SmartSuite

Framework / IT Governance / ISO Management Systems

ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 – Information technology – IT asset management – Part 5: Overview and vocabulary

ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 is the overview and vocabulary part of the ISO/IEC 19770 IT asset management series, defining the terms and principles that the other parts share.



What it is

ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 is the overview and vocabulary standard for the ISO/IEC 19770 family of IT asset management (ITAM) and software asset management (SAM) standards. It gives an overview of the family, introduces ITAM and SAM, describes the foundation principles and approaches on which SAM is based, and defines the terms used consistently across the other parts. Its second edition, published in 2015, cancels and replaces the 2013 first edition. It stays the published edition today: ISO lists a third edition at the final draft (FDIS) stage, with the ballot opened on September 22, 2026.

At a glance

PUBLISHER International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 7	TYPE Standard	VERSION Second edition (2015)
EFFECTIVE August 2015	DOMAIN IT Governance	FAMILY ISO Management Systems
REGION International	ADOPTION MODEL Voluntary	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Low

Source: iso.org/standard/68291.html

Why it matters

- **Establish a common vocabulary** Terms such as asset, IT asset, software asset, entitlement, and reconciliation are defined once and reused by every part of the series and by ISO/IEC 19770-1 conformance work.
- **Explain the business case** Clause 4 sets out the direct benefits, cost control, and risk management and mitigation reasons for managing software assets.
- **Show how the family fits together** Clause 5 maps the process standard, the information structure standards, and the guidance technical reports so organizations know which part they need.
- **Align with other management systems** The standard describes how SAM principles relate to ISO 9001, ISO/IEC 20000, ISO/IEC 27000, and ISO 55000.

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How SmartSuite supports ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015

ITAM Vocabulary and Family Library

Hold each Clause 3 term and each part of the ISO/IEC 19770 series (Clause 5) as a record linked to the ITAM processes that use it.

Ownership and Review Cadence

Assign owners for asset classes and for the vocabulary, with review dates for when the standard is revised.

Evidence and Audit Trail

Record where each term and principle is applied in policies, asset registers, and contracts, with reviewers and dates.

Definition and Data Quality Checks

Check asset records against the Clause 3 definitions and track inconsistencies to correction.

Vendor and Contract Alignment

Connect software publishers and contracts to the assets and entitlements they concern.

Program Reporting

Show leadership vocabulary adoption, asset data quality, and readiness to implement ISO/IEC 19770-1.

Common framework mappings

ISO/IEC 19770-1:2017 | ISO 27000 | ISO/IEC 20000-1 | ISO 9001:2026 | ITIL 4

Official resources

ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 catalog page

The ISO catalog entry for Part 5, with status, edition, committee, and purchase and preview options.

iso.org/standard/68291.html

ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 preview on the Online Browsing Platform

ISO's read-only preview of the standard's foreword, introduction, scope, and terms.

iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso-iec:19770:-5:ed-2:v1:en

IT Asset Management Standards (ISO/IEC 19770): business case and overview

ISO/IEC JTC 1's overview of the series, its three groups of standards, and the role of Part 5 as the freely available overview and vocabulary.

jtc1info.org/it-asset-management-standards-iso-iec-19770-business-case-overview

Frequently asked questions

What is ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015?

It is the overview and vocabulary part of the ISO/IEC 19770 series on IT asset management. Clause 3 defines the shared terms, Clause 4 introduces IT asset management (ITAM) and software asset management (SAM), their foundation principles and critical success factors, and Clause 5 gives an overview of the other parts of the series.

Can an organization be certified to ISO/IEC 19770-5?

No. It contains no requirements, only concepts, principles, and terms. The requirements are in ISO/IEC 19770-1:2017, which organizations implement and can be certified against, and ISO/IEC 19770-11:2021 sets requirements for the bodies that audit and certify an ITAM system.

How does ISO/IEC 19770-5 relate to ISO/IEC 19770-1?

Part 5 provides the vocabulary, principles, and family overview; Part 1 specifies the management system requirements. Clause 5 of Part 5 explains where Part 1 sits among the process, information structure, and guidance parts of the series.

Is a new edition of ISO/IEC 19770-5 coming?

Yes. A third edition, which will replace the 2015 edition, reached the final draft (FDIS) ballot, opened on September 22, 2026 for eight weeks, and ISO lists publication for November 2026. Until it is published, the 2015 edition is the current one.

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Is ISO/IEC 19770-5 free?

ISO/IEC JTC 1 describes Part 5 as the only freely available ITAM standard in the series, and ITAM Standards links a free copy. The other parts, including ISO/IEC 19770-1, are bought from ISO or a national standards body. Check the ISO catalog page for the edition you need.

License included / downloadable: No ISO/IEC 19770-5:2015 is published by ISO and IEC. ISO/IEC JTC 1 describes it as freely available; copies are otherwise obtained from ISO or national standards bodies, and the text is not included with the platform.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/iso-iec-19770-5-2015-it-asset-management-overview-and-vocabulary

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