Overview of the current policies and procedures for defence procurement, focussed on standardisation issues

1. Organisation

a) In general terms, describe your country‘s principal organisation(s)/agencies responsible for procuring defence materiel

Within the UK Ministry of Defence, the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) is responsible for the initial purchase of equipment (in consultation with other parts of the MOD).

For more information on the UK Ministry of Defence please see http://www.mod.uk/index.shtml

For more information on the Defence Procurement Agency please see http://www.mod.uk/dpa/index.html

After delivery to the Services (the front line customer) the MOD’s Defence Logistics Organisation is responsible for its organising its ongoing support, maintenance and ultimately disposal. Please see http://www.mod.uk/dlo/index.html for more information.
Provide organisational charts of the respective organisation(s)/agencies.

The chart below give a general overview of the UK MOD Defence Procurement Agency (DPA). For more information please see [http://www.mod.uk/dpa/index.html](http://www.mod.uk/dpa/index.html).

The DPA is managed through it’s Executive Board which consists of the Chief of Defence Procurement/Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive and six Executive Directors (XD’s). The six XD’s manage the 75 (approx.) Integrated Project Teams who are responsible for the acquisition of specific types of equipment/systems. They are supported by a number of Support Groups who provide the DPA infrastructure. For more information and an up to date listing of the IPT’s please see [http://www.mod.uk/dpa/ipt/index.html](http://www.mod.uk/dpa/ipt/index.html).

There are also a number of Support Groups providing the infrastructure to allow the IPTs to deliver their projects. For more information and an up to date listing please see [http://www.mod.uk/dpa/project_services/index.htm](http://www.mod.uk/dpa/project_services/index.htm)
b) Describe how these organisations/agencies are integrated into / linked to the overall structure of your country’s Ministry of Defence.

The chart below shows how the Defence Procurement Agency is linked through to the UK Ministry of Defence Secretary of State for Defence.

In general terms describe the main features of your country’s acquisition/procurement policy.

The UK MOD Strategic Defence Review published in July 1998 identified Smart Procurement (now Acquisition) as a key to support better ways of buying and maintaining equipment and supporting the Armed Forces. The Review launched the Smart Procurement Initiative to get better and cheaper equipment faster and to work more effectively in partnership with Industry. MOD to reduce risk, encourage innovation and increase the competitiveness of defence industry whilst delivering projects within time, cost and performance parameters. Details of the supporting UK MOD Acquisition Management System are available on the Internet at [www.ams.mod.uk](http://www.ams.mod.uk) and in *The Acquisition Handbook* available by ringing; Tel: +44 (0) 1225 449521.

In slightly more detail, the aim of Smart Acquisition is To enhance defence capability by acquiring and supporting equipment more effectively in terms of time, cost and performance:

Understanding this aim means understanding that the effective procurement and support of defence equipment are not ends in themselves. They only have value if they enhance defence
capability. This aim gives equal emphasis to initial procurement and support, as integral parts of the overall acquisition process.

The objectives of Smart Acquisition are:

- To deliver projects within the performance, time and cost parameters approved at the time the major investment decision is taken.
- To acquire military capability progressively, at lower risk, and with optimisation of trade-offs between military effectiveness, time and whole life cost.
- To cut the time for key new technologies to be introduced into the frontline, where needed to secure military advantage and industrial competitiveness.

Smart Acquisition has a number of key features:

- A whole-life approach, embodied in a single Integrated Project Team (IPT) bringing together the main stakeholders. The IPT exists for the life of the project, moving from the DPA to the DLO at an appropriate time. Industry is part of the IPT except when competition makes this impracticable.
- Clearly identified customers for the IPT. An Equipment Capability Customer (ECC) who has responsibility for identifying the capability required to meet the UK's Defence objectives, for translating those requirements into an approved Equipment Programme and for acting as lead customer for the equipment until it enters service. A Second Customer responsible for converting the capability provided by the ECC into a military capability, managing the equipment in-service and for providing relevant advice and expertise to support the ECC's remit to optimise future capability.
- A willingness to identify, evaluate and implement effective trade-offs between system performance, whole-life costs, annual cost of ownership and time.
- An open and constructive relationship with industry, based on partnering and the identification of common goals including gain-share opportunities, underpinned by competitive contractor selection whenever this provides best value for money.
- A streamlined process for project approvals.
2. Types of Standards and Standard-like Specifications used for Armaments Projects/Procurement of Defence Materiel

