

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT  
AND  
THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION  
IN RESPECT OF ITS ACTIVITIES AS  
THE UNITED KINGDOM'S NATIONAL STANDARDS BODY**

**Article 1 - Introduction and definitions**

1.1 The

**“European** means standards policy developed at a European regional level;

**“grant documentation”** means the agreed written terms for the



- (iv) accordingly, the Government and BSI will, as appropriate, advocate for the effective use of standardisation domestically and internationally to promote the beneficial effects of standardisation.
- 2.3 The Government and BSI are, separately and through co-operation with each other, determined to promote effective standardisation policy in order to realise in full the potential socio-economic benefits of standardisation, including the promotion of the small and medium sized business sector and of worker, consumer and environmental interests.
- 2.4 The Government and BSI agree that developing standards is in the public policy interest, and that this interest is best served when all relevant stakeholders can be involved. A key overall aim of BSI's standards-making activities will therefore be to preserve and strengthen this capability. Participation in the development of BSI's standardisation products (other than formal British Standards) may often be a good step into standardisation, and BSI has rules and processes in place to govern their development and ensure that they are not confused with British Standards. Where appropriate, and where it is acceptable to the market, BSI will seek their eventual conversion into British Standards. BSI will use its participation in European and international standards bodies to seek the broadest possible consensus for any topic covered by standardisation.
- 2.5 The Government and BSI underline the importance of international standards policy. BSI will play a full and effective role in ISO, the IEC, CEN, CENELEC and other relevant fora such as the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), aiming to influence the development of standards in the UK's interests, to promote improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the standardisation process, and the rationalisation of the organisational infrastructure. The Government will work through intergovernmental fora such as the WTO TBT Committee to promote a coherent international standards organisational infrastructure and effective use of standardisation in support of public policies.
- 2.6 The Government and BSI also underline the importance of international standards policy. They recognise that the UK's interests will be furthered if the Government and BSI inform and co-operate with each other and adopt compatible policies in their respective spheres of activity.
- 2.7 BSI will actively participate in developing European standards policy in European standards fora to the extent possible to ensure that UK standards users' requirements are met as far as practicable, and in furtherance of standardisation policy aims discussed with the Government. Both BSI and the Government will support UK policy on standardisation in the international context aiming to strengthen the global approach to standardisation and its influence world-wide.



- (vi) it fulfils the requirements of the NSB for any relevant legal instruments agreed by the organisations listed at Article 3.1;
- (vii) in line with BSI's procedures, it facilitates the production and maintenance of any standard or standardisation product required by the Government for legislation (whether referenced in the legal instrument or otherwise indirectly required) or for public procurement purposes;
- (viii) it provides free standards to courts, coroner's inquests, police investigations and commissions of inquiry. It delivers standards and related content in accessible ways through continuous investment in technology;
- (ix) it provides and maintains a portfolio of formal consensus standards and standardisation products which will meet the requirements of UK business and, as appropriate, other stakeholders including the Government, consumers, and small businesses; and a means of identifying, evaluating, prioritising and acting on proposals for standardisation projects;
- (x) that within the portfolio described in Article 4.1(ix), formal consensus standards are provided and maintained whenever such standards are required or would be desirable in connection with legal requirements, including the provision of information (for example annexes) showing the correlation between standards and certain UK legislation requirements;
- (xi) it contributes to strategic planning of the national standardisation infrastructure, including maintaining its own strategic standardisation planning and evaluation facility with the involvement of the Government and business;
- (xii) it cooperates with the Government to use standardisation to support policy;
- (xiii) the development and operation of a business strategy for BSI as NSB which identifies and exploits commercial opportunities so as to optimise its business prospects; and that it operates the standards system at least as effectively in the UK's national interest as standards bodies in other advanced economies, taking different circumstances and levels of government support into account. This may include

- (xv) it ensures standards are inclusive by enabling more SMEs and consumers to benefit from use and participation of standards, fostering diversity and inclusion in standards-making and ensuring all standards include public consultation as part of the process;
  - (xvi) it invites relevant government representatives to Annual General Meetings and maintains the arrangements for a government representative seat on the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee (SPSC), reporting to the BSI Board;
  - (xvii) it provides support and advice for UK nations and regions/ devolved engagement; and supports in providing standards advice to ministers across government;
  - (xviii) it aims to ensure how it operates as NSB is clearly understood by businesses and the public, and to avoid confusion with its non-NSB commercial activities; and
  - (xix) it promotes awareness of the NSB's own standardisation activities and the effective use of standardisation, including through education and training initiatives.
- 4.2 The means by which the requirements of Article 4.1 above shall be met will be identified by BSI and agreed with the Government from time to time.
- 4.3 The Government for its part will, subject to National Security requirements:
- (i) respect the independence of BSI, and limit its intervention to public policy interest matters in relation to BSI as NSB;
  - (ii) use all appropriate means to promote and support the pursuit and achievement by BSI of the primary objects for which it has been constituted by the Royal Charter and the requirements of this MoU;
  - (iii) work to maintain an environment which enables BSI as NSB to respond positively to changing market needs and technology; and
  - (iv) provide annual financial support for standardisation activities that may not happen if left to market forces in accordance with the terms of any grant documentation. The Government will take account of the total costs of the public policy interest benefits accruing from, and income derived from or related to, such functions. The Government will also take into account the benefits which should be gained for the NSB as a result of recognition as the sole UK NSB and the other activities permitted by the Royal Charter and carried out by BSI.
- 4.4 BSI and the Government will share information and consult with one another in a spirit of reciprocity and as necessary to fulfil the objectives of this article and further the public policy objective save where either is subject to overriding confidentiality obligations.

- 4.5 The Government with BSI's assistance shall use all reasonable efforts to spread awareness within all government departments of how BSI as NSB can be used in public projects and policies.
- 4.6 In line with BSI's procedures, where Government requests any standard from BSI, BSI acting as NSB may work to agree aspects of the production of such standard including timings, drivers and content.
- 4.7 The Government and BSI shall maintain a close dialogue in relation to the designation of standards by the relevant Secretary of State regarding the production of such standards and their related materials.

#### **Article 5 -**

- 5.1 The Government's annual contributions to funding referred to in Article 4.3 (iv) above will be spent by BSI solely in connection with its work as NSB and, 0.0000092qGart0004, G0 JE40 G(d)-3(e)-3(sign)4(a)-3(tio)-3(n)6( )-31(o)-3(f)8( )-31



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