tasks a working group with developing the standardization document. The Standardization Board will also appoint a custodian to gather inputs from other national delegates and draft the standard.

3.3. Air Force Interoperability Council Air Standards.

3.3.1. The Air Force Interoperability Council uses a project system to develop Air Standards. A member nation (or National Director) can propose the creation of a project to evaluate the extent or need for further standardization in a particular area covered by a working group. Each nation validates the need for the project.

3.3.2. Once approved, each nation appoints a member of the national delegation as project officer to study the subject. One of the nation's project officers will also serve as custodian for the project and any Air Standard developed under the project.

3.4. U.S. Custodians and Project Officers. A U.S. or Air Force delegate assigned as the custodian or project officer is key to developing the Standardization Agreement or Air Standard and keeping it current through revisions or amendments.

3.5. National Review.

3.5.1. Once the custodian or project officer drafts the standardization document, they send it to each national Head of Delegation or Management Committee representative from the working group, requesting the other nations review and comment on the draft. This draft and review process may take several cycles before the proposed document is acceptable to all or most of the nations.

3.5.2. During the national review process, the U.S. or Air Force Head of Delegations and Management Committee representatives, act for the entire Air Force and other Services. Consequently, thorough and proper coordination within the Air Force and other Services is essential.

3.5.3. Head of Delegations must make sure the agreements are consistent with appropriate U.S. code, systems, doctrine, and policies when negotiating standardization agreements in either materiel or operational areas.

3.6. Ratifying and Subscribing to Agreements.

3.6.1. When the standardization document is acceptable to all or most of the nations, the working group turns the document over to the NATO standardization board or forum or Air Force Interoperability Council Management Committee. They in turn circulate the draft Standardization Agreement or Air Standard to the nations for ratification.

3.6.2. Ratification of a document is the declaration of a nation's formal acceptance, with or without reservation, of the content of a standardization agreement. Subscription is a Service or Agency agreement to accept and abide by, with or without reservation, the content of a standardization agreement. Nations ratify while Services and Defense Agencies subscribe.

3.7. Ratification Options. The U.S. and Air Force have these options when ratifying an international standardization agreement:

3.7.1. Ratify or Subscribe without reservations.

3.7.2. Ratify or Subscribe with stated reservations. A reservation is a stated qualification by a nation describing the part of a standardization agreement it will not implement or will implement only with limitations. Reservations can be applicable to one Service or the entire U.S. military. Reservations must be clear, and concise.

3.7.3. Not ratify or subscribe. State the reasons for not ratifying or subscribing, to include due to no interest (while interposing no objection to other Services' subscription).

3.7.4. No Intention to Implement. If there is no requirement to implement a standard, Air Force policy is to not ratify and defer to the U.S. Lead Agent.

3.8. Implementing Standardization Agreements. Each Service fulfills its obligations in an International Standardization Agreement through implementation. DoD implements NATO Standardization Agreements and Air Force Interoperability Council Air Standards through U.S. official publications and documents, such as Air Force Instructions, Technical Orders, etc., and where applicable accepted commercial standards.

William B. Roper, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFPD 60-1, *Air Force Standardization Program*, 29 September 2014

AAP-03, *Directive for the Production, Maintenance and Management of NATO Standardization Documents*, Edition K Version 1, February 2018

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 30 May 2018

AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 1 December 2015 (includes AFI33-360_AFGM2018-02.01, dated 15 February 2018)

CJCSI 2700.01F, *Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability (RSI) Activities*, 18 March 2015

AFI 60-101, *Materiel Standardization*, 30 September 2014

AFMAN 16-114, *Procedures for USAF Participation In International Armaments Cooperation (IAC) Programs*, 23 October 2018

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP—Allied Administrative Publication (NATO)

AFIC—Air Force Interoperability Council

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFR—Air Force Reserve

ANG—Air National Guard

CJCSI—Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction

DoD—Department of Defense

DoDI—Department of Defense Instruction

NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

U.S.—United States

USAF—United States Air Force

USC—United States Code

Terms

Action Office—office with primary responsibility and subject matter expertise to conduct USAF participation in assigned international military standardization working groups, panels, and activities.

Air Standard—a document, produced by the Air Force Interoperability Council, used to record an agreement between member nations to standardize military doctrine, procedures, equipment, etc., in support of the Air Force Interoperability Council objective.

Air Force Interoperability Council—an international committee made up of general officers from the Air Forces of five English-speaking nations: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. The purpose of this committee is to achieve standardization among member air forces.

Combined Test Project Agreement—a formal agreement that specifies the terms of an individual exchange or loan of equipment between member nations of the NATO.

Commonality—the state achieved when the same doctrine, procedures, or equipment are used.

Compatibility—the use of products, processes or services that are suitable together under specific conditions to fulfill relevant requirements without causing unsatisfactory issues.

Custodian—the nation, Service, command or other agency responsible for maintaining an existing international standardization agreement or publication, for conducting studies, organizing projects, and developing proposals for standardization.

Head of Delegation—the head of a national delegation who supervises and coordinates nationally all phases of the working group effort. The Head of Delegation is the national spokesperson to the working group who presents coordinated national views. The Head of Delegation ensures all interested agencies are given the opportunity to participate in the NATO or Air Force Interoperability Council effort.

Implementation—Defined in the DoD Dictionary.

Interchangeability—the ability to use one product, process, or service in place of another to fulfill the same requirements.

International Military Standardization—the process by which the Department of Defense achieves the closest practicable standardization with the military forces of its allies and friendly nations.

International Standardization Agreement—the record of an agreement among several or all of the member nations of a multi-national organization to standardize on materiel and operational areas.

Interoperability—the ability of systems, units, or forces to provide services to and accept services from other systems, units, or forces and to use the services so exchanged to enable them to operate effectively together.

Lead Agent—the Lead Agent represents and acts on behalf of the Secretary of Defense or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for rationalization, standardization, and interoperability activities. Lead Agent responsibilities are generally fulfilled by the Department of Defense Component with the preponderance of responsibility and expertise to oversee the given rationalization, standardization, and interoperability activity. Lead Agent assumption is generally agreed upon based on common consent and support rather than formally appointed.

Materiel Standardization—that portion of the standardization program covering military equipment, supplies, design criteria, and practices.

Operational Standardization—that portion of the standardization program covering procedures, concepts, doctrine, and techniques.

Panels—a group created on the recommendation of a working group to study a particular problem area within the terms of reference of the parent-working group.

Proposal System—Any NATO Nation or Major Command can submit a proposal for standardization to the Air Standardization Board or other appropriate standardization organization.

Ratification—the declaration by which a nation formally accepts, with or without reservation, the content of a standardization agreement.

Reservation—a stated qualification by a nation describing the part of a standardization agreement it will not implement or will implement only with limitations.

Standardization—Defined in DoD Dictionary.

Standardization Agreement—NATO standardization document that specifies the agreement of member Nations to implement a standard, in whole or in part, with or without reservation, in order to meet an interoperability requirement.

Subscription—an agreement by a nation's Military Services to accept and abide by, with or without reservation, the details of a ratified standardization agreement.

Test Project Agreement—a formal agreement that specifies the terms of an exchange or loan of equipment between member nations within the Air Force Interoperability Council.

Working Group—a group established by NATO standardization bodies, the Air Force Interoperability Council, and other forum to examine general subject areas for the purpose of developing international standardization agreements, other standardization documentation, and Test and Evaluation Agreements.