



Technical Specification

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Information technology — User interface component accessibility —

Part 40:

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

*Technologies de l'information — Accessibilité du composant
interface utilisateur —*

Partie 40: Communication alternative et améliorée (CAA)

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Conventions	3
5 Introduction to AAC	4
5.1 AAC	4
5.2 The range of users of AAC	4
5.2.1 Introduction to users and their needs	4
5.2.2 Non-verbal users	4
5.2.3 Users not served by translators	5
5.2.4 Users communicating with non-verbal users and users not served by translators	6
5.2.5 All users	7
5.2.6 Collected major needs for AAC	8
5.3 Implementations	9
5.3.1 General	9
5.3.2 Text-to-speech systems	9
5.3.3 On-Screen keyboards	9
5.3.4 Automatic translators	10
5.3.5 Communication support boards	10
6 Basic guidance related to AAC	10
6.1 General	10
6.2 Focus	11
6.2.1 User needs rather than technologies	11
6.2.2 Serving those with communication difficulties	11
6.2.3 Serving all ages	11
6.2.4 Communicating	11
6.2.5 Graphic communications	11
6.2.6 Simple interactions	11
6.3 Basic functionality	11
6.3.1 Clearly distinguishable functionality	11
6.3.2 Intuitiveness	11
6.3.3 Availability without personalization	12
6.3.4 Personalization by users	12
6.3.5 Automatic support for different platforms	12
6.3.6 Minimal reliance on the Internet	12
7 Further guidance related to AAC	12
7.1 Design and use of pictograms, photos, and icons in AAC	12
7.2 A core set of pictograms for use in AAC	12
7.3 The use of various forms (written, auditory, and tactile) of text information in AAC	13
7.4 Translating AAC utterances to natural languages	13
7.5 Face-to-face AAC messaging	13
7.6 Incorporating remote messaging into AAC	13
7.7 Accessible narratives using AAC	14
7.8 Accessible creation of accessible narratives	14
7.9 Other AAC applications	14
Bibliography	15

Foreword

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Introduction

Face-to-face communication (e.g. vocal speech and sign language) is the most basic and oldest means of communication between humans. Speech communication only works when the various persons involved share a common natural language. Today, there are over 7 000 natural languages in the world. Speech between two persons not sharing a common language only works if they have one or more translators to assist them.

Pictures are the oldest form of recording communications for other humans to receive at a later point in time. While some pictures can be challenging to understand, simple pictures that clearly represent what is being communicated are a good way of communicating between humans who can see the pictures.

Written text arrived later as a means of recording speech communications. However, there are over 3 000 natural languages that do not have a written form. Thus, written text only works for human-to-human communications where both humans share the ability to use the same written language. Text has recently taken a much more critical role in communications due to the printing of books and the use of text by computer systems. Some people who communicate face-to-face via text find it easier to communicate face-to-face with pictograms.

Pictograms, like early forms of writing in some natural languages, use simple pictures to communicate with persons who cannot speak or use the written form of some natural language.

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) makes use of pictograms and other alternate forms of communication to serve a variety of users not able to fully use the available spoken or written language.

NOTE While the most common use of AAC is to facilitate communication or at least one person with language difficulties, some AAC are also used for vocalization from text or pictograms by people with speech difficulties.

Information technology — User interface component accessibility —

Part 40: Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

1 Scope

This document provides an introduction to and basic guidance on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in the information and communication technology (ICT) domain. It also provides common definitions and a framework for the development of further, more detailed guidance relating to aspects of these AACs.

This document recognizes that AAC can be delivered on various ICT devices and the importance of consistency for users across devices. It applies to AAC software and not the devices on which the software is used.

This document recognizes that AAC provides many users with a unique form of communication that is not necessarily based on any specific natural language.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

Bibliography

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