Abstract: In 2016 the new version of ISO 9999, Assistive products for persons with disability – Classification and Terminology, was published. Although there was already a connection with terminology used in the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) (WHO, 2011) in earlier versions, this connection is more prominent in the latest version, making it possible to connect the needs and wishes of the [future] user to the characteristics of products during the process of selecting an appropriate assistive product.

Functioning: For many people assistive products are important to perform daily activities and to participate in society. In selecting the proper assistive product(s) for a person, it is important to describe in a uniform and transparent way on the one hand the present functioning and wishes of the (future) user with respect to functioning (human related intended use / HRIU) and, on the other hand, the characteristics of the assistive product (product related intended use / PRIU). With the ICF it is possible to describe present functioning and wishes of the user (in terms of functions / anatomical structures, activities and participation). Within the ISO 9999 the ICF is used to formulate a definition of assistive products and to make a subdivision of assistive products which is recognizable for both (future) users as well as professionals involved in the process of selecting a proper assistive product for their clients, policy makers, manufacturers and researchers (Heerkens et al., 2011).

Classes of ISO 9999: version 2016, renamed, based on ICF-terminology

03 APs for measuring, supporting, training or replacing functions
05 APs for education and for training in skills
06 APs attached to the body for supporting neuromusculoskeletal or movement related functions (orthoses) and replacing anatomical structures (prostheses)
09 APs for self-care activities and participation in self-care
12 APs for activities and participation relating to personal mobility and transportation
15 AP for domestic activities and participation in domestic life
18 Furnishings, fixings and other APs for supporting activities indoor and outdoor: human made environments
22 APs for communication and information management
24 APs for controlling, carrying, moving and handling objects and devices
27 APs for controlling, adapting or measuring elements of physical environments
28 APs for work activities and participation in employment
30 APs for recreation and leisure

Question in relation to the new revision of ISO 9999 (to be published in 2020)
Is there a need / added value / wish / possibility to harmonize titles on subclass and division level with ICF terminology?

Definition of Assistive Products in ISO 9999, based on ICF-terminology (in italics)

Any product (including devices, equipment, instruments and software) especially produced or generally available, used by or for persons with disability - for participation
- to protect, support, train, measure or substitute for body functions / structures and activities, or
- to prevent impairments, activity limitations or participation restrictions.

Assistive products in ICF:
Assistive products are included in Chapter 1 of the list of environmental factors of ICF on a very global level. ISO 9999 can be used when more detail is necessary. The other concepts of the ICF (like activity and participation) are used to realise these details.

Contact details for global liaison:
Yvonne.heerkens@npi.nl