-- --

# IEEE P1003.0 Draft 13 – September 1991

— *Additional guidance on referencing base standards and ‘‘standards in progress’’*

## A.3 The Role of POSIX SPs

In 6.3.3.5, a classification scheme was given for profiles in which 3 different ‘‘types’’ were identified. That scheme is based, essentially, on the scope covered by the profile. Another useful classification scheme, based on scope and on who develops the profiles, is presented in this annex.

Figure A-1 shows these classes of profiles and the relationships between them and base standards.

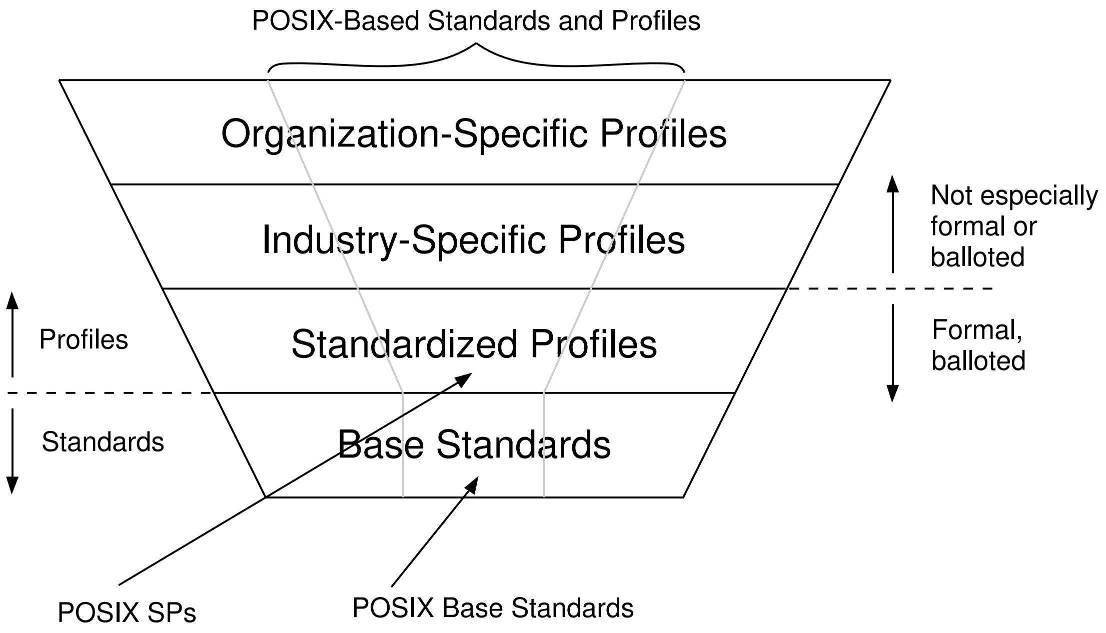


**Figure A-1 – Universe of Profiles and Standards**

Base standards cover a universe of diverse needs. POSIX base standards (e.g., POSIX.1 {2}, P1003.4, . . . ) cover a narrower set of needs related to ‘‘POSIX.’’ In the figure, the POSIX base standards are shown as a small subset of the larger world of base standards.

At the other end of the spectrum, organization-specific (e.g., company-specific) profiles are large in number and range even more widely in their coverage. (There are many more organizations procuring systems, and effectively writing profiles, than there are committees writing standards.)

Industry-specific profiles are based on specific industry needs. From the point of view of the organization-specific profile writer, industry specific profiles are applicable to many organizations (in the same industry), and hence are possibly not precisely what any specific individual organization needs. They address the broad consensus of the industry, from which there is usually deviation when you look at individual organizations whose needs range further.

Standardized Profiles are formal balloted documents. POSIX SPs are the subset of standardized profiles that pertain to the POSIX base standards. While not limited to just POSIX base standards, POSIX SPs nonetheless provide a distinctly POSIX-oriented view of the base standards.

An organization wishing to procure a ''POSIX'' based system, then, could first develop its own organization-specific profile, which it could base on POSIX-oriented industry-specific profiles (if available), which in turn could be based on POSIX SPs, which of course are based on the various POSIX base standards.

POSIX SPs provide an industry-neutral building block for creating industry specific profiles. The developers of POSIX SPs do not have to have knowledge of any particular industry. They furthermore help ensure coherence among the many base standards referenced, particularly among the various POSIX base standards. As such, probably, most POSIX SPs will be created by the IEEE POSIX working groups meeting concurrently with IEEE POSIX base standards working groups. Meeting concurrently at the same place helps ensure the coherence of the base standards and the harmony among the POSIX SPs.

## A.4 Special Rules for POSIX SPs

While no rules have yet been developed by IEEE for POSIX SPs, the remainder of this annex gives examples of what such rules might say and identifies some issues for which rules might be drafted.

The following criteria for calling a profile a POSIX SP were developed according to some general principles that have the aim of giving definite value to the word ''POSIX'' when used with regards to profiles. The general principles are:

(1) There is minimum content. Specifically, a POSIX SP must reference some part of the suite of POSIX base standards. (Which part specifically is contentious.)

(2) The POSIX SP must follow a specific approach to conformance (specifically the P1003.3.1 test methodology.)

(3) The POSIX SP must adhere to the POSIX Reference Model.

(4) There is maximum content; i.e., some consideration must be given to how the POSIX SP goes beyond the POSIX OSE as described in this guide.

(5) Exceptions to the previous principles are expected, requiring a rule-making and enforcement body to make those exception decisions.

POSIX SPs are Standardized Profiles that are related to ''POSIX.'' This subclause specifies the rules that need to be followed that distinguish POSIX SPs from ''Non-POSIX SPs''.