

Draft definition of open standard

For UK Government IT procurement specifications, open standards for software interoperability, data and document standards are those which:

- result from and are maintained through a transparent decision-making process that is independent from any individual supplier and that is accessible to all interested parties;
- are adopted by a specification or standardisation organisation, or a forum or consortium such as W3C;
- are published, thoroughly documented and publicly available at zero or low cost;
- have any patents essential for implementing the standard made irrevocably available without restriction on a royalty free basis and under terms and conditions that allow implementation of the standard in both proprietary and open source software; and
- as a whole have been implemented and shared under different development approaches and on a number of platforms from more than one supplier, demonstrating interoperability and platform independence.

(N.B. The specification/standardisation must be compliant with Regulation 9 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. This regulation makes it clear that technical specifications/standards cannot simply be national standards but **must also** include/recognise European standards).