

National Occupational Standards in Interpreting and Translation

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Gill Musk

CILT, the National Centre for Languages

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- Government's centre of expertise for languages
- UK Standards Setting Body
- Partner to the Skills for Business Network

*“promoting a greater national capability
in languages and intercultural skills”*

How CiLT supports languages for business and employment

- Work with employers, SSCs, policy makers to stimulate **demand** for and give access to language skills and services
- Work with professionals, education and training providers, awarding bodies to develop **provision**
- UK-wide, national and regional activities, resources and services

Why has CiLT developed National Occupational Standards?

- To meet identified needs
 - To improve clarity for end-users
 - To develop transparency about the skills need to undertake education / training and those gained on exit
 - To increase capacity through workforce development
- To increase the visibility and profile of the language professions

National Occupational Standards

- Definitions of competence
- Developed through consultation
- Approved by UK regulatory bodies and Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA)
- Regularly updated to reflect current best practice
- Free to download and use

How are Standards used?

- By **those considering a career** in a particular job or profession, to identify the skills they need to develop
- By **employers**, to write job descriptions, assess candidates, appraise staff and create development plans
- By **universities / colleges** and **awarding bodies**, to design and deliver courses and qualifications
- By practising **professionals...**

National Language Standards (revised 2005)

- Aligned to CEFR
- Applicable to all languages, including BSL
- Define the language skills needed to meet Interpreting and Translation Standards



National Occupational Standards in Interpreting (2006)

- Definitions of competence agreed across the field
- A series of 15 units, dealing with:
 - preparation for assignments
 - performance (one-way and two-way)
 - professional development
 - ‘support’ functions
- Describe professional and advanced levels of expertise to encourage progression

National Occupational Standards in Translation (due summer 2007)

- Consultation began June 2006
- To be submitted for approval end April 2007
- Following publication, to be kept under review and updated as necessary

How can the Standards help me?

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses
 - Highlight opportunities and priorities for CPD
 - Reflect and develop skills of self-assessment
 - Understand current best practice
- Enhance your professional status... and enhance the status of the profession!

ITI and CPD

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional duties throughout your working life.

Five key areas:

- Language skills
- Subject knowledge
- Business practice
- IT and the Internet
- Personal development

Where to find them

- www.cilt.org.uk/standards/index.htm
- www.ukstandards.org.uk
- Library at CILT, the National Centre for Languages
20 Bedfordbury
London WC2N 4LB