

The Role of Standards in Force-Feedback Interaction

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ISO, the International Standards Organization, has produced a large body of standards that govern many aspects of business and technology. They ensure that services and devices are fit for their intended application. They provide a common reference, by which both producers and consumers in different countries can be sure of what they are supplying or purchasing.

These standards are generally produced by Working Groups of six to a dozen experts. Coordinated by a volunteer Convenor, they meet to draft new standards and discuss technical issues related to both existing and proposed standards. Whether the subject matter is mechanical fasteners or control room instrumentation, the procedure is the same. The draft standard is proposed as a New Work Item, then drafted over two to three years. Each new draft is distributed to representatives of 25 nations for a series of votes and comments, then revised until it is published as a completed International Standard.

Standards relating to force-feedback and tactile interaction fall within the mandate of Technical Committee 159, Sub-Committee 4, "Ergonomics of human-system interaction". Since its formation in 2005, WG9 (Working Group 9) has developed four standards related to haptic interactions, including the design of haptic devices and haptic workspaces. This presentation will describe the standards that have been developed and plans for future work.

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