a) Which types of standards and standard-like specifications (e.g. ISO, CEN, Mil Std, Def Stan, VG-Norm) are in use in your country for procurement of materiel and services required for the armed forces?

The full range of civil, commercial, international military alliance, national military and other country’s military standards are available for use by UK Integrated Project Teams in accordance with a hierarchy for the selection of standards which places regional civil standards at the top.

An introduction to the UK Selection of Standards for Defence Acquisition together with the Order of Preference or Hierarchy with full supporting notes and tables is available on the DSTan Internet site www.dstan.mod.uk [click on ‘information centre’ in the left hand pane and then ‘Defence Standards and their Use’. It is also available via the UK MOD Acquisition Management System m(AMS) at www.ams.mod.uk [find the "topics" page, click on "standardisation" and under "Reference Documents" click on "Standards order of preference and revised notes"].

b) Describe your country’s policy regarding the application of national (civil and military) standards/specifications.

It is UK government policy to encourage the use of standards that hold sway in world markets and to use internationally recognised standards wherever possible. This is to reduce barriers to trade. With UK membership of the European Union there is also an obligation under the Directive for the Co-ordinating of Procedures for the Award of Public Supply Contracts (93/36/EEC June 1993 and subsequent amendments) that preference shall be given to national standards implementing European Standards.

It is MOD policy that civil and widely recognised commercial standards shall be used wherever appropriate in preference to international military alliance standards (such as NATO STANAGs) and UK Defence Standards. The Order of Preference or Hierarchy for the Selection of Standards for Defence acquisition shall be used.

National civil standards (British Standards) are 3rd choice in the selection hierarchy with UK Defence Standards (Def Stans) 6th choice.
Describe your country’s policy regarding the application of international standards/specifications (civil and military such as ISO, EN, STANAGs etc).

The use of Regional (European) and International civil standards are 1st and 2nd choice respectively in the UK Order of Preference or Hierarchy for the Selection of Standards for Defence Acquisition. This is in accordance with the European Directive for the Co-ordinating of Procedures for the Award of Public Supply Contracts (93/36/EEC June 1993 and subsequent amendments).

The UK do not consider STANAGs to be “international standards” as such but regional, as they are only available for use by members of NATO, (the region being the North Atlantic). They are 4th choice in the UK Order of Preference or Hierarchy for the Selection of Standards along with other Alliance documents but could be elevated to 1st choice where interoperability issues are a requirement of the project.

UK Guidance on International Military Alliance standards is that when they are quoted in Invitations to Tender (ITTs)/contracts open to a wide range of bidders, IPT staff should ensure all manufacturer's/countries have the necessary clearance. This applies particularly to NATO STANAGs which may not be available to manufacturers’ in non-NATO countries. Military Alliance Standards (such as STANAGs and QSTAGs) normally have no authority in the individual members’ countries unless implemented either by reference or the publication of an appropriate national document. Where the UK has agreed to implement such a standard it is effectively mandatory to consider its use in order to meet specific user or system requirements. Advice on the authorized availability and ratification status of such agreements/standards may be obtained from the DStan helpdesk. The UK Defence Standardization Organization (DStan) is part of the Defence Procurement Agency’s Procurement Development Group.

c) Are the standards/specifications generally performance/functionally based or are detailed standards/specifications used?

UK current guidance is to describe requirements in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics (in order to promote innovation) and to select standards accordingly.

d) Are the standards/specifications generic or are they specific to an environment (Land, Sea, Air) or specific to particular projects/equipment?

