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Geographic information — Quality principles

Information géographique — Principes qualité



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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Introduction

Geographic datasets are increasingly being shared, interchanged and used for purposes other than their producers' intended ones. Information about the quality of available geographic datasets is vital to the process of selecting a dataset in that the value of data is directly related to its quality. Data users confront situations requiring different levels of data quality. Extremely accurate data is required by some data users for certain needs and less accurate data are sufficient for other needs. Information about the quality of geographic data is becoming a decisive factor for its utilization as technological advances allow the collection and use of geographic datasets whose quality can exceed that which is needed and requested by data users.

The purpose of describing the quality of geographic data is to facilitate the selection of the geographic dataset best suited to application needs or requirements. Complete descriptions of the quality of a dataset will encourage the sharing, interchange and use of appropriate geographic datasets. A geographic dataset can be viewed as a commodity or product. Information on the quality of geographic data allows a data producer or vendor to validate how well a dataset meets the criteria set forth in its product specification and assists a data user in determining a product's ability to satisfy the requirements for their particular application.

The objective of this International Standard is to provide principles for describing the quality for geographic data and concepts for handling quality information for geographic data.