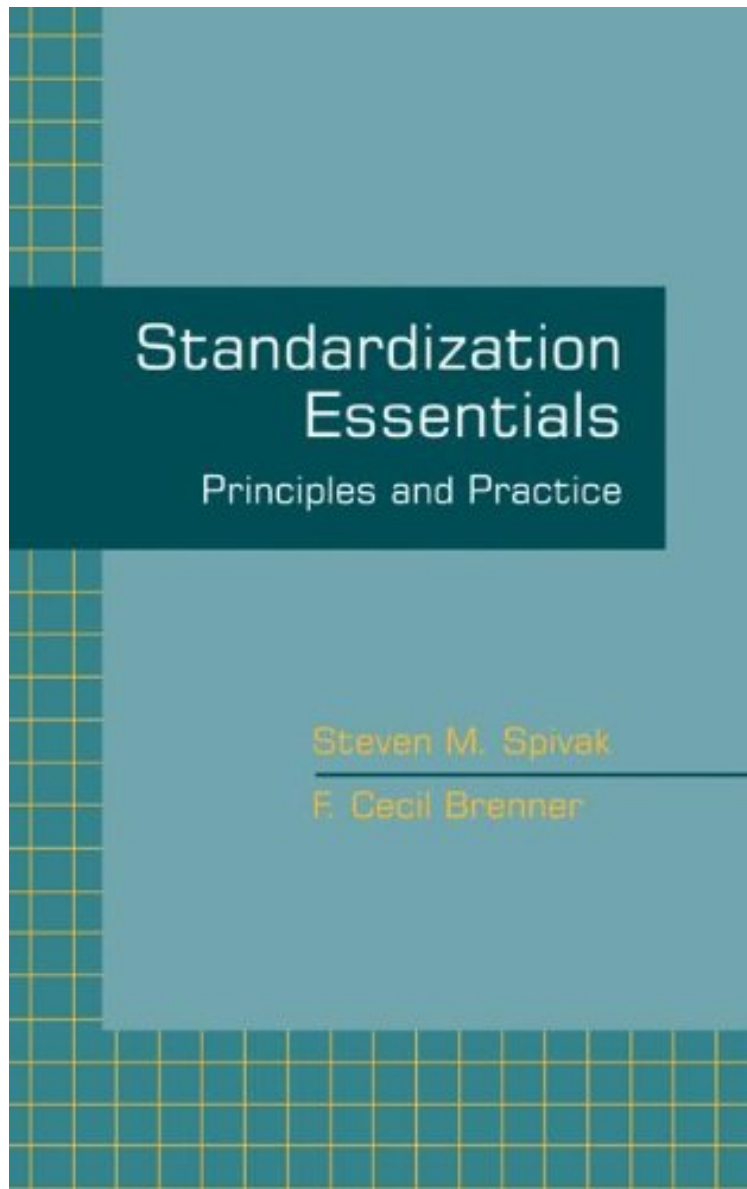


Standardization Essentials: Principles and Practice

Steven M. Spivak, F. Cecil Brenner
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#1105994 in Books CRC Press 2001-03-02Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF
1 9.00 x 6.00 x .751, 1.24 #File Name: 0824789180320 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Steven M. Spivak, F. Cecil Brenner : Standardization Essentials: Principles and Practice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standardization Essentials: Principles and Practice:

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Essentials, Principles and Practice, Steven M. Spivak and F. Cecil Brenner, published by Marcel Dekker, Inc. New York, NY Review by Ken Krechmer, Technical Editor, Communications Standards Review

Standardization Essentials is an introductory text on the development (standardization) and use of standards that define similarity. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, repetitive manufacturing processes have been used to economically produce similar things. The standards associated with such manufacture may be termed similarity standards. This book clearly develops and explains the economic advantages of creating and using similarity standards to increase the size of served markets and decrease the per unit cost of manufacture. Although the focus of this book is on North American standardization, there is considerable discussion of the value and importance of world wide standardized manufacturing and the international standardization organizations associated with similarity standards. The important issues of conformity assessment (testing to insure conformance with similarity standards), ISO 9000 (quality management system) and ISO 14000 (environmental management system) standards are addressed. There is a good introductory chapter on both ISO standards series, and an excellent contributed chapter on implementing ISO 9000 in a medium size chemical company. More than half the book is devoted to 18 independent articles (some previously published), 15 from different people with broad experience in the standardization industry and three from the authors. These articles offer a wide view of current aspects of standardization and are quite interesting to read. These articles range over different manufacturing fields: air conditioning, tires, information technology, automotive and chemicals; they address standardization from multiple vantage points: consortia, US Department of Defense, consumer product safety, developing countries, laboratory accreditation, trade barriers and product procurement. Some of the articles are very descriptive and all are helpful to understand the different views of similarity standards and standardization. Standardization Essentials concludes with a copy of a US Government document: Office of Management and Budget revised Circular A-119 (1998) on the federal use and development of voluntary standards. Considering that such documents are available over the Internet, it is not clear why the authors chose to include it. The book offers a listing of some of the more significant formal standardization and related organizations in North America and some regional and international standardization and related organizations. But only names are provided. no contact information. Considering how rapidly most standardization committees are moving onto the Internet, the lack of web addresses and pointers is quite surprising and reduces the value of the book as a starting point for further study. In summary, Standardization Essentials only partially fulfills the promise of its title, offering a view (although a good one) of just similarity standards. It does not address unit of measure standards and the related metrology (e.g., calibration) issues, and addresses only slightly compatibility standards and the related communications issues.

This ready reference surveys the discipline of standards and standardization, defining common terms, clarifying descriptions, describing how standards could be used to restrain trade, and explaining how international trade is stimulated by the due process provisions of standards writing organizations. Containing real-world examples provided by experienced standards professionals, Standardization Essentials is a vital, forward-looking reference for mechanical, civil, electrical and electronics, materials, chemical, mineral, cost, quality, reliability, industrial, developmental, safety, forensic, and consulting engineers; standards managers; architects; project managers; upper-level undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students in these disciplines. Crystallizes the essential role that standards play in strategic standardization management, purchasing, contractual agreements, and international trade! Covering costs, benefits, limitations, uses, and abuses of standardization programs, Standardization Essentials Considers whether standards build or bar trade and the use of international standards to leverage world markets Presents a case study of conformity assessment related to international technical trade barriers Focuses on consumer safety standards for automobile tires and other products Addresses implementation of ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 management system standards in industry Highlights voluntary (nongovernmental) and mandatory (governmental) standards and regulations developed by a variety of organizations Reveals competition, incongruities, and harmonization among national and international standards

"The contributions come from both the editors and an impressive group of 16 well-respected standards experts. Overall, and true to the goal of providing an introduction to standards and standardisation, the book covers an extremely wide range of topics. [A] very good overview of the basics of standardisation." - Journal of the Operational Research Society "[This book] is clear enough and short enough to be a primer, but complete enough to be a useful reference for experienced professionals in the standards community. [S]tudents in business management should use this book as the core of a second-semester freshman course. In the last semester of the senior year, there should be another course with this book as the core reference to illustrate what standards and standardization cannot accomplish. The practicing loss control professional needs this book to prepare for the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' that the standards writing bodies are turning out. The articles included are of uniformly high quality. This is a forceful, enlightened, intensive, theoretical and practical guide and follow-up to a vital but neglected discipline." - LUCE Information Services "The authors [are] both widely respected standards professionals in the US and internationally. Do the authors succeed in meeting their stated goal of providing us with a 'primer and review' of the

subject matter at hand? The answer is a resounding 'Yes!' And they manage to reach every stated targeted audience mention in their Preface. Spivak and Brenner have assembled many of the 'notables' in our profession and woven their contributions into a seamless, easy flowing text." - Standards Engineering, May/June 2001 "can serve as the foundation to any standards-based course being taught. should be on the shelf of every standards professional." - Standards Engineering "comprehensive and scholarly benchmark publication a valued reference guide." - Popular Plastics and Packaging "comprehensive and scholarly benchmark publication that brings standardization into public visibility." - Colourage "would serve as a valued reference guide by seasoned standards practitioners as well as those new to the field." - Chemical Business "has the knack of putting technical jargon into plain English ... the topic is timely today." - San Juan Star ... "This book allies theory and practice and brings the discipline to life, not only at a national level, but in a far wider international context. What is unusual about this book, apart from the very broad content, is its tone that makes it easy reading about a technical subject, with anecdotes and historical aside, cartoon, and plenty of examples." - ISO Bulletin, 2001