UK Defence Standards (Def Stans) are generally tri-service generic standards but on occasions they can be specific to an individual service (such as the Navy), project or equipment.
e) Are the users of military standards/specifications restricted to MoDs or do Industry also use them?

Unclassified UK Defence Standards are available for use by any nation’s MOD or industries across the world in order to reduce dependence on specific vendors and encourage international trade through the removal of barriers to competition.

3. Selection of Standards for Armaments Projects/Procurement of Defence Materiel

a) Is there a hierarchy/priority in effect in your country for the application of standards for armaments projects/procurement of defence materiel?

Yes. With UK membership of the European Union we have an obligation under the Directive for the Co-ordinating Procedures for the Award of Public Supply Contracts (93/36/EEC June 1993 and subsequent amendments) to give preference to national civil standards implementing European standards. The Directive includes a standards hierarchy which has been extended for UK MOD use following requests for additional guidance on standards selection. The nine broad categories are given below.

**MOD Hierarchy for the Selection and use of Standards**

**Overarching requirements**
- Documents required by Law, Treaty, Regulation etc.
- Documents required for Interoperability (when specified)

1. European (Regional) Standards
2. International Standards
3. National British Standards
4. Commercial Standards widely recognised by Industry
5. International Military Alliance
6. UK MOD Defence Standards
7. UK MOD Departmental Standards & Specs
8. Other nation’s military standards
9. Recognised Industry/Partnership/Consortium standards
An introduction to the UK Selection of Standards for Defence Acquisition together with an expanded Order of Preference or Hierarchy with full supporting notes and tables is available on the DStan Internet site www.dstan.mod.uk, click on ‘information centre’ in the left hand pane and then ‘Defence Standards and their Use’. Also on the UK MOD Acquisition Management System at www.ams.mod.uk, find the "topics" page, click on "standardisation" and under "Reference Documents" click on "Standards order of preference and revised notes".

b) Who decides which standards/specifications are to be selected for armaments projects/procurement of defence materiel?

The UK Integrated Project Team decides which standards/specifications are to be selected. However, under Smart Acquisition principles industry (potential contractors) are encouraged to challenge any choice where it can show improvements in Time, Cost or Performance.

c) Who provides support to project managers in the selection of standards/specifications?

The Defence Standardization organization (DStan) provides a range of general standards advice through its helpdesk service; but ultimately the final choice on selection rests with the Integrated Project Team. Project Teams can contract specialist standards advice and they can also contact the British Standards Institution helpdesk for civil standards advice.

The UK Defence Standardization Organization is part of the Defence Procurement Agency’s Procurement Development Group.

d) Are there any standards mandatory for all or for particular armaments projects or types of defence materiel?

In general there are no UK Defence Standards that are mandatory; however, we would expect some form of quality assurance standards to be referenced. For other topics there may be Authoritative Guidance or Constraints within the UK MOD’s Acquisition Management System (AMS), available on the Internet at www.ams.mod.uk, which would necessitate the use of certain standards (for example safety and certain Naval requirements) but the final choice on selection rests with the Integrated Project Team.

e) Is there a documented process for selecting and specifying which standards should be used in acquisition contracts?

No; only for quality assurance standards.

The UK is currently developing a through life standardization management process, supported by task based guidance designed to be tailored to a project’s needs. Certain elements of this are written to promote the intelligent use of standards in specific areas to support such requirements such as Safety, Quality, Interfaces and Performance.
f) May standards be modified/tailored for certain applications or must they be invoked in their entirety?

We prefer to invoke standards in their entirety in acquisition contracts but where this does not fully meet customer requirements the tailoring of standards is encouraged. Standards can be tailored in several different ways. Further guidance is available in the UK MOD Acquisition Management System at www.ams.mod.uk. Drill down the AMS and click on the "Acquisition topics" section of the AMS doughnut page, click on "standardisation" and under "Reference Documents" click on "Tailoring Standards for Project Needs".

g) If standards conflict, how is this resolved?

