INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 8485

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Programming languages — APL

Langages de programmation — APL

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 8485 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems*.

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Annexes A and B are for information only.

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0 INTRODUCTION

APL stands for **A Programming Language**. It is a notation invented by K. E. Iverson in the late 1950s for the description of algorithms, and expanded on and made into the programming system *APL*\360 by Iverson and his colleagues Adin Falkoff, Larry Breed, Dick Lathwell, and Roger Moore in the mid-1960s.

Throughout this document

— the term "this standard" is understood to mean "this International Standard";

— the words "chapter", "section" and "subsection" are understood to mean "clause", "subclause" and "sub-subclause", respectively.

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1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This standard defines the programming language APL and the environment in which APL programs are executed. Its purpose is to facilitate interchange and promote portability of APL programs and programming skills.

This standard specifies the syntax and semantics of APL programs and the characteristics of the environment in which APL programs are executed.

It also specifies requirements for conformance to this standard, including the publication of values and characteristics of implementation properties so that conforming implementations can be meaningfully compared.

This standard does not specify:

implementation properties that are likely to vary with the particular equipment or operating system used;

required values for implementation limits such as APL workspace size or numeric precision;

the data structures used to represent APL objects;

the facilities available through shared variables.

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2 REFERENCES

ISO 2375 : 1985, *Data processing — Procedure for registration of escape sequences.*

ISO 2382-15 : 1985, *Data processing — Vocabulary — Part 15: Programming languages.*