



[7590-01-P]

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2012-0195]

### Software Requirement Specifications for Digital Computer Software Used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Revision to regulatory guide; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a revised regulatory guide (RG), revision 1 of RG 1.172, "Software Requirement Specifications for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants." This RG endorses the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard (Std.) 830-1998, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Software Requirements Specifications," issued in 1998 and reaffirmed in 2009 with the exceptions and clarifications stated in Section C, "Staff Regulatory Guidance" of RG 1.172. IEEE Std. 830-1998 describes methods that the NRC staff considers acceptable to demonstrate compliance with NRC regulations for achieving high functional reliability and design quality in software used in safety systems in nuclear power plants.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2012-0195** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access information related to this document, which the NRC possesses and is publicly available, using the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2012-0195**. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-287-3422; e-mail: [Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov](mailto:Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov).

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may access publicly available documents online in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "[ADAMS Public Documents](#)" and then select "[Begin Web-based ADAMS Search](#)." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this notice (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced. Revision 1 of RG 1.172 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13007A173. The regulatory analysis may be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13075A007.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine for free or purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Introduction**

The NRC is issuing a revision to an existing RG in the NRC's "Regulatory Guide" series. This series was developed to describe and make available to the public information such as

methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

## **II. Further Information**

Revision 1 of RG 1.172 was issued with a temporary identification as Draft Regulatory Guide, DG-1209 on August 22, 2012 (77 FR 50726) for a 60-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on November 22, 2012. Multiple public comments were received and addressed by the NRC staff. These comments and the NRC staff responses are available in ADAMS under Accession number ML13007A160.

Revision 1 of RG 1.172 endorses IEEE Std. 830-1998, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Software Requirements Specifications," issued in 1998 and reaffirmed in 2009 with the clarifications and exceptions as stated in Section C, "Staff Regulatory Position" of the RG. IEEE Std. 830-1998 describes methods that the NRC staff considers acceptable for use in complying with the NRC regulations for achieving high functional reliability and design quality in software used in safety systems. In particular, the methods are consistent with the previously cited GDC and the criteria for quality assurance programs in Appendix B to Title 10, of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities" (10 CFR Part 50) as they apply to the development of software requirement specifications. The criteria of Appendix A and Appendix B to 10 CFR part 50 applies to systems and related quality standards and quality assurance processes as well as the software elements of those systems.

This RG is one of six RG revisions addressing computer software development and use in safety related systems of nuclear power plants. These RGs were developed by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Division of Engineering (RES/DE) with the assistance of multiple individuals in the Office of New Reactors, Division of Engineering (NRO/DE); Office Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Division of Engineering (NRR/DE); and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Division of Security Policy (NSIR/DSP). The six interrelated RGs are:

1. Revision 2 of RG 1.168, "Verification, Validation, Reviews, and Audits for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1267. The package for Rev. 2 of RG 1.168 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML12236A132.
2. Revision 1 of RG 1.169, "Configuration Management Plans for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1206. The package for Rev. 1 of RG 1.169 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML12354A524.
3. Revision 1 of RG 1.170, "Test Documentation for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1207. The package for Rev. 1 of RG 1.170 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML12354A531.
4. Revision 1 of RG 1.171, "Software Unit Testing for Digital Computer Software Used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1208. The package for Rev. 1 of RG 1.171 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML12354A534.
5. Revision 1 of RG 1.172, "Software Requirements Specifications for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1209. The package for Rev. 1 of RG 1.172 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML12354A538.
6. Revision 1 of RG 1.173, "Developing Software Life Cycle Processes for Digital Computer Software used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," issued for public comment as DG-1210. The package for Rev. 1 of RG 1.173 is in ADAMS at Accession No. ML13008A338.

### **III. Backfitting and Issue Finality**

Issuance of this final RG does not constitute backfitting as defined in 10 CFR 50.109 (the Backfit Rule) and is not otherwise inconsistent with the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR Part 52. As discussed in the "Implementation" section of this RG, the NRC has no current

intention to impose this RG on holders of current operating licenses, early site permits or combined licenses, unless this final RG is part of the licensing basis for the facility. The NRC may apply this RG to applications for operating licenses, early site permits and combined licenses docketed by the NRC as of the date of issuance of the final RG, as well as to future applications for operating licenses, early site permits and combined licenses submitted after the issuance of the RG. Such action does not constitute backfitting as defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1) and is not otherwise inconsistent with the applicable issue finality provision in 10 CFR Part 52, inasmuch as such applicants or potential applicants are not within the scope of entities protected by the Backfit Rule or the relevant issue finality provisions in Part 52.

#### **Congressional Review Act**

This RG is a rule as designated in the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801-808). However, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has not found it to be a major rule as designated in the Congressional Review Act.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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