International Standard

ISO/IEC 25986

Software engineering — NESMA functional size measurement method — Easy functional sizing (EFS)

First edition
2026-07

Reference number
ISO/IEC 25986:2026(en)

© ISO/IEC 2026



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO/IEC 2026

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

ISO and IEC draw attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO and IEC take no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO and IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents and https://patents.iec.ch. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared by NESMA [as EFS v1.0 June 2024] and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

© ISO/IEC 2026 – All rights reserved

CONTENTS

1 Scope 1
1.1 Purpose 1
1.2 Conformity 1
1.3 Applicability 1
1.4 Focus 1
2 Description of Easy Functional Sizing 2
2.1 Users and system boundary 2
2.2 EFS components 3
2.3 Value EFS components 5
2.4 Functional size 5
2.5 Naming convention 6
3 Practical situations 7
3.1 Instructions for determining logical files 7
3.2 Instructions for determining external Inputs and outputs 8
3.3 Instructions for determining external inputs 8
3.4 Instructions for determining external outputs 8
3.5 General support functionality 9
4 Appendices 11
Appendix A. Difference high-level FPA and Easy Functional Size 12
Appendix B. Definitions 13

© ISO/IEC 2026 – All rights reserved

FOREWORD

The functional size of an automated information system is a determining unit with which, among other things, reliable estimates for a project budget or team size can be made. Determining the functional size also plays an important role in newer ways of software development, such as Agile and DevOps.

Since 2018, the handbook “Definitions and Counting Guidelines for the Application of Function Point Analysis”, version 2.3 is the starting point for functional size measurement in the Netherlands. In practice, it appears that the ‘High level function point analysis’ described in this handbook is by far the most widely used.
Therefore, a strong need has arisen to extract this guideline from the handbook and describe it separately in order to make this method more accessible. In this process, a further simplification has been implemented to make it less complex and to cause fewer points of discussion in practice. The result is the Easy Functional Sizing (EFS) method described in this document. In this simplification, the most important starting point is that the outcome in function points must be comparable to the outcome of a high level function point analysis. Research shows that this is indeed the case, see appendix A.
This International Standard is part of the Nesma publications. The following publications provide further background and explanation of the counting guidelines. Supporting Nesma publications for EFS include:

- The handbook Definitions and counting guidelines for the application of function point analysis, version 2.3.
- Examples illustrating the use of the Nesma FPA method in specific situations and the fully documented Hotel case.
- The Nesma website nesma.org contains a number of documents that can be used in a specific context, such as guidelines for the use of FPA in a Data Warehouse environment, with UML documentation, or for various aspects in contracts.

Intended audience

This standard is for anyone involved in determining the functional size. The intention is that this standard provides sufficient information for a novice user to perform a size measurement in an independent and consistent manner.

© ISO/IEC 2026 – All rights reserved

STRUCTURE OF THIS STANDARD

After the foreword, Chapter 1 indicates the scope of this standard.

Chapter 2 describes the Easy Functional Sizing (EFS) method. Concepts that form the basis of EFS are briefly explained.

Chapter 3 provides common practical situations and indicates whether and how these are expressed in functional size.

Appendix A describes the differences between high level function point analysis and Easy Functional Sizing. The research shows that there is little difference in outcome.

Finally, appendix B contains the definitions of the concepts used in this International Standard.

© ISO/IEC 2026 – All rights reserved

Software engineering — NESMA functional size measurement method — Easy functional sizing (EFS)

1 SCOPE

1.1 Purpose

This International Standard specifies the set of definitions, rules and guidelines for applying the Nesma Easy Functional Sizing method.

1.2 Conformity

This International Standard conforms to all mandatory provisions of ISO/IEC 14143-1:2007. This International Standard provides a result that is comparable to the result of applying the High-level FPA of the Nesma-ISO/IEC 24570:2018 standard.

1.3 Applicability

This International Standard can be applied to all functional domains as mentioned in ISO/IEC TR 14143-5:2004.

1.4 Focus

This International Standard focuses on determining the functional size of an information system in an easy way. The International Standard does *not* address aspects that play a role in drawing up a (project) budget based on this functional size, such as productivity or quality standards. Other metrics in which the functional size forms a basis are also not discussed.

© ISO/IEC 2026 – All rights reserved