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DICTIONARY OF TERMINOLOGY FOR PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

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CEN

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English version

Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification and Description

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Foreword

The production of this CWA 'Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification and Description' was agreed at the Workshop eCAT plenary meeting held on 10 October 2003 as part of the deliverables of the ePDC project.

ePDC 'Global Multilingual Product Description and Classification for eCommerce and eBusiness' was a project within the CEN/ISSS WS/eCAT 'Multilingual catalogue strategies for eCommerce and eBusiness'. The objective of the ePDC project was to harmonize existing standards for product description and classification into a common horizontal, cross-industry product classification and description schema and to propose how to maintain, promote and make it available to the public. The ePDC project ran from October 2003 to March 2005.

This CWA, together with a second CWA 'Description of References and Data Models for Classification', contains the main findings of the ePDC Project.

A draft version of this CWA was released to WS/eCAT members in September 2004. The public comment period took place from 18 December 2004 to 18 February 2005. The comments received were included in the final version of the CWA, which was approved at the WS/eCAT plenary meeting held on 16 March 2005.

This CWA distinguishes different levels of terminology in the scope of data-modelling, product classification and description and meta-modelling. Differences in terminology can be found also in existing international standards. In this CWA differences are explained and how to create one harmonized terminology in the domain of product classification and description is investigated. The chapter on Terminology in CWA 15045:2004 provided the basis for the analysis.

The list of experts who supported the contents of this document may be obtained from the CEN/ISSS Secretariat.

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Introduction

This document explains the reasons why a common terminology in the area of product classification is important for understanding different concepts and approaches.

Various product description and classification systems use different terms for the same concepts, which leads to misunderstandings.

The basis for standardization of product description and classification systems is a harmonized terminology as described in this CWA.

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