A standards conflict should not occur if the UK Selection of Standards for Defence Acquisition or Order of Preference has been used as the highest order of preference should have been selected. However, if two standards were from the same order of preference then specialist standards advice would need to be sought.

h) For standards (civil and military) that have to be purchased, are they bought/supplied centrally by your country’s MoD or is it delegated?

Both apply.

Civil standards are normally purchased by individual UK MOD organisations/agencies directly from BSI or supplied (together with some military standards) from a microfiche service available from Technical Indexes or other commercial supplier. However, the library facility at the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) Bristol has recently put in place a contract enabling free downloading of full text British Standards to staff with internet access provided they pre-register. This is only available to MOD staff at DPA Bristol.

UK Def Stans are freely available for all to download from the DStan internet web site at http://www.dstan.mod.uk and from various MOD intranet sites.
Overview of the current national policies, procedures for standards and standard-like specifications used in defence procurement

1. Organisation

a) Describe the organisation responsible for your country’s military standards/specifications policy and how this organisation is integrated into / linked to the overall structure of your country’s Ministry of Defence.

The Defence Material Standardization Committee (DMSC) is the MOD authority for policy on materiel standardization, metricalation and the rationalization of technical procedures and draws its membership from across the MOD acquisition community. The committee promotes and facilitates standardization in the MOD through the use of international, regional and national civil standards, international military standards, and where no other suitable standard exists, Defence Standards. The DMSC produces an Annual Report which is freely available.

The UK Defence Standardization Organisation (DStan) is part of the Defence Procurement Agency’s (DPA) Procurement Development Group (PDG) and is the executive body through which the objectives of the DMSC are met.

b) Provide some details on the organisation:

Organizational chart

The top level UK Defence Standardization organization (DStan) together with broad responsibilities is shown below.
Personnel resources

39 Staff (34 in Glasgow and 5 in Bristol)

Budget

Financial Year 2002/03 £1.6M

Location/address

UK Defence Standardization,
Procurement Development Group, Defence Procurement Agency,
Room 1138, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street,
Glasgow G2 8EX. United Kingdom

Head of the organisation (Name/Rank)

Stephen Gibson, Head of Standardization (Assistant Director)

Point of Contact: Name/Phone/Fax/E-mail

DStan Helpdesk
Tel: +44 (0)141 224 2531/2
Fax: +44 (0)141 224 2503
Email: enquires@dstan.mod.uk

Homepage of the organisation

www.dstan.mod.uk

c) Is the organisation also responsible for tasks other than national military standards/specifications? (E.g. International Standardization; STANAG, Codification, Quality Assurance etc.)

Yes, the UK Defence Standardization organization is the MOD focal point for materiel standardization co-ordination and its responsibilities include:

- Liasing with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on national and international civil standardization policy issues

- Collaborating with the British Standards Institution (BSI) on national, regional and international civil standardization

- Supporting NATO standardization in the development of NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and Allied Publications
UNITED KINGDOM - 2003

- Participating in workshops as part of the UK Outreach and NATO partnership programmes

- Supporting the America, Britain, Canada, Australia Armies (ABCA) in the production of Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGS) and Quadripartite Advisory Publications (QAPs)

- Supporting international military collaborative projects including the Organisation for Joint Armaments Co-operation (OCCAR)

DStan also develop and deliver ‘Smart Standardization’ management advice to MOD’s Integrated Project Teams helping them to deliver projects within time, cost and performance parameters.

d) Is there a process to increase the scope of national civil standards by adding specific defence material requirements into the standard.

Yes. Defence Standards are offered to the British Standards Institution for acceptance and conversion to civil standards where there is a civil application and market. Either the whole Defence Standard can be published as a British Standard, or specific elements incorporated, or a military Annex added into this or other British Standards. A set of 5 conversion criteria or potential outcomes were recently developed (in 2002) to enable BSI to assess the standards proposed for conversion.

