

Project Management Institute

Practice Standard for Project Configuration Management

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Preface

This Project Management Institute (PMI) *Practice Standard on Project Configuration Management (PSPCM)* adds to PMI's continuing commitment to support the project management profession with a defined body of knowledge and standards.

PMI's *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (Third Edition) (PMBOK® Guide)* documents some of the overall project management body of knowledge. The *PMBOK® Guide*—Third Edition is approved as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute,¹ and is the leading international standard for project management. This document is an extension and elaboration of the sections of the *PMBOK® Guide*—Third Edition that defines the processes, techniques, and tools used in project configuration management (PCM).²

This standard is a guide and reference for the project manager, team and other stakeholders, for understanding PCM and applying it appropriately in a project. Effective project management requires consistent and repeatable processes and methodologies to manage the constraints of scope, time, cost, and quality and to ensure project success. The project management professional applies configuration management to actively guide the project's direction and create a project infrastructure that enables successful completion. This standard acknowledges PCM as a supporting discipline to the project processes during the project lifecycle.

The *PSPCM* is organized into the following focus areas:

- **Introduction.** Provides the basis for the development of this standard and how it may be used by the project manager.
- **Configuration Management and Planning.** Introduces PCM concepts and their relationship to project management.
- **Configuration Identification.** Identifies project items that may be under control of PCM and provides guidance on identifying and structuring the information.
- **Configuration Change Management.** Provides guidelines in order to identify change within a project.
- **Configuration Status Accounting and Metrics.** Gives examples of the tools and techniques that can be employed to objectively measure progress and maturity of the items subject to PCM.
- **Configuration Verification and Audits.** Describes how independent scrutiny can assist a project team to confirm that the work done was the work intended.

¹The American National Standards Institute is a not-for-profit organization that provides standards development guidelines.

²Project Management Institute. 2004. *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)*—Third Edition. Newtown Square, PA.: Project Management Institute, p. 49.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Project Configuration Management (PCM) is the collective body of processes, activities, tools, and methods used to manage certain items during the project life cycle. These items are normally referred to as Configuration Items (CIs). Configuration management (CM) typically describes the mechanisms for managing the physical state of these items during their life cycle. As with any other profession, this body of knowledge rests with the practitioners who apply and advance it.

The *Practice Standard on Project Configuration Management (PSPCM)* is consistent with *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)*–Third Edition, and provides additional information on the practice of PCM. The PSPCM spans all control functions found in Section 3 of the *PMBOK® Guide*–Third Edition, including the Integrated Change Control found in Chapter 4. The PSPCM describes the fundamentals of CM for practitioners of project management.

Objectives include:

- Explaining the concepts and benefits of CM in the context of project management
- Describing the types of processes used to apply CM as a project management tool
- Presenting good practices in CM in the context of project management
- Promoting a common lexicon for applying CM across projects.

This chapter defines and explains several terms, provides an overview of this standard, and includes the following major sections:

- 1.1 Relationship with Other Standards
- 1.2 Purpose of this Practice Standard
- 1.3 How to Use this Practice Standard
- 1.4 What this Standard Is Not
- 1.5 Why Apply PCM?
- 1.6 Key Points
- 1.7 Audience

1.1 Relationship with Other Standards

The *PSPCM* provides guidelines that are relevant to project managers and project teams on the requirements and responsibilities of a sound CM system for their project. The *PSPCM* is aligned with other PMI®, national, and international standards, as well as other common practices within the field of project management.

The following are examples of existing configuration management standards: