



BSI Standards Publication

**Space product assurance — Software metrication  
programme definition and implementation**

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## National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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**Space product assurance - Software metrication  
programme definition and implementation**

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métrologie du logiciel

Raumfahrtprodukticherung -  
Software metrikhandbuch

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## European Foreword

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This document (CEN/CLC/TR 17602-80-04:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 5 "Space", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

It is highlighted that this technical report does not contain any requirement but only collection of data or descriptions and guidelines about how to organize and perform the work in support of EN 17602-80.

This Technical report (CEN/CLC/TR 17602-80-04:2021) originates from ECSS-Q-HB-80-04A.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This document has been developed to cover specifically space systems and has therefore precedence over any TR covering the same scope but with a wider domain of applicability (e.g.: aerospace).

## Introduction

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This Handbook describes the approach to be taken for the definition and implementation of an effective and efficient metrication programme for the development of software in a space project.

This Handbook provides guidelines and examples of software metrics that can be used in space system developments, in line with the requirements defined by [ECSS-E-40] and [ECSS-Q-80], given guidelines and examples to provide a coherent view of the software metrication programme definition and implementation.

This Handbook is intended to help customers in formulating their quality requirements and suppliers in preparing their response and implementing the work. This Handbook is not intended to replace textbook material on computer science or technology and software metrics, or repeating such material is avoided in this Handbook. The readers and users of this Handbook are assumed to possess general knowledge of computer science and software engineering.

In space projects, the demand of high quality software to be developed within allocated budget and time is a priority objective, particularly in presence of dependability requirements. Also the size of the operational software has increased significantly due to the increase in functionality to allow new challenging missions and to reply to increasingly sophisticated and demanding user requirements.

The space software development is therefore characterized by:

- High dependability of the software products, in both space and ground segments;
- Stringent schedule and cost estimates that are more and more accurate to enable reliable cost estimates for the overall project;
- Demand of high quality software, and
- Increasing productivity requirements.

To improve, suppliers should know what can be done better, and also what to look at in order to understand where less effort can be applied to support the improvement.

Measurements are the only way to quantitatively assess the quality of a process or a product.

In presence of complex software projects reliable measures of both processes and products provide a powerful tool to software management for keeping the project in track and preserve the intended quality of the software product. Improvement of both the space software product and its development processes depends upon improved ability to identify, measure, and control essential parameters that affect software product and its development processes. This is the goal of any software metrication programme.

The main reasons for measuring software processes and products are:

- **To characterize** the existing processes and the status of products under development or operations, in order to gain a better understanding and support the overall verification of the software, as well as to acquire data/information for future assessments of similar processes/products.

- **To evaluate** the status of the project to determine its status and possible deviation from the established plans, and to support identification of actions to bring it back under control; the evaluation includes an assessment of an achievement of quality goals and an assessment of the impacts of technology and process improvements on products and processes.
- **To predict**, with the aim to improve the ability to plan. Measuring for prediction involves gaining understanding of relationships among processes and products and building models of these relationships, so that the observed values for some attributes can be used to predict others. The reason for that is to establish achievable goals for cost, schedule, and quality—so that appropriate resources can be applied. Predictive measures are also the basis for extrapolating trends, so estimates for cost, time, and quality can be updated based on current evidence. Projections and estimates based on historical data also help to analyse risks and make design/cost tradeoffs.
- **To improve**. Gathering quantitative information helps to identify roadblocks, root causes, inefficiencies, and other opportunities for improving product quality and process performance. Measures also help to plan and track improvement efforts.

Measures of current performance give baselines to compare against, so that it can be possible to judge whether or not the improvement actions are working as intended and what the side effects can be. Good measures also help to communicate goals and convey reasons for improving. This helps engage and focus the support of those who work within the processes to make them successful.

# 1

## Scope

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The scope of this Handbook is the software metrication as part of a space project, i.e. a space system, a subsystem including hardware and software, or ultimately a software product. It is intended to complement the [ECSS-Q-80] with specific guidelines related to use of different software metrics including their collection, analysis and reporting. Tailoring guidelines for the software metrication process are also provided to help to meet specific project requirements.

This Handbook provides recommendations, methods and procedures that can be used for the selection and application of appropriate metrics, but it does not include new requirements with respect to those provided by ECSS-ST-Q-80C Standard.

The scope of this Handbook covers the following topics:

- Specification of the goals and objectives for a metrication programme.
- Identification of criteria for selection of metrics in a specific project / environment (goal driven).
- Planning of metrication in the development life cycle.
- Interface of metrication with engineering processes.
- Data collection aspects (including use of tools).
- Approach to the analysis of the collected data.
- Feedback into the process and product based on the analysis results.
- Continuous improvement of measurement process.
- Use of metrics for process and product improvement.

This Handbook is applicable to all types of software of all major parts of a space system, including the space segment, the launch service segment and the ground segment software.