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Third edition
2016-09-15

Ergonomics principles in the design of work systems

Principes ergonomiques de la conception des systèmes de travail



Reference number
ISO 6385:2016(E)

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 159, *Ergonomics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *General ergonomic principles*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 6385:2004), which has been technically revised with the following changes:

- terms were aligned with the terms given in ISO 26000;
- [3.2](#), [3.7](#) and [Clause 4](#) have been technically revised;
- life cycle of a work system was introduced in [3.2](#);
- principle of adjustment was added to [3.7](#) and validation replaced by verification;
- new subclause on conformity was added to [Clause 4](#);
- examples were added in several clauses.

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Introduction

Technological, economic, organizational and human factors affect the work behaviour and well-being of people as part of a work system. Applying ergonomic knowledge in the light of practical experience in the design of a work system is intended to satisfy human requirements.

This International Standard provides a basic ergonomic framework for professionals and other people who deal with the issues of ergonomics, work systems and working situations. The provisions of this International Standard will also apply to the design of products for use in work systems.

Following the principles and requirements described in this International Standard will support management in making better decisions, for instance related to the sustainability of investments in work system innovation.

In the design of work systems in accordance with this International Standard, the body of knowledge in the field of ergonomics is taken into account. Ergonomic evaluations of existing or new work systems will show the need for, and encourage attention to, the role of the worker within those systems.

ISO 26800 provides a general starting point for thought on ergonomics and determines the essential general principles and concepts. This International Standard presents these in the context of the design and evaluation of work systems.

This International Standard is also valuable in the application of management systems such as OHSAS 18001. Besides guidelines for processes, it also offers guidance for achieving good human performance.