

## **RSA-MIL-STD-6**

### ***MANUALS, TECHNICAL: COMPREHENSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR TECHNICAL MANUALS***

#### **SCOPE**

1. Maximum comprehensibility of technical data is vital in maintaining operational readiness of systems and equipment, in reducing life cycle costs, and in increasing the probability of successful repair. Technical manuals have often been produced with style, format, and organization characteristics which impose an unnecessary burden on the user in terms of reading, studying, and conceptual skills.
2. The requirements in this standard are intended to reduce this burden upon the user and to foster a user-orientated approach by the technical manual preparer. This approach consists of a greater sensitivity to the characteristics and needs of the user. It should result in a greater awareness of the possibilities for presenting technical data in ways that directly support the performance of technical tasks.
3. This standard reflects only a sub-set of the characteristics of user-orientated technical manuals. Many other characteristics of user-orientated manuals cannot now be specified or measured. Conformance with the requirements in this standard will improve comprehensibility and will foster, but not guarantee, a user-orientated approach.
4. In cases where sampling is to be used in quality assurance procedures, a simple random sampling of material from a technical manual is unsatisfactory for two reasons: ( a ) t h e material in the manual is not a homogeneous mass and (b) the number of different characteristics to be checked is large. An improved sampling plan is presented in Appendix C.

#### **GENERAL, PURPOSE, OBJECTIVE, AND APPLICATION**

##### **1. General**

This standard sets forth style and format requirements related to technical manual comprehensibility.

##### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of these requirements is to improve the match between how technical information is presented and how technical manual users comprehend the information.

##### **3. Objective**

Technical manuals produced in accordance with these requirements will have the following characteristics: familiar words, uniform vocabulary, short sentences, short paragraphs with informative headings, organization of material based on the immediate needs of the user, and a large number of simple, clear illustrations.

#### **4. Application**

This standard is applicable to procurement of new technical manuals, update or complete revisions, supplements, and technical manual changes.