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Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary —

Part 1: Core terms

Nanotechnologies — Vocabulaire —

Partie 1: Termes "coeur"

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Contents

Page

Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*, and Technical Committee IEC/TC 113, *Nanotechnology standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TS 80004-1:2010), which has been technically revised.

Documents in the 80000 to 89999 range of reference numbers are developed by collaboration between ISO and IEC.

ISO/TS 80004 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary*:

— *Part 1: Core terms*

— *Part 2: Nano-objects*

— *Part 3: Carbon nano-objects*

— *Part 4: Nanostructured materials*

— *Part 5: Nano/bio interface*

— *Part 6: Nano-object characterization*

— *Part 7: Diagnostics and therapeutics for healthcare*

— *Part 8: Nanomanufacturing processes*

The following parts are under preparation:

— *Part 9: Nano-enabled electrotechnical products and systems*

— *Part 10: Nano-enabled photonic components and systems*

— *Part 11: Nanolayer, nanocoating, nanofilm, and related terms*

— *Part 12: Quantum phenomena in nanotechnology*

— *Part 13: Graphene and other two-dimensional materials*

Introduction

By control of matter in the *nanoscale* (2.1), *nanotechnology* (2.3) brings together processes and techniques that are used to research, design and manufacture materials, devices, and systems. It enables management of characteristics such as material size, shape, morphology, chemical composition and molecular configuration for the improvement, or development of, new process and product properties.

Applications of nanotechnologies are expected to impact virtually every aspect of life and enable dramatic advances in communication, health, manufacturing, materials and knowledge-based technologies. Even if this is only partially realized, there is a need to provide industry and researchers with suitable tools to assist with the development, application and communication of nanotechnologies.

A crucial objective is the harmonization of terminology and definitions, in order to promote common understanding and consistent usage across communities where nanotechnologies are being developed and used. In the context of the ISO/TS 80004- series of standards, "terminology" refers to the following:

a) a structured or conceptual presentation of vocabulary employed in nanotechnologies,

b) assigned definitions for specific units of the language in this vocabulary.

This part of ISO/TS 80004 presents terminology and definitions for core terms in this emerging vocabulary, and serves as the foundation for a broader vocabulary constituted collectively by the ISO/TS 80004- series of standards.

As nanotechnologies continue to evolve, the terms and definitions to facilitate communications have become increasingly specific and precise. For many communities, the meaning of terms such as "nanoscale", "*nanomaterial*" (2.4) and "nanotechnology" are inferred by logical application of the SI unit of scale. The prefix 'nano-' specifically means a measure of 10^{-9} units, and the nature of this unit is determined by the word that follows. In the ISO/TS 80004 vocabulary series, however, terms such as "*nano-object*" (2.5) and "nanoscale" employ size and geometric boundaries to express fundamental and measurable aspects of nanomaterials. In the case of the term *nanoscale*, the definition acknowledges that the length range of nano-objects might fall outside the precise boundaries normally associated with the concept of scale, by indicating that the upper and lower boundaries are approximate.

The lower limit (approximately 1 nm) in the definition of nanoscale is introduced to avoid single and small groups of atoms, as well as individual molecules, from being designated as nano-objects or elements of *nanostructures* (2.6), which might be implied by the absence of a lower limit. It should also be recognized that fullerene molecules and single layer planar structures (e.g. graphene) that have dimensions below 1 nm are, in practice, considered to be nanomaterials because they are important building blocks for nanotechnology.

Further, size-dependent biological effects, specifically particle-cell interactions, and environmental interactions related to nanotechnology, involve structures below 1 nm and above 100 nm. In addition to size, the complex interplay of parameters such as aspect ratio, core chemistry, agglomeration state, physical state, surface properties and others will influence biological and environmental interactions associated with nanostructured materials.

Terminology development is proceeding at an intensive pace and needs to be responsive to the needs of stakeholders. As knowledge expands, a robust terminology will need to effectively convey not only the size and shape-based metrics of nanomaterials but also the performance-based/properties-based aspects of intentionally produced nano-objects and nanostructured materials in their definitions.

It will be an on-going challenge to communicate complex concepts in definitions in a manner that is meaningful and practical for stakeholders in research, commercial applications, government and consumer communities. It is emphasized that the definition of "nanoscale" in the ISO/TS 80004 vocabulary series is a general descriptor serving to facilitate communication concerning nanotechnologies.

The development of core terms and their definitions has benefited from discussion over time concerning scientific, regulatory and consumer usage. The science is still emerging, as is the capacity to measure