

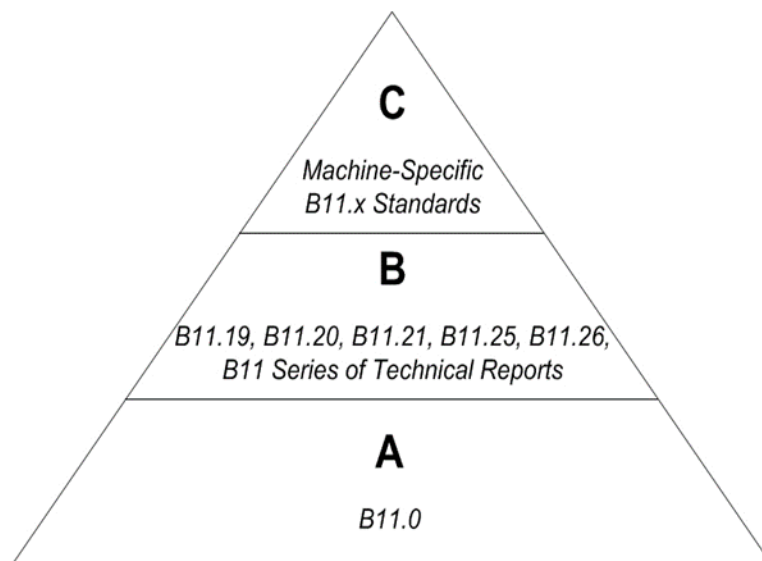
What is the type-A, type-B, type-C ‘hierarchy’ of standards?

This is a very useful approach to standards as a hierarchy of ‘building blocks’ that was first established by ISO/TC199 in the 1990’s but has gained global acceptance.

Type-A standards (basis safety standards) give basic concepts, principles for design, and general ‘foundational’ aspects that can be applied broadly across different types of machinery.

Type-B standards (generic safety standards) deal with one or more safety aspects or one or more types of risk reduction measure that can be used/applied across a wide range of machinery (ISO further divides type-B standards into type-B1 on safety aspects and type-B2 on safeguards);

Type-C standards (machine-specific safety standards) deal with detailed safety requirements for a particular machine or “group of machines” (meaning machines having a similar intended use and similar hazards, hazardous situations, or hazardous events).



The B11 series of standards adopted this approach in the early 2000’s and has applied it across its portfolio, as follows, with B11.0, then B11.19 and finally B11.26 being seminal and foundational standards for the rest of them: