



National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

I.S. CWA 15556-1:2006

ICS 35.240.50

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION AND
CLASSIFICATION - PART 1:NEW PROPERTY
LIBRARY**

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*This Irish Standard was
published under the
authority of the National
Standards Authority of
Ireland and comes into
effect on:*

22 August 2006

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Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann

CEN

CWA 15556-1

WORKSHOP

June 2006

AGREEMENT

ICS 35.240.50

English version

Product Description and Classification - Part 1: New Property Library

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Contents

Foreword	3
1. Introduction	4
2. References	5
3. Basic property definition in the current ISO 13584 standard	6
3.1 Properties	6
3.2 Specialisation of properties in ISO/CD 13584-42	6
4. Property Templates	7
4.1 Basic Idea	7
4.2 Characteristics of property templates	7
4.3 Is-a relationship between property templates	8
5. Linking properties and property templates	9

Foreword

The production of this draft CWA "New Property Library: Property Definition Schema" was agreed at the Workshop eCAT plenary meeting on 16 March 2005, as part of deliverables of the Gen-ePDC project.

Workshop eCAT «Multilingual ecataloguing and eclassification in ebusiness» combined two different projects – one on eCataloguing – which ran in 2003 and 2004 - and another on product classification (ePDC) – which ran from March 2004 to February 2006. Only catalogues and product classification schemas used in eBusiness were taken into consideration.

The ePDC project was divided into two parts. In the first part a modern architecture for a global, interoperable classification schema was designed. Two CWAs were published:

CWA 15294:2005 "Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification and Description"

CWA 15295:2005 "Description of References and Data Models for Classification"

The second part – called Gen-ePDC – aimed at discussing with different organizations the possibility for their convergence towards a common base. The role of properties and attributes, the link between classification schemes and electronic catalogues were further explored.

Three CWAs summarise the findings of Gen-ePDC :

CWA 15556-1 «New property library»

CWA 15556-2 «Product classes with sets of properties»

CWA 15556-3 «Results of development in harmonization of product classification and in multilingual electronic catalogues and their respective data modelling»

The public comment period ran from 31 January 2006 to 31 March 2006.

The CWA "New Property Library" contains a conceptual description of a property definition schema as an extension of the current PLIB dictionary model (ISO 13584). Work is under way within ISO TC184/ SC4 "Industrial data" SG2 with a proposal to revise ISO 13584. The draft CWA was submitted as input to the ISO TC184/ SC4 SG2 meeting in March 2006.

Acknowledgements

Helmut Beckmann

Eric Sardet

Wolfgang Wilkes

Raymond Betz

The content of this CWA is based on discussion held in DIN NSM, in the context of eClass, and in various ISO TC184 SC4 WG2 meetings. The authors are grateful to all participants of these committees, in particular Nikolaus Ondracek and Guy Pierra.

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1 Introduction

In product classification, the maintenance of a big set of properties is an important requirement as it is required by big classification systems (e.g. eCl@ss).

In the process of maintaining such a classification, new properties are submitted for specific classes, and it is important to identify duplicates, i.e. properties with the same meaning which have already been defined in the classification. For this purpose, a mechanism has been proposed which allows to further abstract properties and to unify different properties under a more abstract view.

Example: An abstract property “height” might be associated with a generalised data type including real and integer values. If this abstract property is being specialised to a concrete property, then the decision has to be taken which data type is associated to the concrete property. By organising properties in such an abstraction hierarchy, it is possible to guarantee uniform definitions and naming rules (top-down view) and to identify areas of potential overlap for new properties (bottom-up view). In addition, this mechanism might also be usable as a powerful means for supporting the harmonisation of different classifications because it can support the comparison and mapping of properties from different classifications.

Therefore, this CWA, a “New Property Library”, contains a conceptual description of a property definition schema as an extension of the current PLIB dictionary model (ISO 13584). The conceptual description has to be further formulated, using for example UML or EXPRESS, to formally become part of the ISO 13584 series of standards.

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