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Nanotechnologies — Considerations for the development of chemical nomenclature for selected nano- objects

*Nanotechnologies — Considérations concernant le développement de
la nomenclature chimique de nano-objets choisis*



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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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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 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

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Introduction

For the purposes of this Technical Report, the term *nomenclature* refers to the name and a minimum set of descriptors which are uniquely assigned to a particular nano-object entity or complex. Advanced measurement and instrumentation allows us to “see” at the nanoscale. Measurement tools and techniques are improving our ability to distinguish among nano-objects with the same chemical composition, but which behave differently, based on differences in size, shape or surface functionalization. Yet, the application of established chemical nomenclature systems to describe differences among nano-objects with the same chemical composition has limitations.

For the research and development community, including academia, nomenclature assists in the communication of properties, effects and other relationships or interactions between nano-objects. It also enables effective communication regarding the specific nano-object, which facilitates repeatability of experimental data by other scientists, replication by manufacturers, and application for and protection of patents. For industry and consumer groups, specific names to distinguish nano-objects allow differentiation between products, facilitate patent applications and protect intellectual property rights. Regulators rely on chemical nomenclature to characterize chemical substance and manage the associated environmental and health risks, if and where applicable.

This Technical Report presents an initial effort to support new work Item proposals to pursue chemical nomenclature that is specifically tailored to nano-objects. It identifies categories of nano-objects which could require distinct nomenclature models and discusses essential descriptors to support nano-object nomenclature conventions. A future consideration will be to decide whether to undertake the development of a searchable information system capable of cataloguing a sizable library of names and structural features. This Report also makes recommendations concerning collaboration with existing chemical nomenclature organisations. Finally, this Technical Report considers how the development of nomenclature models for nano-objects will keep pace with and incorporate new science and terminology.

It should be understood that the term “nanomaterials” is broadly defined by ISO to encompass “nano-objects” and “nanostructured materials”. In the future, consideration will be given to chemical and nonchemical nomenclature for classes of nanostructured materials, devices and systems at the nanoscale, and strategic application areas.