



# Interoperability and Standardization for NATO

Standardization Within NATO Course – Warsaw, 15 September 2025.

Anne-Lise TABAUD

Staff Officer

NATO Standardization Office

# Agenda

1. Interoperability and Standardization

2. Policy and standards

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1. Interoperability and Standardization

2. Policy and standards

# NATO : An Evolving Alliance

“

United in the face of profound security threats and challenges, in particular the long- term threat posed by Russia to Euro-Atlantic security and the persistent threat of terrorism, **Allies commit to invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements as well as defence-and security-related spending** by 2035 to ensure our individual and collective obligations, in accordance with Article 3 of the Washington Treaty.

”

*The Hague Summit Declaration, 25 June 2025*

# Interoperability

“The ability to act together  
**coherently,  
effectively and  
efficiently**  
to achieve Allied tactical, operational and  
strategic objectives.”



*C-M(2009)0145, NATO Interoperability  
Policy and Strategy, 3 December 2009*

# Interoperability Enablers



*C-M(2009)0145,  
NATO  
Interoperability  
Policy and Strategy,  
3 December 2009*

# Standardization - What?-

“

NATO standardization is the development and implementation of **procedures, designs and terminology** to the level necessary for the **interoperability** required by Allies, or to recommend useful practices in **multinational cooperation**”.

”

*PO(2016)0315 “Revised NATO Policy  
for Standardization”, p.1-2*

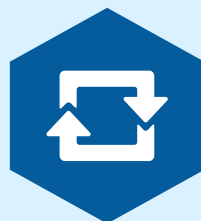
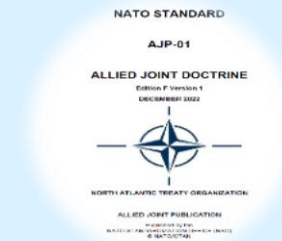
# Levels of Standardization

“ [ ] to the level necessary for the **interoperability** required by Allies [ ] ”



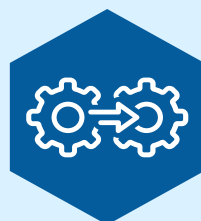
## COMMONALITY

The **same** doctrine, procedure or equipment are used.



## INTERCHANGEABILITY

One product, process or service to be **used in place of another**.