1. No technical knowledge in BSI
2. No identified civilian need:
   - for the proposed standard or the level of technology
3. Published civil standard already in place
   - Suitable for MOD use as published
   - Include defence needs in the standard or an Annex
   - Include options or ‘grading’ to cover defence needs
4. Work item already in hand; BS EN ISO etc.
   - Contribute defence document to process
5. Accept as New Work Item [NWI]

Also, MOD participates in the preparation of civil standards through active membership of relevant British Standards Technical Committees. It does this only when it has a strategic interest and would be disadvantaged by not being represented. MOD aims to produce a standard suitable for its use and avoid the need to produce a Defence Standard. For further information see Defence Standard 00-00 Part 4 ‘Guide for MOD Representatives on BSI Committees’.
e) Describe the relationship of the organisation with other civil and military Standards Agencies.

Civil

DStan works closely with BSI. We have regular 6 monthly liaison meetings with key staff in the standards policy area and have a seat on OC/13, their highest level standards policy and strategy committee. Additionally, DStan co-ordinates MOD’s representation on BSI’s technical standards drafting committees where it has been shown that MOD has a strategic interest in attending.

Military

DStan is active in supporting NATO standardization in the development of NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and Allied Publications (AP’s) through the NATO AC/301 materiel Standardization Group. We also have a representative on the AC/321 the NATO Committee for Standardization. The UK has representation on a variety of other groups such as AC/135 Codification, AC/250 Quality Assurance, AC/258 Storage and Transport of Military Explosives and AC/310 Munitions and Explosives. Additionally, the UK is active in supporting the various operational and C3 NATO committees.

NB. NATO committees are currently under review.

DStan supports America, Britain, Canada, Australia (ABCA) Armies in the production of Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGS) and Quadripartite Advisory Publications (QAPs). There are 13 Quadripartite Working Groups (QWG’s) and DStan is directly involved in the committee which deals with Materiel Acquisition & Technical Support known as ABCA QWG MATS.

f) How is civil and military standardization linked in your country?

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) co-ordinates UK Government representation (3 seats) on OC/13, BSI’s highest level standards policy and strategy committee. One of these seats is held by MOD who is also represented on AC/321, the NATO Committee for Standardization. BSI is represented on MOD’s Defence Materiel Standardization Committee, chaired and run from DStan.

Additionally, DTI co-ordinates views on national, European and international civil standardization policy issues from across UK Government via its Standards Policy Committee. MOD has a seat on this committee and plays an active role. DTI also have a seat on BSI’s OC/13.

g) Does your government subsidize or sponsor the civil standardization efforts of civil standardization organisations?

Yes; the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), on behalf of central UK Government, contributed £6.1M of funding to BSI in Financial Year 2002/03. This was made up of Direct
UNITED KINGDOM - 2003

Funding (Support for Standards and Targeted Funding) and three schemes (assisted International Travel Scheme, Consultancy Drafting Scheme and the Consumer Travel Expenses Fund).

In addition various UK Government Departments support the standards drafting and maintenance carried out by BSI’s technical committees by supplying expert representatives and commenting on draft standards at no cost to BSI.

2. Preparation, Issue and Implementation of standards and standard-like specifications

a) How and by whom is the need for a new standard/specification identified?

The identification of a new standard or specification can be done by a variety of people in MOD and Industry using a top down or a bottom up approach. It might be as a result of research, new project requirements or experience of using existing standards. However, all new UK Defence Standards need a sponsor and DStan validate the requirement before work begins.

b) Describe the processes and the responsibilities for the establishment of military standards/specifications in your country.

MOD policy is to make use of British Standard 0 ‘A Standard for Standards’ wherever practicable, supplemented by our own requirements only when absolutely necessary. The process and responsibilities for the drafting and maintenance of Defence Standards are detailed in Def Stan 00-00 Part 2 ‘Presentation and Management of Defence Standards’ which includes Process Diagrams. This is underpinned by Def Stan 00-00 Part 1 ‘MOD UK Standardization Policy, Organizations and Implementation.

