feature of the language as specified in the language standard. A conforming implementation is one which adheres to and implements all of the language specifications contained in ANSI/IEEE 1076–1993 except where the language standard permits deviations and which specifies conspicuously in a separate section in the conforming implementation description all such permitted variations. Also, such conformance shall be with default language processor system option settings.

The ANSI/IEEE 1076–1993 document does not specify limits on the size or complexity of programs, the results when the rules of the standard fail to establish an interpretation, the means of supervisory control programs, or the means of transforming programs for

processing.

11. Implementation. The implementation of this standard involves three areas of consideration: acquisition of VHDL processors, interpretation of FIPS VHDL, and validation of VHDL processors.

11.1 Effective Date. This revised standard becomes effective May 1, 1995. VHDL processors acquired for Federal use after the effective date shall implement FIPS Pub 172–1. Prior to that date requirements of FIPS Pub 172 apply to Federal VHDL procurements. This delayed effective date is intended to give implementations that conform to FIPS Pub 172 time to make the enhancements necessary to enable conformance to FIPS Pub 172–1.

A transition period provides time for industry to produce VHDL language processors conforming to the FIPS Pub 172–1. The transition period begins on the effective date and continues for 12 months thereafter. The provisions of FIPS Pub 172-1 apply to orders placed after the effective date of this publication; however a processor conforming to the FIPS Pub 172-1, if available, may be acquired for use prior to the effective date. If, during the transition period, a processor conforming to FIPS Pub 172-1 is not available, a processor conforming to FIPS Pub 172 may be acquired for interim use during the transition period.

11.2 Acquisition of VHDL
Processors. Conformance to FIPS VHDL
should be considered whether VHDL
processors are developed internally,
acquired as part of an ADP system
procurement, acquired by separate
procurement, used under an ADP
leasing arrangement, or specified for use
in contracts for hardware description
services. Recommended terminology for
procurement of FIPS VHDL is contained
in the U.S. General Services

Administration publication Federal ADP & Telecommunications Standards Index, Chapter 4 Part 1.

11.3 Interpretation of FIPS VHDL. The National Institute of Standards and Technology provides for the resolution of questions regarding the specifications and requirements, and issues official interpretations as needed. All questions about the interpretation of this standard should be addressed to: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, ATTN: FIPS VHDL Interpretation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Voice: 301–975–2490, FAX: 301–948–6213, dashiell@alpha.ncsl.nist.gov e-mail.

11.4 Validation of VHDL Processors: The validation of VHDL processors for conformance to this standard applies when NIST VHDL validation procedures are available. At the present time NIST does not have procedures for validating VHDL processors. NIST is currently investigating methods which may be considered for validating processors for conformance to this standard.

For further information contact: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, Attn: FIPS VHDL Validation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Voice: 301– 975–2490, FAX: 301–948–6213, dashiellalpha.ncsl.nist.gov e-mail.

12. Waivers.

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the heads of Federal departments and agencies may approve waivers to Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS). The head of such agency may redelegate such authority only to a senior official designated pursuant to section 3506(b) of Title 44, U.S. Code. Waivers shall be granted only when:

a. Compliance with a standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of the mission of an operator of a Federal computer system, or

b. Cause a major adverse financial impact on the operator which is not offset by Government-wide savings.

Agency heads may act upon a written waiver request containing the information detailed above. Agency heads may also act without a written waiver request when they determine that conditions for meeting the standard cannot be met. Agency heads may approve waivers only by a written decision which explains the basis on which the agency head made the required finding(s). A copy of each such decision, with procurement sensitive classified portions clearly identified, shall be sent to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, ATTN: FIPS Waiver Decisions, Technology Building, Room B-154, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

In addition, notice of each waiver granted and each delegation of authority to approve waivers shall be sent promptly to the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and shall be published promptly in the **Federal Register**.

When the determination on a waiver applies to the procurement of equipment and/or services, a notice of the waiver determination must be published in the *Commerce Business Daily* as a part of the notice of solicitation for offers of an acquisition or, if the waiver determination is made after that notice is published, by amendment to such notice.

A copy of the waiver, any supporting documents, the document approving the waiver and any supporting and accompanying documents, with such deletions as the agency is authorized and decides to make under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b), shall be part of the procurement documentation and retained by the agency.

13. Where to Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone (703) 487–4650. (Sale of the included specifications document is by arrangement with the American National Standards Institute.) When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 172–1 (FIPSPUB172–1), and title. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account.

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## **Technology Administration**

## Metric Policy Interagency Council and Commerce Department; Metric Town Meeting

**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy will hold a Metric Town Meeting to listen to the concerns and ideas of the private sector for accelerating the transition to the metric system including actions that the Government can take to make it easier for industry to convert to metric use. Written submissions of views are welcome. All, however, are encouraged to participate in person at the Metric Town Meeting to benefit from sharing of views. Those wishing to speck should briefly describe their topic(s) and summarize their