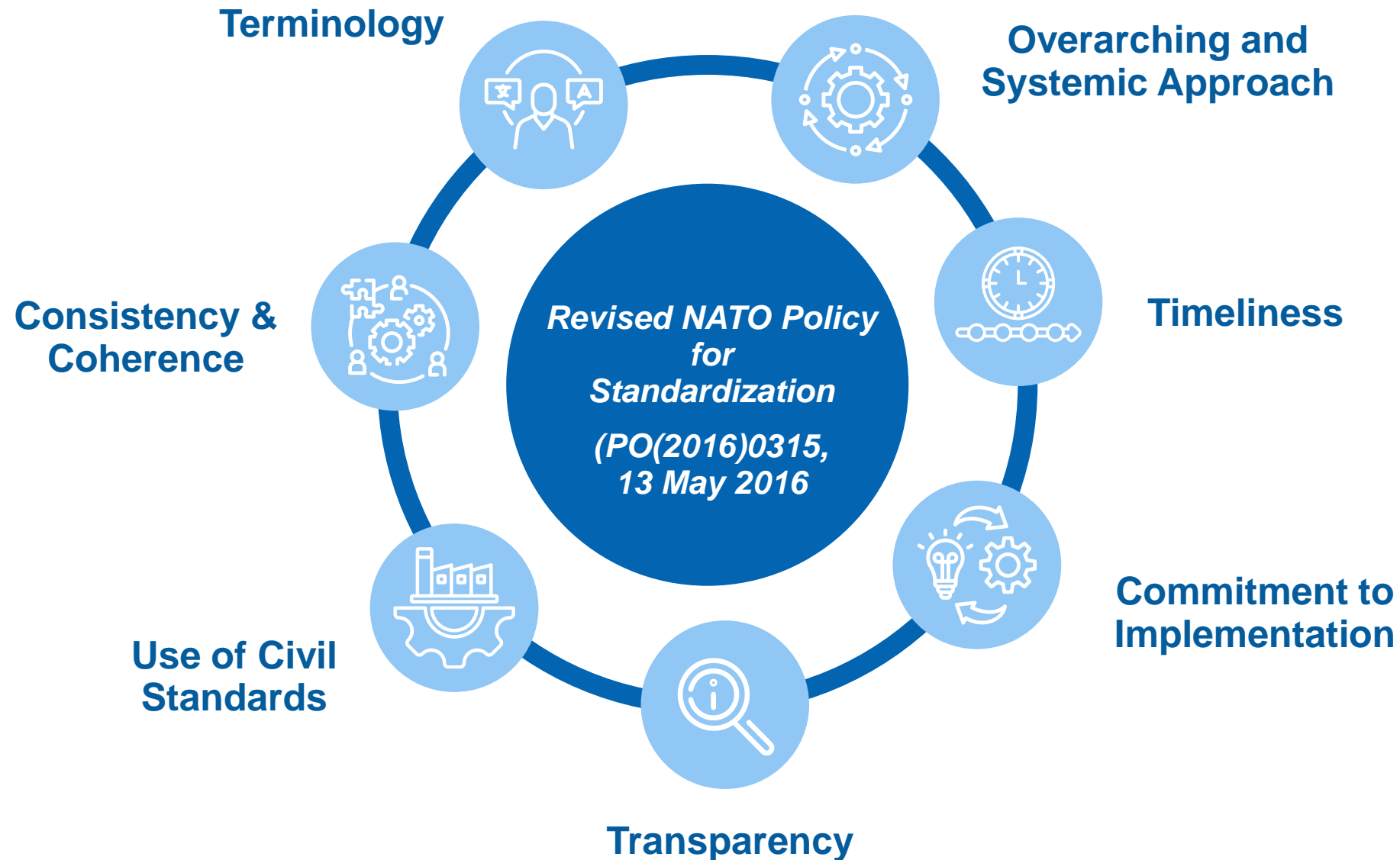
## COMPATIBILITY

Products, processes or services can be **used together under specific conditions**.





# Standardization Principles



# Fields of Standardization



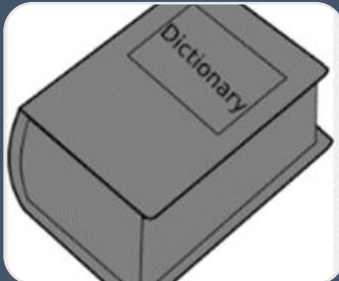
## Operational

- Doctrine
- Tactics, Techniques and Procedures



## Materiel

- Weapon-systems and sub-systems
- C3 systems
- Interfaces
- Components, spare parts and consumables



