



Global Language Translations and Consulting, Inc.

Translation Quality

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ISO Definition of Quality -

"The totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs".

Quality in the Language Industry –

According to Alan Melby, a quality translation demonstrates **required** accuracy and fluency for the **audience and purpose** and complies with all other **negotiated specifications**, taking into account **end-user needs**.



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*ISO/TC37
ASTM F43*

<https://www.w3.org/community/mqmcg/participants>

SAE J2450 – Translation Quality Metric – SAE International

$$\Sigma (\text{Number of errors} * \text{Weight}) / \text{wordcount} = \text{QA Score}$$

	5	Serious	2	Minor	QA Score
Wrong Term (WT)	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wrong Meaning (WM)	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Omission (OM)	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Structural Error (SE)	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misspelling (SP)	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Punctuation Error (PE)	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Miscellaneous Error (ME)	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	

“Both the primary (category) and secondary (serious/minor) classification are judgment calls by the evaluator.”

ASTM F2575-14 – Standard Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation.

5.1.1 For the purposes of this guide, quality is defined as the degree to which the characteristics of a translation fulfill the requirements of the agreed-upon specifications (based on the ISO 9000 definition).

*5.1.2 Although quality is defined in an extremely flexible manner as adherence to agreed-upon specifications, the process described in the production phase should be followed if **high quality** is desired. At a minimum, project management, translation, and editing tasks performed by **highly qualified** individuals at all stages should be considered the default to obtain a translation that meets **high quality** standards.*

- Match the Source text or the Target Regulation?
- If no regulation exists?
- If the regulation text reads poorly?
- If the regulation text is incorrect?
- If the regulation text is inconsistent?

- Translate – Edit – Proof
- Back Translation
- Checklist
- Automated QC checks
- Second qualified linguist revision (per ISO 17100:2015)
- Random Sampling (Military Standard 1916, dated 1 Apr 1996)

- No Serious errors? How realistic is that expectation?
- Formatting matches the original?
- Small number of Minor errors? (define “small number”)
- Translations match regulations where regulations exist?
- Terminology use is consistent, and correct?
- Chemical names translated correctly? Synonyms? Match CAS #?
- All of the above?

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