International Standard

ISO/IEC 29110-5-1-1

First edition
2025-02

Systems and software engineering — Life cycle profiles for very small entities (VSEs) —

Part 5-1-1: Software engineering guidelines for the generic Entry profile

Reference number
ISO/IEC 29110-5-1-1:2025(en)

© ISO/IEC 2025



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO/IEC 2025

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

Contents

Page

Foreword ... **iv**
Introduction ... **v**
1 Scope ... **1**
2 Normative references ... **1**
3 Terms and definitions ... **1**
4 Naming, diagramming and definitions conventions ... **3**
4.1 General ... 3
4.2 Naming, diagramming and definition conventions ... 3
4.3 Abbreviated terms ... 5
5 Overview ... **5**
5.1 General ... 5
5.2 Entry conditions to use the software Entry profile ... 5
5.3 Processes and activities of the software Entry profile ... 5
6 Project management (PM) process ... **6**
6.1 PM process purpose ... 6
6.2 PM process outcomes ... 7
6.3 PM roles involved ... 7
6.4 PM activities and tasks ... 7
6.4.1 Overview of the PM process ... 7
6.4.2 PM activities ... 8
6.4.3 Incorporation to project repository ... 13
7 Software implementation (SI) process ... **13**
7.1 SI process purpose ... 13
7.2 SI process outcomes ... 13
7.3 SI roles involved ... 14
7.4 SI activities and tasks ... 14
7.4.1 Overview of the SI process ... 14
7.4.2 SI activities ... 15
7.4.3 Incorporation to the project repository ... 21
8 Description of roles ... **22**
9 Description of work products ... **22**
10 Software tools ... **32**
10.1 General ... 32
10.2 Project management process tools ... 32
10.3 Software implementation process tools ... 32
Annex A (informative) **Deployment packages for the software Entry profile** ... **34**
Bibliography ... **36**

© ISO/IEC 2025 – All rights reserved

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. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (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 Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/IEC TR 29110-5-1-1:2012, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— Many task statements have been reworded to facilitate their understanding. Some task statements are deleted to make this Entry profile light-weighted and suitable for streamlining to the Basic profile.

— Conditional tasks have been added to develop optional work products (e.g. change requests) that have been requested by a customer. This notation replaces the 'Optional' notation [e.g. *(optional) used in the first edition that caused ambiguities].

— Terms have been added to Clause 3 such that this document is self-contained.

— A few terms have been modified to align this document with the updated version of standards such as ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 15289.

— NOTEs have been added for giving additional information intended to assist the understanding or use of the text of the document.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 29110 series can be found on the ISO website.

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 2025 – All rights reserved

Introduction

0.1 Introduction to the ISO/IEC 29110 series

For the purpose of the ISO/IEC 29110 series, a very small entity (VSE) is an enterprise, organization (e.g. government agency, non-profit organization), department or project having up to 25 people. Many VSEs develop and/or maintain systems and the software components used in those systems, either as independent products or incorporated into the larger system. Due to this, a recognition of VSEs as suppliers of high-quality products is required.

VSEs around the world are creating valuable products and services. According to the World Bank, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) account for about 90 % of enterprises worldwide. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), SMEs represent 99 % of all businesses and generate about 60 % of employment. Almost one person out of three is employed in a micro firm with less than 10 employees. The European Union reports that micro firms, with fewer than 10 persons, account for 93,5 % of all enterprises and small firms, with 10 to 49 employees, account for 5,5 % of all enterprises. The challenge facing OECD governments is to provide a business environment that supports the competitiveness of this large heterogeneous business population and that promotes a vibrant entrepreneurial culture.

From studies and surveys conducted, it is clear that the majority of International Standards do not address the needs of VSEs. Implementation of and conformity with these standards is difficult, if not impossible.

Consequently, VSEs have no, or very limited, ways to be recognized as entities that produce quality systems/system elements, including software in their domain. Therefore, VSEs are excluded from some economic activities.

It has been found that VSEs find it difficult to relate International Standards to their business needs and to justify the effort required to apply standards to their business practices. Most VSEs can neither afford the resources in terms of a number of employees, expertise, budget and time, nor do they see a net benefit in establishing over-complex systems or software life cycle processes. To address some of these difficulties, a set of guidelines has been developed based on a set of VSE characteristics. The guidelines are based on subsets of appropriate standards processes, activities, tasks, and outcomes, referred to as Profiles. The purpose of a profile is to define a subset of International Standards relevant to the VSEs' context; for example, processes, activities, tasks, and outcomes of ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 for software; and processes, activities, tasks, and outcomes of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 for systems; and information products (documentation) of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15289 for software and systems.

