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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 19363.2-2006

Specification for translation services - Part 2: Interpretation

翻译服务规范 第2部分：口译

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1 Scope

This part of GB/T 19363 specifies the requirements for an interpreting service provider, the acceptance and delivery of an assignment, the qualification and obligations of the interpreter, the preparation and conduct of the assignment, confidentiality, and the handling of complaints and disputes.

Nothing survives to be inspected

Interpreting quality cannot be checked after delivery. There is no artefact: the words are gone.

By the time a client discovers that a negotiation went wrong or a technical briefing was misunderstood, the assignment is over.

So the standard governs everything around it

The mode must be established first - consecutive, simultaneous, whispered, liaison - because the modes are not interchangeable and each carries its own staffing and equipment consequences.

Simultaneous work needs interpreters in pairs with rotation, since accuracy falls sharply after about half an hour of continuous work, and it needs functioning booths and sound.

And material in advance

An interpreter without the terminology, the agenda and the speakers' documents cannot perform, however skilled - so obtaining them is a requirement on the provider, not a courtesy.

The rest covers the interpreter's qualification for the assignment, the professional conduct and impartiality expected, the confidentiality obligation, and the record and complaint procedure by which a dispute is settled.

About this edition

GB/T 19363.2-2006 is the current edition. It was issued on 4 September 2006 and has been in force since 1 December 2006.

The interval between issue and effect is the transition period. It exists so that producers, laboratories and buyers can requalify products, revise procedures and use up documentation before the new text becomes the one that applies. The date on this page is the official one from the record of the Standardization Administration.

Classification and status

GB/T 19363.2-2006 is classified under ICS 03.080.01. ICS is the International Classification for Standards, the same scheme used by ISO and by the national bodies of most countries, which is what allows a Chinese standard to be placed beside its foreign counterparts on subject rather than on number.

Its Chinese Standard Classification code is CCS A 14. CCS is the domestic scheme, a letter for the sector and two digits for the subject within it, and it is the code by which the standard is filed and searched in China.

The GB/T prefix marks a recommended national standard. It is not, in itself, law: it becomes binding when a contract names it, when a regulation or a mandatory standard refers to it, or when a producer declares conformity with it. In practice that covers most of the cases in which it will be read - a purchase specification, an inspection agreement or a certification scheme.

How a Chinese national standard is set out

Chinese national standards are drafted to the rules of GB/T 1.1, which fixes the order in which a standard is set out. The document opens with a foreword recording the issuing bodies, the relationship to any previous edition and the technical committee responsible for

it. Clause 1 is the scope. Clause 2 lists the normative references - the other standards that have to be applied together with this one, and without which its requirements cannot be met. Clause 3 gives the terms and definitions. The technical clauses follow: the requirements themselves, the test or measurement methods by which conformity is established, the inspection rules that say how a lot is sampled and judged, and, for a product standard, the provisions on marking, packaging, transport and storage. Annexes, normative or informative, come last.

GB/T 19363.2-2006 runs to 15 pages in the English translation. What is delivered is the complete document in that order: every clause, every table, every figure and every annex of the Chinese original, with the same numbering, so that a reference to a clause number in a contract or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

About this English translation

The English edition of GB/T 19363.2-2006 is a full translation of the official Chinese text, not a summary, an abstract or a machine rendering left unchecked. Clause and subclause numbers, table and figure numbers and annex letters are those of the original, because they are what a specification, a purchase order or a test report cites.

Technical terms are translated against the vocabulary standards of the same field, so that a term used in GB/T 19363.2-2006 reads the same way as in the other Chinese standards it is used beside. Where a term has an established English form in an ISO or IEC document on the same subject, that form is used; where China's term has no foreign counterpart, it is translated literally and the Chinese is kept alongside it rather than replaced by an approximation.

Quantities, units and symbols are carried over unchanged. Chinese standards use SI, so a value in the translation is the value in the original document, not a conversion, and a limit read from the English text is the limit that will be applied by a Chinese inspection body reading the Chinese one.

This page is compiled from the official publication record: the standard number and both titles, the issuing bodies, the dates of issue and effect, the ICS and CCS classification. The requirements, limits, tables and test conditions are in the document itself.