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**Nanotechnologies — Terminology and  
definitions for nano-objects —  
Nanoparticle, nanofibre and nanoplate**

*Nanotechnologies — Terminologie et définitions relatives  
aux nano-objets — Nanoparticule, nanofibre et nanoplat*

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## Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/TS 27687 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

In this corrected version of ISO/TS 27687:2008, the caption for Figure 1 b) has been altered, a terminology change has been made in the bottom, right-hand box of Figure 2 and the second line of the NOTE under 4.1 has been altered to align with Figure 1 b).



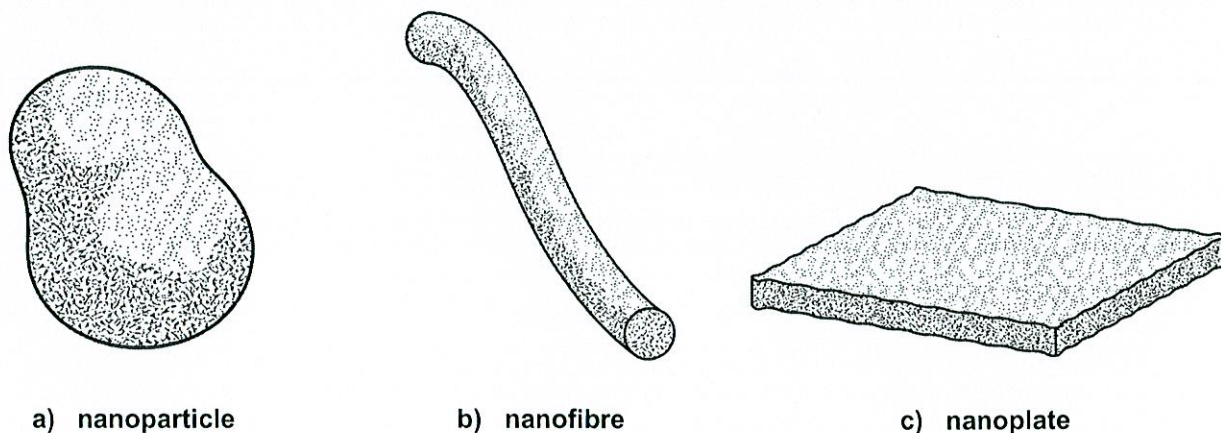
## Introduction

As many authorities predict that applications of nanotechnologies will pervade all areas of life and will enable dramatic advances to be realized in all areas of communication, health, manufacturing, materials and knowledge-based technologies, there is an obvious need to provide industry and research with suitable tools to aid the development and application of those technologies. It is also essential that regulators and health and environmental protection agencies have available reliable measurement systems and evaluation protocols supported by well-founded and robust standards.

Often in the field of nanotechnologies, researchers with the aid of microscopes name materials inspired by the shape of objects found in everyday life although the physical size is much smaller. The prefix, nano-, is often added to denote the small size of the object. (The prefix nano-, is also used in S.I. units to indicate  $10^{-9}$  e.g. 1 nanometre =  $10^{-9}$  metre.)

To create a unitary standard, this terminology and definitions document encompasses terms used in both nanosciences and nanotechnologies concerning particles at the nano-scale. Nano-object and other new terms are coined to allow development of a rational hierarchical system of definitions. This hierarchy will allow systematic building of vocabulary and is contained in a larger hierarchy of terms under development for nanotechnologies. This document provides an up-to-date listing of terms and definitions relevant to the area. It forms one part of a projected multi-part terminology and definitions document covering the different aspects of nanotechnologies. It is intended to facilitate communications between organizations and individuals in industry and those who interact with them.

This document is concerned with the definition of terminology and definitions for these small objects. These objects come in several shapes; the three basic shapes referred to in this document are illustrated in Figure 1:



**Figure 1 — Schematic diagrams showing some shapes for nano-objects**

There is a hierarchical relationship between many of the different terms in the document. Some elements of this are shown in Figure 2 to illustrate some of the relationships that exist.