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Space product assurance — Software dependability and safety

National foreword

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European Foreword

This document (CEN/CLC/TR 17602-80-03:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 5 “Space”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

It is highlighted that this technical report does not contain any requirement but only collection of data or descriptions and guidelines about how to organize and perform the work in support of EN 16602-80.

This Technical report (CEN/CLC/TR 17602-80-03:2021) originates from ECSS-Q-HB-80-03A Rev.1.

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This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This document has been developed to cover specifically space systems and has therefore precedence over any TR covering the same scope but with a wider domain of applicability (e.g.: aerospace).

Introduction

Dependability and safety are issues of paramount importance in the development and operations of space systems. The contribution of software to system dependability and safety is a key factor, especially in view of the growing complexity of the software used in space critical applications, together with the increasing cost and schedule constraints. Hence, the need for more dependable and safe software has led to the publication of this Handbook, meant to provide guidelines on the implementation of the software dependability and safety requirements defined in ECSS-Q-ST-80C and on the application of some methods and techniques for software dependability and safety.

Analyses and activities aiming at assessing and ensuring the system dependability and safety are carried out since the early stages of the development, and software needs to be properly addressed by these system-level activities. Hardware and software products are classified based on their criticality, in order to focus engineering and product assurance activities on the most critical items. At later stages, the inherent complexity of software calls for application of specific methods and techniques, aiming at refining the software criticality classification and supporting the implementation and verification of measures for critical software handling.

This handbook provides an overall description of the entire software dependability and safety workflow, considering the different activities at system and software level, the lifecycle phases and the customer-supplier relationships, with reference to the dependability and safety requirements defined in ECSS-Q-ST-80C. Some individual software RAMS techniques are also presented. They have been selected from the list of methods and techniques mentioned in different national and international standards and literature, from which a choice has been made based on their relevance to the requirements defined in the ECSS Standards.

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Scope

This Handbook provides guidance on the application of the dependability and safety requirements relevant to software defined in ECSS-Q-ST-80C.

This Handbook provides support for the selection and application of software dependability and safety methods and techniques that can be used in the development of software-intensive space systems.

This Handbook covers all of the different kinds of software for which ECSS-Q-ST-80C is applicable. Although the overall software dependability and safety workflow description is mainly targeted to the development of spacecraft, the described approach can be adapted to projects of different nature (e.g. launchers, ground systems).

The methods and techniques described in the scope of this Handbook are mainly focused on assessment aspects, though specific development and implementation techniques for dependability and safety (e.g. software failure propagation prevention, defensive programming) are addressed.