

The New C Standard (Excerpted material)

An Economic and Cultural Commentary

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3.16

recommended practice

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specification that is strongly recommended as being in keeping with the intent of the standard, but that may be impractical for some implementations

Commentary

The Recommended practice subsections have no more status than any other statement in the C Standard that is not mandatory.

C90

The *Recommended practice* subsections are new in C99.

C++

C++ gives some recommendations inside “[Note: . . .]”, but does not explicitly define their status (from reading C++ Committee discussions it would appear to be non-normative).

Other Languages

Ada 95, 1.1.2 Structure

Implementation Advice
Optional advice given to the implementer. The word “should” is used to indicate that the advice is a recommendation, not a requirement. It is implementation defined whether or not a given recommendation is obeyed.

Common Implementations

The C99 Standard is still too new to have any experience with how closely the new concept of recommended practice is followed.

Coding Guidelines

The extent to which *recommended practices* will be followed by implementations is unknown. The specific instances are discussed when they occur.

References