

*“The urge to standardise and the need for standardisation are so deeply ingrained in man that it is difficult to conceive of any facet of organised society that is not affected by standardisation. Consumers everywhere have the same desire: to obtain the most efficient, effective, safe and reliable goods and services at the best prices - in other words, value for money. Standardisation helps to safeguard this interest” - SABS*

### Background of RSA Military Standards and the RMSS

Many members of Armscor and the DoD will recall that standardisation was given a high priority some ten to fifteen years ago, when Armscor was tasked by the DoD (formerly the SADF) to set up a standardisation function to promote standardisation and develop so-called RSA Military Standards for the defence environment. This was particularly necessary in order to cater for unique military requirements in instances where there was either a lack of sufficient standards, or where access to certain external standards was impossible. The body that has helped to facilitate this process over the last decade and a half is the RMSS.

Structured to function as a body with three partners -- the DoD (represented by the Military Standardisation Work Group – MSWG), Armscor and the SABS -- the RMSS has been established as an authority responsible for standardisation. Since its establishment, the RMSS has facilitated the development, approval and maintenance of about 400 RSA Military Standardisation documents for its clients. RSA Military Standards are presently seen to address a wide variety of aspects, all with the purpose to render the necessary support to enable core business processes (e.g. Acquisition, Procurement and Logistics) to function more efficiently.

The RMSS is currently the only coordinating forum where RSA Military Standardisation requirements are formally addressed. It offers an opportunity for the stakeholders mentioned above to cooperate jointly in a well-structured military standardisation process.

The fact that RSA Military Standards are widely used, internally as well as externally, gives credit to the small but significant number of people who have always been willing to play an active role in the activities of the RMSS.

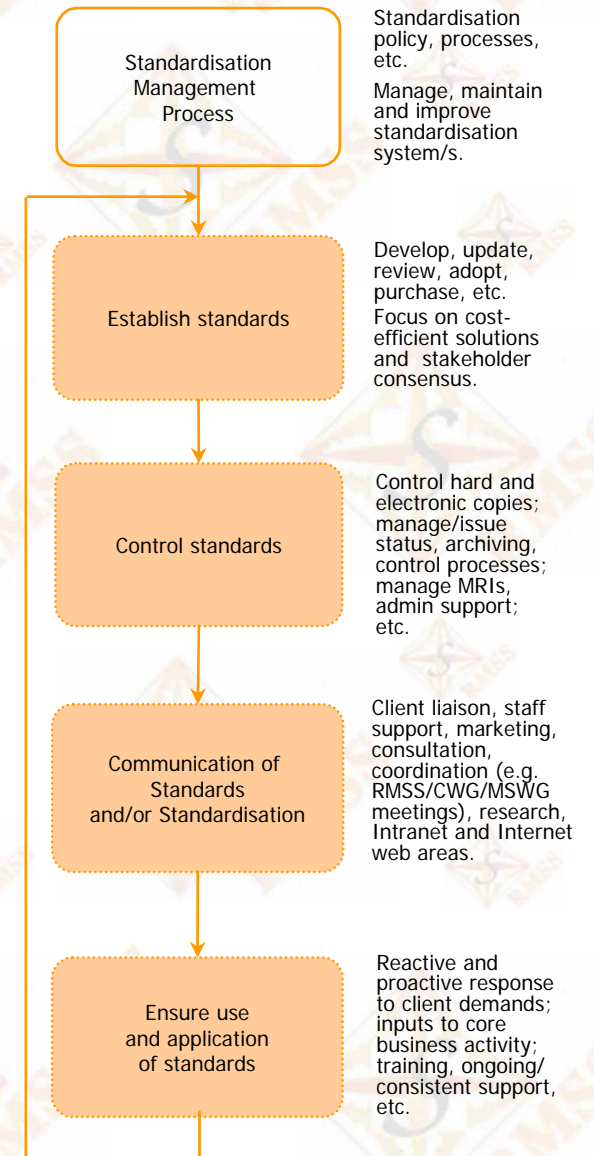
### The RMSS today

During restructuring some years ago, the Standardisation Secretariat (and therefore the coordination and administration functions of the RMSS) was incorporated into the Quality Department of Armscor, better known as the RSA-Military Standardisation Centre (RMSC). Greater emphasis was subsequently placed on the role of standardisation as an important vehicle for ensuring quality of products and services, and as a discipline for supplying an overall corporate support service to Armscor and its clients.

Part of this service to Armscor and the DoD focuses to an increasing extent on the identification of existing external standards that suit our internal needs, and on assisting users to obtain such standards when required. This is achieved through our well-established networks with external standards-supplying authorities. External popular standards are also purchased proactively, and on a selective basis, to reassure users that the latest important standards are readily available.

Whilst the activities of the RMSS have been scaled down drastically due to financial cutbacks and staff reductions over the years (inevitably affecting almost every single defence-related area), the function of the RMSS has been maintained enthusiastically. This is due to the fact that the need for standardisation has persisted, as is evident from the many users who continue to make use of the services offered.

### The overall RMSS Standardisation Process – (Refer A-Proc-3032)



## Some thoughts on Standardisation

### *Standardisation and Smart Acquisition*

The intelligent application of the standardisation process is essential to achieving the benefits of Smart Acquisition. Standardisation needs to be considered and planned as part of the Through Life Management planning activity.

*.....if approached this way,  
standardisation will help us to*

- improve the operational readiness of military services and systems;
- reduce systems development and life cycle costs;
- improve quality, interoperability, cost-effective performance and support;
- accelerate incorporation of new technology into systems and equipment (through standardisation documents);
- sustain and improve the industrial and technology base;
- enhance the interchangeability, reliability and maintainability of equipment and supplies;
- reduce risks associated with procurement and acquisition, and
- improve economies of scale.

Contact us for:

- Information on RSA Military Standards
- Information on external standards
- Support towards acquiring and supply of a wide range of standards
- Current RSA Military Standardisation projects
- Rationalisation of stores inventories
- General standardisation, consultation and staff support

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**The RSA Military  
Standards Steering  
Committee  
(RMSS)**

*Your partner for Standards  
and Standardisation in the  
RSA military environment*

