

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Information technology—
Software product evaluation**

Part 4: Process for acquirers



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STANDARDS
NEW ZEALAND
Pūnaha Aotearoa

AS/NZS 14598.4:2000

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee IT-015, Software Engineering. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 November 2000 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 27 October 2000. It was published on 15 December 2000.

The following interests are represented on Committee IT-015:

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Information technology— Software product evaluation

Part 4: Process for acquirers

First published as AS/NZS 14598.4:2000.

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Jointly published by Standards Australia International Ltd, GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001 and Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6020

ISBN 0 7337 3682 3

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-015, Software Engineering. This Standard is identical with and has been reproduced from ISO/IEC 14598-4:1999, *Information technology—Software product evaluation, Part 4: Process for acquirers*.

The objective of this Standard is to give acquirers of software product requirements and recommendations for the systematic measurement, assessment and evaluation of software product quality during the acquisition of ‘off-the-shelf’ software products, custom software products or modification of existing software products.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An ‘informative’ annex is only for information and guidance.

This Standard is Part 4 of AS/NZS 14598, *Information technology—Software product evaluation*, which is published in parts as follows:

- Part 1: General overview
- Part 2: Planning and management
- Part 3: Process for developers
- Part 4: Process for acquirers (this Standard)
- Part 5: Process for evaluators
- Part 6: Documentation of evaluation modules

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References to International Standards should be replaced by references to equivalent Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standard</i>	
ISO/IEC		AS/NZS	
9126	Information technology—Software product evaluation—Quality characteristics and guidelines for their use	4216	Information technology—Software product evaluation—Quality characteristics and guidelines for their use
12207	Information technology—Software life cycle processes	ISO/IEC 12207	Information technology—Software life cycle processes
14598	Information technology—Software product evaluation	14598	Information technology—Software product evaluation
14598-1	Part 1: General overview	14598.1	Part 1: General overview
14598-5	Part 5: Process for evaluators	14598.5	Part 5: Process for evaluators
15026	Information technology—System and software integrity levels	15026	Information technology—System and software integrity levels

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Software engineering — Product evaluation — Part 4: Process for acquirers

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 14598 contains requirements, recommendations and guidelines for the systematic measurement, assessment and evaluation of software product quality during acquisition of “off-the-shelf” software products, custom software products, or modifications to existing software products. It uses the software quality model described in ISO/IEC 9126-1; expands on the general process for evaluating software quality that is defined in ISO/IEC 14598-1; and uses the process for acquisition that is defined in ISO/IEC 12207. It can be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 12119, ISO/IEC 14598-2 (new), ISO/IEC 14598-3 (new) and ISO/IEC 14598-6. The steps of the evaluation process are similar between this part of ISO/IEC 14598 and ISO/IEC 14598-5, but the context of use is quite different. In the case that acquirers entrust second or third parties with evaluations, ISO/IEC 14598-5 is required to be applied. In the case that acquirers require third party testing of software packages against the quality requirements for the package, ISO/IEC 12119 may be applied.

The evaluation process described in this part of ISO/IEC 14598 also helps to meet the objectives of deciding on the acceptance of a single product, or for selecting a product from among alternate products. The evaluation process may be tailored to the nature and integrity level of the application. It is also sufficiently flexible to accommodate the wide range of forms and uses of software products in a cost-effective manner.

This part of ISO/IEC 14598 is intended for, but not limited to, project managers, system engineers, development and maintenance software engineering staff and end users who plan to acquire software products, and also suppliers who provide such products.

The target software products of the evaluation process in this part of ISO/IEC 14598 can be integrated into a larger system as components or can be used stand-alone. They are classified as:

- a) Commercial off-the-shelf software products;
- b) Existing software products developed or acquired for other applications, or for a wide range of common applications;
- c) Custom software products or modifications to existing software products.

The evaluation process that is defined in this part is also applicable to CASE tools. Because evaluation of CASE tools is specifically addressed in ISO/IEC 14102, CASE tools are considered out of scope of this part of ISO/IEC 14598.

ISO/IEC 14598-4 is designed to work in partnership with other standards. For systems with high integrity requirements, additional requirements may be included in the evaluation process described in ISO/IEC 14598-4, that are derived from sector-specific standards, e.g., IEC 880, DOA-167A , MOD-55, etc.

2 Conformance

Because of the freedom of choice afforded to the user by the general nature of its recommendations, a simple claim of compliance with this part of ISO/IEC 14598 is not valid. Any organization imposing this part of ISO/IEC 14598 as a condition of trade is responsible for specifying and making public the evaluation process that meets the mandatory objectives specified in 6.1.1. The specified evaluation process constitutes the terms for compliance for a given application of this part of ISO/IEC 14598. All activities of clauses 6 and 7 shall be considered for applicability.