



ASTM F43: Consensus Standards for the Language Industry

Interagency Language Roundtable September 30, 2011

William P. Rivers, Ph.D.

Chair, ASTM Main Committee F43, Language Services and Products

Chief Linguist, National Language Service Corps

Chief Scientist, Integrated Training Solutions



Overview

- Why do we need industrial standards? What are they?
- Mobilizing the Language Industry: ASTM F43



Why do we need standards?

- Leverage world-leading expertise to ensure quality and grow the industry
- Improve the \$15b language services industry's capability to provide language services
- Enable rapid development of foreign language services and products to meet market requirements
- Streamline procurement
- Educate the client
- Improve quality assurance through the availability of standards to procurement and contracting for language services and products



What is a Standard?

- Developed by consensus following internationally-agreed on principles (Balance, Technical expertise, Representation, Due Process)
- Developed by industry representatives working under the aegis of an accredited Standards Development Organization
- Codify best practices
- Provide performance/quality specifications
- Transparent & Enforceable
 - Mutual agreement (contracting)
 - Third party verification (Certification)



ASTM International

- Organized - 1898 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- Largest U.S. based international voluntary consensus standards writing organization
- Independent, 501 c(3)
- Mission: To provide a system for experts worldwide to directly participate in developing market relevant, high quality, international standards



Mobilizing the Language Industry: ASTM F43

- All sectors of Language industry
 - Training
 - Testing
 - T&I
 - Personnel Services
 - Human Language Technology
 - Localization/Globalization
- Organized 2010; inaugural meeting Feb 17 2011
- 100+ Members



F43 on Language Services and Products

- 6 Subcommittees
- 4 ASTM Standards completed
- Multiple ISO Standards in progress
- 4 ASTM Standards in Progress



F43 Scope of Work

The scope of the Committee shall be the development of standards (specifications, guides, test methods, classifications, practices, and terminology) for language services and products. The work of this Committee will be coordinated with other ASTM technical committees and other organizations having mutual interest. The Committee will be charged with the avoidance of duplication where possible.



F43 Leadership

- Officers:
 - Bill Rivers, Chair (ITS)
 - Thomas Haines, Vice Chair (DIA)
 - Beth Mackey, Recoding Secretary (DoD)
 - Kathleen Diamond, Membership Secretary (Founder, LLE)
- Executive Committee Members at large:
 - Beatriz Bonnet (Syntes)
 - Maria Brau (FBI)
 - Bill Castan (General Dynamics)
 - Don Fischer (DLIFLC)
 - Elvira Swender (ACTFL)
 - Sue Ellen Wright (Kent State University)



F43 Leadership, con't

➤ Subcommittee Chairs

- F43.01: Interpreting: Carola Green (NCSC)
- F43.02: FL Instruction: Karen Decker (ICLS)
- F43.03: Language Translation: Steve Lank (Syntes)
- F43.04: FL Testing: Paul Tucker (Avant Assessment)
- F43.95: US Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 232, Training in the Informal Sector: Bill Rivers
- F43.96: US Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 37, Terminology and Other Language and Content Resources: Sue Ellen Wright, Kent State University
- Ad hoc committee on Strategic Planning: Richard D. Brecht, CASL



Contact

Bill Rivers, Chair, ASTM Main Committee F43,
“Language Services and Products”

writers@itsnc.net, 240-529-7684