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Standards Australia International Limited is an independent, non-government organisation that is recognised as the peak standards writing body in Australia through a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth Government. Standards Australia aims to excel in meeting national needs for contemporary, internationally aligned standards and related services, which enhance the nation's economic efficiency and international competitiveness, and fulfil the community's demand for a safe and sustainable environment. We represent Australia's interest in the two peak International Standards Organisations, ISO and IEC, representing Australian industry's perspective in an international arena.

Standards Australia has a rich history of providing documents to the market based on an inclusive, transparent and consensus based methodology. Standards are written by volunteers participating in committees; and reflect the needs of industry, producing relevant, workable documents. We work and consult with a wide spectrum of interest from the community to publish consensus-based standards that are practical and contemporary in nature. The committee structure has provided Standards Australia with an abundance of knowledge and ties to professional organisations that has spanned decades. Standards Australia has an ongoing and involved relationship with a variety of government agencies through committee involvement.

Standards Australia is at the forefront of developing documents in risk management and information technology. The attached document provides details of existing standards in information security management, metadata, risk management, current development work in the areas of IT governance and management, IT forensics and a proposed project to develop an Australian ebXML Registry. These areas of standardisation provide a basis for information protection, management, storage and transmission that is relevant to all Commonwealth agencies.

Standards Australia appreciates the value of Commonwealth Government representation on its committees, and supports the involvement of agencies in all its information technology committees. We welcome suggestions for development of future standards in areas where particular needs are identified, and are willing to engage in new work, including the development of government specific handbooks, to support the management and integrity of electronic information in the Commonwealth.

Information Security Management

Information security management standards have become an integral and essential element to organisations in the present business environment. Standards Australia is acutely aware of trends in the market place and the changing needs of industry. Accordingly, we have increased the profile and are constantly monitoring standards in the information security management area. AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17799:2001 and AS/NZS 7799.2:2000 are the standards that underpin the implementation of mechanisms that secures information in organisations.

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- **AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17799:2001 *Information Technology—Code of Practice for Information Security Management***

Takes a risk management approach to ensure relevant controls are implemented. It provides careful consideration to 127 controls (in 36 control categories) and provides best practice description of the objectives, characteristics and factors to be considered. It provides recommendations for information security management for use by those who are responsible for initiating, implementing or maintaining security.

- **AS/NZS 7799.2:2000 *Information Security Management – Specification for Information Security Management***

Provides guidelines for implementing information security management. It details the requirements for the structure, management and administration of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17799:2001. This standard forms the basis for an assessment of the information security management system of an organisation. It can be utilised as the primary document for formal certification.

AGLS Metadata Element Set

AGLS metadata element set provides the definition for 19 structured information elements to construct web-based description of information services to manage knowledge. This standard was published to provide fast and efficient access to resources to any community of interest that wishes to use the Web.

- **AS 5044.1—2002 *AGLS Metadata Element Set—AGLS Metadata Element Set* and AS 5044.2—2002 *AGLS Metadata Element Set—Usage Guide***

Enables users to conduct highly targeted searches for information and to locate resources that accurately match their search rather than having to trawl through hundreds or thousands of web pages, most of which would be irrelevant to their needs.

Risk Management

Risk management has become an integral component of contemporary business practises and Standards Australia has been in the forefront in producing risk management standards that are being utilised by organisation globally. These standards have provided a pragmatic and accessible methodology to implement risk management tools within organisations.

- **AS/NZS 4360:1999 *Risk Management***

Provides a generic guide for evaluating and implementing the risk management process, which involves establishing context, identification, analysis, evaluation, treatment, monitoring, review, consultation and communication. The standard can be applied at every stage in the life of an activity, function, project or asset generated by any public, private or community enterprise or group.

- *HB 231:2000 Information Security Risk Management Guidelines*
Provides information on how to establish and implement a risk management process for information security risks.

IT Governance and Management

Standards Australia has recently constituted a committee to produce standards on information technology governance and management. The aim of this committee is to deliver concise, relevant and workable standards to the market place, focusing on governance of IT in organisations, management of IT projects, conditions in IT contracts, and examining case studies on project success and failure. Although the standardisation work is in an embryonic stage, the work is progressing in a robust and timely fashion. An aggressive timetable set by Standards Australia will see the delivery of drafts by the end of March 2003.

IT Forensics

A working group has commenced work on standardisation in the field of cyber forensics and evidence collection. The current business climate, where security issues have altered priorities and policies within organisations has precipitated the need to expand on standards in the IT security area. The documents will be produced through extensive consultation with industry and government agencies.

ebXML Registry

Standards Australia, the National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE), and an industry working group will promote the establishment of an Australian ebXML (electronic business eXtensible Markup Language) registry of standard message formats and business processes for conducting business over the Internet.