VSEs can achieve recognition through implementing a profile and by being audited against ISO/IEC 29110 specifications.

The ISO/IEC 29110 series can be applied at any phase of system or software development within a life cycle. The ISO/IEC 29110 series is intended to be used by VSEs that do not have experience or expertise in adapting/tailoring ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 or ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 standards to the needs of a specific project. VSEs that have expertise in adapting/tailoring ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 or ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 are encouraged to use those standards instead of the ISO/IEC 29110 series.

The ISO/IEC 29110 series is intended to be used with any life cycle, such as waterfall, iterative, incremental, evolutionary or agile.

Systems, in the context of the ISO/IEC 29110 series, are typically composed of hardware and software components.

The ISO/IEC 29110 series, targeted by audience, has been developed to improve system or software and/or service quality, and process performance. Figure 1 describes the ISO/IEC 29110 series and positions the parts within the framework of reference.

© ISO/IEC 2025 – All rights reserved

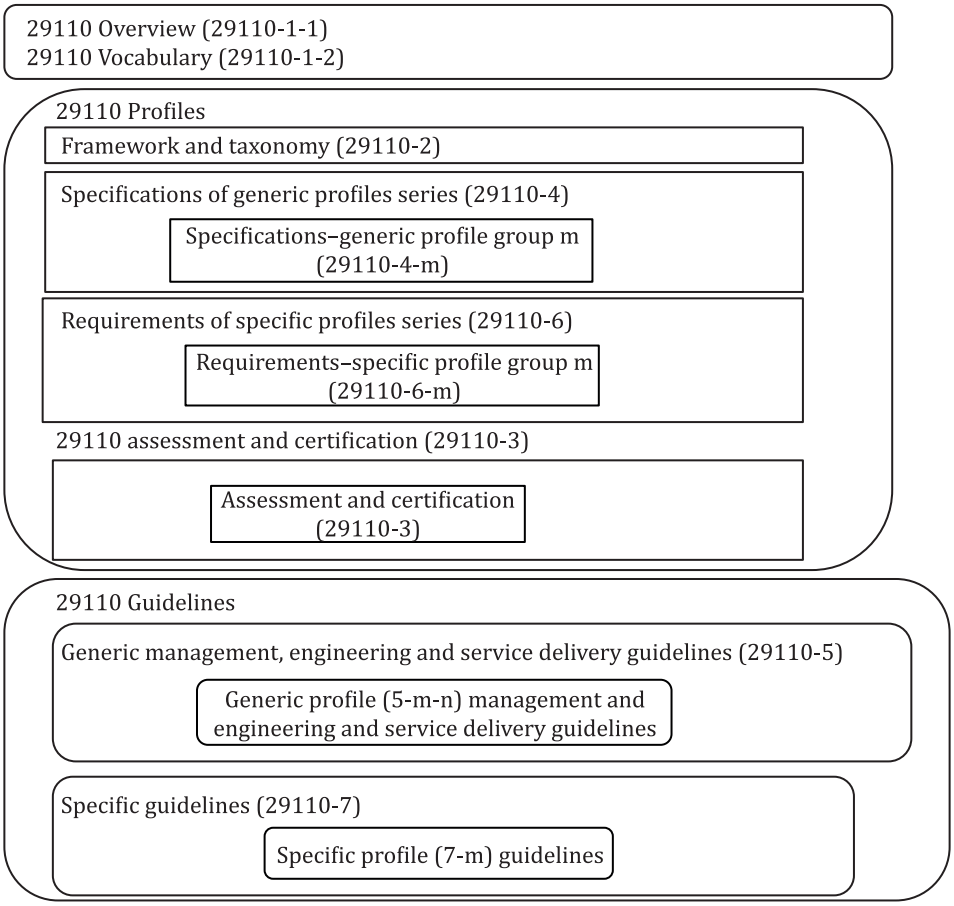


Figure 1 — The ISO/IEC 29110 series

ISO/IEC 29110-1-1 introduces processes, life cycle and standardization concepts, the taxonomy (catalogue) of ISO/IEC 29110 profiles, and the ISO/IEC 29110 series. ISO/IEC 29110-1-1 also introduces the characteristics and needs of a VSE, and clarifies the rationale for specific profiles, documents, standards and guidelines. ISO/IEC 29110-1-2 defines the terms common to the ISO/IEC 29110 series. ISO/IEC 29110-1-1 and ISO/IEC 29110-1-2 are targeted at VSEs and their customers, assessors, standards producers, tool vendors and methodology vendors.

