

Federal agency would keep the NBS informed of all ADP system design study projects. In addition to the possibility of NBS maintaining a current index of projects in progress, consideration should be given to requiring agencies to provide to NBS, for a central reference file, copies of the reports of such information systems studies.

B. Development of voluntary commercial standards

The Center will provide day-to-day guidance and monitorship of an executive branch program to promote the development and testing of voluntary commercial standards for automatic data processing equipment, techniques and computer languages. This responsibility currently excludes standards for data elements and codes.

In this role, the Center will—

- (1) Participate in activities of the X3 Committee on Information Processing of the United States of America Standards Institute, its subcommittees and task forces, and in activities of the International Standards Organization as requested by the USASI;

- (2) Arrange and insure appropriate representation and active participation from other Federal agencies on the X3 Committee, subcommittees and task forces to complement the Center's participation with additional expertise from the operating environments of the Government; and

- (3) Monitor and coordinate all such participation by all Federal agencies to assure its consistency with the Federal Government's objectives.

Prior to casting an official ballot on proposals under consideration by the X3 Committee, the Center will consider the views of interested Federal agencies, assuring that the probable impact of the subject standard is properly explored and understood.

In its research and development activities, the Center will make available to the various X3 groups its findings and conclusions for use in their deliberations. Care will be exercised to insure that all Government representatives participating in such X3 deliberations are kept currently informed of related standardization activities so that they may reflect so far as practicable known Government requirements.

C. Recommendations for uniform Federal standards

The Center will undertake to increase compatibility in automatic data processing in the Federal Government by recommending Federal standards related to automatic data processing equipment, techniques and computer languages. This responsibility currently excludes standards for data elements and codes, but the Center will provide technical advice and assistance upon request to groups developing recommendations for such standards.

In fulfilling this role, the Center will—

- (1) Immediately begin to develop, issue and maintain a statement of the Federal Government's standardization objectives and needs. The statement is intended to guide the orderly and logical pursuit of standardization in ways that are compatible with identified Federal interests.

- (2) Survey and keep abreast of ADP standardization activities within the Federal Government, the USASI, and elsewhere, and initiate and promote activities as necessary to achieve the Government's objectives.

- (3) Study and provide recommendations for Federal ADP standards.

- (4) Study and provide recommendations on the use within the Federal Government of each appropriate United States Standard approved by the United States of America Standards Institute in the area of ADP equipment, computer languages and techniques (excluding data elements and codes).

- (5) To the extent feasible and desirable, develop and recommend means for measuring compliance with Federal standards.

- (6) Provide for technical maintenance of Federal ADP standards.

- (7) Recommend procedures to be used in the Federal Government for adopting Federal standards and developing and implementing plans therefor.

Recommendations for Federal standards will be transmitted through the Secretary of Commerce to the Bureau of the Budget. Such communications will include (1) a statement of purposes to be served by the standard, (2) an assessment of its probable economic and technological impacts, (3) a summary of agency and industry comments that were considered in the formulation of the recommendation, (4) a reference to applicable methods for measuring compliance with the standards, (5) areas for recommended application, and (6) planning guidance for development of implementation schedules in each agency.