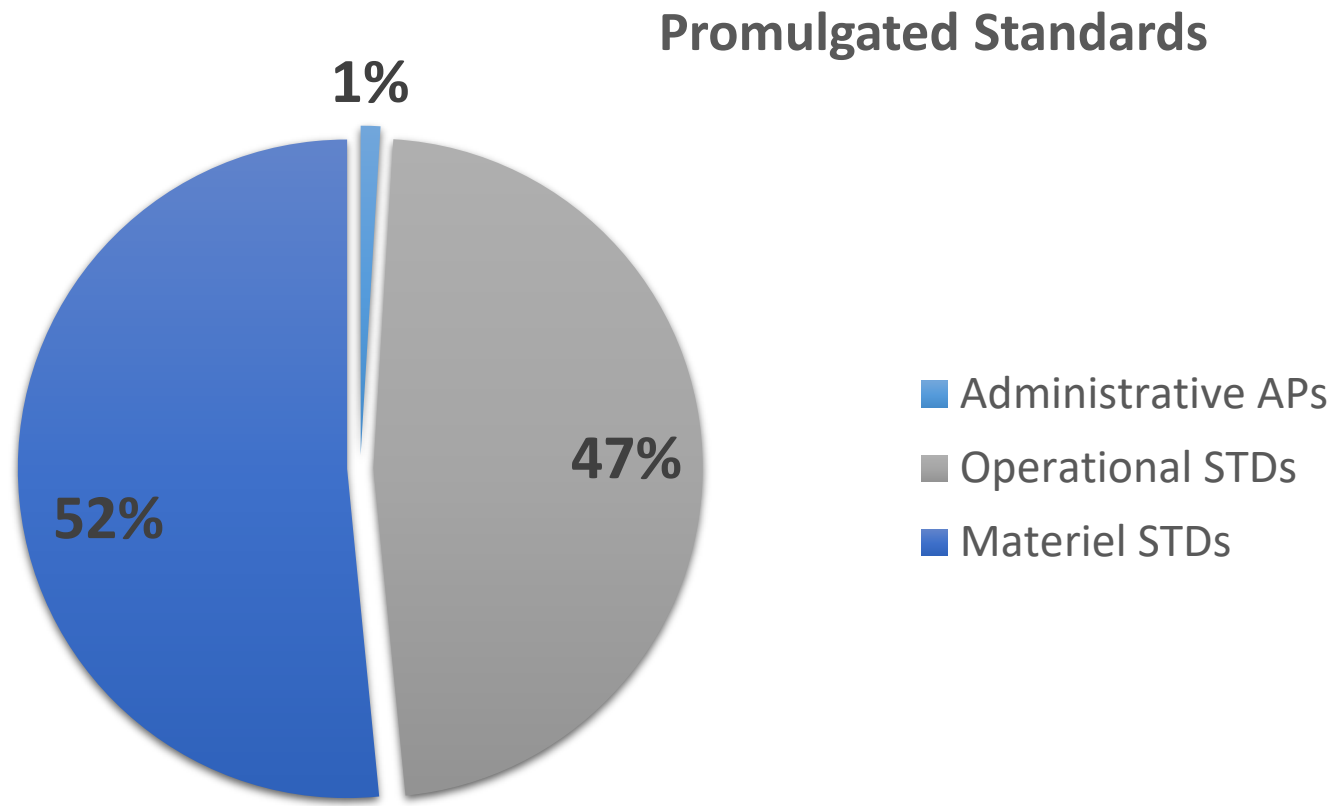
## Administrative

- Terminology
- Human resources
- Military ranks

# Promulgated NATO Standards

**1352 Promulgated Standards**

as of 09 April 2025



# Standardization - Why? -

***“...to support achieving, maintaining and enhancing interoperability”***

in order to

- **improve efficiency** in the use of available resources
- ***strengthen*** Alliance ***defence capabilities***
- ***enhance*** Alliance's ***operational effectiveness***

# INTEROPERABILITY:

The ability to act together coherently, effectively and efficiently to achieve Allied tactical, operational and strategic objectives

*Built with 5 Tools:*

## 1. Standardization

**Commonality**



**Interchangeability**



**Compatibility**



Outputs

Inputs

2. Education, Training, Exercises & Evaluations

3. Cooperative Programmes

4. Tests, Trials, Demonstrations

- Operations
- Networks

Outputs

Inputs

5. Lessons

Inputs

Outputs



# Agenda

1. Interoperability and Standardization

2. Policy and standards

# Policy and Standards





# Policy vs. Standard

	Scope	Definition	Example
<b>POLICY</b>	<b>Broad</b> and high-level statement of intent  <b>Why, What and Who</b>	Agreed principles, approach and general objectives, set out in a document, <b>to guide</b> the achievement of specific outcomes	Policy for Standardization
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Specific</b> Requirements about a given technology or area  <b>How</b>	Document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that <b>provides</b> , for common and repeated use, <b>rules, guidelines or characteristics</b> for activities or their results	AAP-03



# Policy and Standards

- C-M(2009)0145, NATO Interoperability Policy
- PO(2016)0315 - Revised NATO Policy For Standardization
- PO(2021)0476 - Intellectual Property Rights Policy For NATO Standardization Documents
- AAP-03 (Ed. K, Ver. 2) -Directive for The Production, Maintenance and Management of NATO Standardization Documents, October 2022
- AAP-32 (Ed. C, Ver.1) – Formatting NATO Standardization Documents
- AAP-52 (Edition B, Ver.1) - The ‘Top-down’ Approach to NATO Standardization, December 2021
- AAP-47 (Ed. C, Ver.1) – Allied Joint Doctrine Development, February 2019
- NATOTerm

# Standardization Key Documents



NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE

Protected Website

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- > Important Standardization Documents
- > Policy & Programs



Important\_Standardization\_Docs

01 NATO Interoperability Policy.pdf	05 January 2018	48 kB
02 NATO Policy for Standardization.pdf	14 November 2017	136.47 kB
03 MC Policy for Military Operational Standardization (MC 0020 11).pdf	14 November 2017	703.45 kB
04 Production-Maintenance and Management of NATO Standardization Documents (AAP-03 EDK V2).pdf	17 October 2022	1.19 MB
05 Allied Joint Doctrine Development (AAP-47 EDC V1).pdf	20 March 2019	1.79 MB

# Main Takeaways



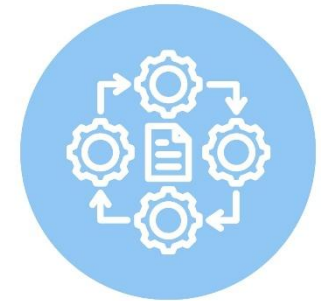
Interoperability  
must be **wide and  
simple**.



Standardization is  
**one** key tool for  
Interoperability



Standardization includes three  
fields : **operational, materiel**  
and **administrative** fields, and  
Allies choose from three levels  
: **commonality,**  
**interchangeability** and  
**compatibility**.



**Policy** for  
standardization  
answers **why, what**  
**and who**, and **AAPs**  
detail **how**.



# Questions ?

[policy@nso.nato.int](mailto:policy@nso.nato.int)