The main processes for the production of a Defence Standard are:

1. Negotiate sponsorship
2. Search for an existing standard
3. If none identified, raise Standardization task Validation Certificate
4. Plan
5. Draft
6. Internal and Public Comment
7. Consider and resolve comments
8. Final editing
9. Approval
10. Publishing
11. Review

Typically this process takes about 18 months but can be completed in a matter of weeks if there is an urgent requirement.

Responsibilities are split between DStan and sponsors and are identified in detail in signed Standardization Partnership Agreements.

DStan has also produced a free interactive training CD ‘Developing a Defence Standard’. Available from the DStan helpdesk.
c) How are international standardisation agreements (e.g. NATO STANAGs) accounted for in military standards/specifications?

Authors of UK Defence Standards and other specifications are free to reference any relevant standard/publication in their work (rather than incorporate the texts that could cause copyright problems). In the UK, STANAGs are normally declared ‘self implementing’ and would be implemented by direct reference rather than be ‘cover sheeted’ and re-numbered as a Defence Standard.

d) Which civil and/or military bodies are involved in the processes?

DStan is responsible for publishing Defence Standards. Other agencies/bodies within the UK MOD are involved in the drafting or maintenance process with DStan providing the overall Standards Programme Management.

e) How is industry’s expertise taken into account during the development of military standards/specifications?

Industry can be involved during the development or maintenance of military standards either directly in the work of the standards drafting committee or by commenting on the document during the final comment stage. MOD prefers to seek this involvement through their respective Industry Trade Association and aims to seek a consensus through a transparent drafting process.

f) How and by whom is a new military standard/specification funded?

New Defence Standards are funded by sponsorship. This can be by an individual MOD area such as an IPT or a group of users on a standards drafting committee.

g) How and by whom is the maintenance of the stock of existing military standards/specifications funded?

The maintenance of standards is mainly funded by sponsorship. This can be by an individual MOD area such as an IPT or a group of users on a standards drafting committee.

h) Who has intellectual proprietary rights of your country’s standards/specifications?

All UK Government publications are covered by Crown Copyright administered by Her Majesty’s Stationary Office (HMSO). MOD owns IPR when necessary, however, MOD tries to avoid infringing others IPR. Policy in Def Stan 00-00 Part 2 paragraph 65 says:

COPYRIGHT, PATENT AND REGISTERED DESIGNS

No Defence Standards shall be produced for Commercial off the Shelf items (COTS items), proprietary products, processes or systems which are subject to copyright, patent, design or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Care should be taken to avoid the use of information within Defence Standards that could invoke copyright, patent, design or IPR and if such information is essential, then prior permission must be obtained and acknowledged in Defence Standards.
3. Sources of Standards

a) Which databases exist for the different types of your country’s military standards/specifications?

DStan’s internal Standardization Management Information System (STANMIS) contains details of UK Defence Standards from which their maintenance is managed and statistics produced. An electronic index of Defence Standards, together with full text versions of Defence Standards, is available through the DStan Web site. Additionally, various commercial organisations produce searchable databases of various countries civil and military standards.

b) Are these databases accessible via a web site?

DStan’s electronic index of Defence Standards is available from the DStan Internet website www.dstan.mod.uk. Searching can be carried out from the search facility on the home page of the DStan internet website. The search results will identify individual documents as well as other site pages.

c) Who maintains these databases?

DStan maintains the STANMIS database and the index of Defence Standards on the Internet site.

d) What fields/data elements are used in the database (e.g. is it only the title of the standards, or title with date and version, or perhaps also the full text).

The index of Defence Standards on the Internet site has the following elements:

- Def Stan Number: Def Stan Title: Issue Number: Number of pages:
- Additional fields can be included such as:
  - Amendment Number: Status of Standard: Superseded by
  - The index links directly through to the full text of the Standard.

e) Are the full-text documents of the standards/specifications accessible through these databases?

The index of Defence Standards on the Internet site links directly through to the full text of the Standard.

STANMIS does not link through to the full text of the standard.

f) Do these databases also include classified information/documents?