ISO/IEC 29110-2 introduces the concepts for systems and software engineering profiles for VSEs. It establishes the logic behind the definition and application of profiles. For standardized profiles, it specifies the elements common to all profiles (structure, requirements, conformity, and assessment). For domain-specific profiles (profiles that are not standardized and developed outside of the ISO process), it provides general guidance adapted from the definition of standardized profiles. ISO/IEC 29110-2 is targeted at profile producers, tool vendors and methodology vendors.

ISO/IEC 29110-3 defines certification schemes, assessment guidelines, and compliance requirements for process capability assessment, conformity assessments, and self-assessments for process improvements. ISO/IEC 29110-3 also contains information that can be useful to developers of certification and assessment methods and developers of certification and assessment tools. ISO/IEC 29110-3 is addressed to people who have direct involvement with the assessment process, for example, the auditor, certification and accreditation bodies, and the sponsor of the audit, who need guidance on ensuring that the requirements for performing an audit have been met. ISO/IEC 29110-3 is targeted at VSEs and their customers, assessors, accreditation bodies.

ISO/IEC 29110-4 provides the specifications for all generic profiles of the generic profile group that are based on subsets of appropriate standards elements. ISO/IEC 29110-4 is targeted at VSEs, customers, standards producers, tool vendors and methodology vendors.

© ISO/IEC 2025 – All rights reserved

ISO/IEC 29110-5 provides a management, engineering and service delivery guidelines for profiles of the generic profile group. ISO/IEC 29110-5 is targeted at VSEs and their customers.

ISO/IEC 29110-6 provides the specifications for specific profiles that are based on subsets of appropriate standards elements. ISO/IEC 29110-6 is targeted at VSEs, customers, standards producers, tool vendors and methodology vendors.

ISO/IEC 29110-7 provides a guideline for each profile of the specific profile group. ISO/IEC 29110-7 is targeted at VSEs and their customers.

If a new profile is needed, ISO/IEC 29110-4, ISO/IEC 29110-6, ISO/IEC 29110-7 or ISO/IEC 29110-5, or all, can be developed with minimal impact to existing documents.

Since a VSE may be an enterprise, a project or a department of an organization, a customer of a VSE can be internal or external to the organization.

0.2 Introduction to this document

This document is the first software profile of a four-profile software engineering roadmap (i.e. Entry, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced).

This document is intended to be used with any processes, techniques and methods that enhance the VSE's customer satisfaction and productivity.

The life cycle processes described in the ISO/IEC 29110 series are not intended to preclude or discourage their use by organizations larger than VSEs.

For a start-up VSE that does not have customers yet, anybody who acts on behalf of customers can play the role of the customer.

Using this document, a VSE can obtain the following benefits:

— an agreed set of project requirements and expected work products is delivered to the customer;

— a disciplined management process that provides project visibility and corrective actions of project problems and deviations is performed;

— a systematic software implementation process that satisfies customer needs and ensures quality work products is followed.

VSEs that develop systems that have software components are invited to use the systems engineering Entry profile guidelines of the ISO/IEC 29110 series (i.e. ISO/IEC 29110-5-6-1).

In this document, Annex A describes the deployment packages for the software Entry profile.

Conformity requirements for implementations of this document can be found in ISO/IEC 29110-4-1.

© ISO/IEC 2025 – All rights reserved

Systems and software engineering — Life cycle profiles for very small entities (VSEs) —

Part 5-1-1:
Software engineering guidelines for the generic Entry profile

1 Scope

This document provides the management and engineering guidelines to the software Entry profile specified in ISO/IEC 29110-4-1 through project management and software implementation processes.

This document applies to VSEs that do not develop safety-critical software.

This document applies for software development projects, which can fulfil an external or internal agreement.

This document applies to start-up VSEs (e.g. VSEs that started their operation less than three years ago) and/or VSEs working on small projects (e.g. projects with a size of less than six person-months).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
agreement
mutual acknowledgment of terms and conditions under which a working relationship is conducted

EXAMPLE Contract, memorandum of agreement.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207:2017, 3.1.5]

3.2
baseline
formally approved version of a configuration item, regardless of media, formally designated and fixed at a specific time during the configuration item's life cycle

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207:2017, 3.1.11]

3.3
defect
imperfection or deficiency in a *work product* (3.14) where that work product does not meet its *requirements* (3.8) or specifications and needs to be either repaired or replaced

[SOURCE: IEEE 1044:2009]

© ISO/IEC 2025 – All rights reserved