



**ITDS Product Information Committee
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: USDA, Room 3074

An ad hoc meeting of the ITDS Product Information Committee (PIC) was called to order by the Chairman on September 24, 2008, at 10:00 AM ET in Washington, DC and by teleconference. The purpose of the session was to understand how guidance from the International Standards Organization (ISO) could be used to standardize elements of the recommendations to be proposed by the PIC regarding the integration of product information into the CBP ACE system.

Dr. Gerald Radack, editor of ISO standards 8000 and 22745, presented an overview of the relevant standards to the committee. A printout of Dr. Radack's presentation is attached to these minutes. Additionally, a reprint of Dr. Radack's recently published article that reviews the features of ISO 22745 is attached for Committee use. Finally, the points offered by Dr. Radack of particular relevance to the committee are summarized below:

Three standards are of particular relevance to the Committee. There are:

ISO 8000 – Focus is on data quality;

ISO 290002 – Focus is on exchange of characteristic data, with a focus on parts standards;

ISO 22745 – Focus is on Open Technical Dictionaries and exchange of master data, including formatting, query, and exchange of data

These standards move from the general to the specific going from top to bottom. Therefore, all elements of ISO 22745 conform to the more general specifications of 290002 and 8000. Therefore, the committee can utilize applicable elements of ISO 22745 with the confidence that systems compliant with ISO 22745 also conform to 290002 and 8000.

Dr. Radack noted that the NATO Codification System (NCS) was a driver behind ISO 22745. The NCS is used by NATO for supply logistics support, and includes military and non-military items. The Electronic Commerce Code Management Association (ECCMA) is the Dictionary Maintenance Organization (DMO) for the ECCMA Open Technical Dictionary (eOTD), which contains all the concepts from the NCS (plus concepts from ASTM and other standards) using ISO 22745-compliant identifiers and data formats. It may be an Open Technical Dictionary (OTD) of interest to the Committee.

ISO 8000 – Part 110 defines two types of OTD – Free Coding and Fee-Based Coding. When a DMO specifies that their OTD conforms with the Free Coding specifications, this is assurance that the content of an OTD is in the public domain and that no present or future claim of intellectual property can be by the DMO.

ISO 22745 is the most immediately relevant ISO standard to the work of the PIC. Most of the parts of 22745 will be published by the end of 2008 but all are expected to be published by 2009.

Its parts include:

Part 10 – Exchange format for representing OTD content

Part 13 – Identification scheme for OTD content which describes a globally unique codification of all properties defined by OTDs

Part 30 – Identification Guide, which is the receiver's data requirements

Part 35 – Basic queries for OTD content through a web service

Part 40 – Master Data Model for defining the classes and properties of a product

All DMOs can obtain an International Code Designator, which is globally unique registration number used in the Part 13 Identification scheme, from the British Standards Institute (BSI). Or they can register as an organization under an existing ICD coding system.

After a series of questions from committee members, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 12 noon.