The index of Defence Standards on the Internet site contains only unclassified information.
g) How is access to classified information/documents provided for?

To access classified information/documents please contact the DStan Helpdesk in Glasgow.

h) Who has access to these databases?

All users of the world wide web have unrestricted access to the DStan Internet website www.dstan.mod.uk. Only DStan staff have access to the Standardization Management Information System (STANMIS).

i) Are external users (e.g. industry) of these databases and the related documents charged for their use?

If yes: What are the fees?

No; users of the DStan Internet website have free unrestricted access to the standards and other documents.

j) Is it possible to order hardcopies of military standards/specifications. If yes: How are the standards/specifications ordered and what are the prices for these documents?

Yes, it is possible to order hardcopies of UK military Defence Standards but this is discouraged in favour of electronic downloads from the DStan website. Orders for hardcopy should be telephoned, faxed or emailed to the DStan helpdesk. Hard copies of Defence Standards cost £12, but are free to UK MOD and to industry where a MoD contract or tender number can be quoted.

4. Distribution and use of military Standards/Specifications

a) How is information about new/amended/cancelled military standards/specifications internally and externally distributed?

Information on new/amended/cancelled/obsolescent Defence Standards and NATO STANAGS is available in the hard copy publication Standards in Defence News (SID News) distributed to MOD and Industry every 3 months. An electronic version of SID News is also available from the DStan website.

b) Are military standards/specifications routinely checked for necessary revisions?

Yes, DStan has a programme in place to routinely review its Defence Standards. DStan have recently moved from a 7 year review to 4 ½ years but have a target to further reduce this to 4 years by 31 Dec 2004.

c) Are military standards/specifications routinely translated into other languages?

No.
UNITED KINGDOM - 2003

Should DStan require translations of civil standards from other countries we would approach BSI who have a stock of over 13,000 full technical translations of world wide standards.

d) Are military standards/specifications available electronically?

Yes, UK Defence Standards are available in pdf format from the DStan Internet website http://www.dstan.mod.uk.

A DStan CD ROM is also available containing all unclassified Defence Standards. DStan charges £150 for a single user version and £750 for a multi-user version of the CD ROM. DStan is also able to provide CD ROMs tailored to the needs of an individual MOD business area. This could include collections of specific Defence Standards as well as presentation and training material.

A limited number of STANAGs are also available electronically on WWW.dstan.mod.uk

Some ABCA Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGs) are held electronically in the USA Washington Standardization Office (WSO), but all QSTAGs are distributed through the respective National Standardization Officer (NSO) (DStan for the UK) in hard copy.

Is there a monitoring process to establish which standards are being used for particular projects or types of defence materiel?

No; however, DStan has recently begun to monitor MOD contracts with a value in excess of £10M in order to establish which Defence Standards are being used, recognising that this will not give a complete picture as UK Defence Standards can also be used by subcontractors in the contractual chain. This covers 60% of MOD’s total financial value of contracts placed each year.

The results of this monitoring work will be used to decide if there are benefits in extending the work to include all standards called up in MOD contracts (civil, commercial standards, international military alliance, etc).

e) Is there a “help desk“ to aid/support users of standards?

If yes: What are the conditions to use the help desk (internal/external users)?

Yes, DStan runs a helpdesk service which is freely available to enquirers from across the world. However, we prefer to offer advice to MOD staff or industry who have, or are tendering for, UK MOD contracts. It has been designed to service needs at 3 levels, either by using in-house knowledge or via experts enlisted as helpdesk supporters as follows:

1st layer:
In-house DStan operators dealing with document requests and answering straightforward questions. The operators are becoming increasingly knowledgeable with experience thus shortening response times on a number of wide-ranging issues.

2nd layer:
In-house officers who are well versed in Defence Standard production, policy issues such as
those relating to obsolescence, national and international standardization developments, standardization training, technology matters etc.

3rd layer: Extramural specialist advice from MOD and Industry experts. Links are also being established with international counterparts.

NB. 3rd layer industry experts offer a degree of free advice after which payment can be negotiated.