Presentation of the handbook of reference

The Handbook of Reference gathers all the notes of principle relating to the functionalities implemented in the code. The justifications of the methods and modelings refer to notes of specific studies or the scientific literature. A short description in the way in which the functionalities can be used is provided. It is a handbook essential to a rational use of the code.

The Independent Validation relates to the functionalities described by the Handbook of Reference, the Instruction manual specifying only the practical methods making it possible to implement them (cf Plan of Validation [A3.01.01]). Moreover, each Department is been liable in the plan for maintenance for the functionalities starting from the reference documents (cf Plan of Diffusion [A4.01.01]). It is to say the importance of the Handbook of Reference to the title of the Quality assurance.

The Handbook of Reference does not define however the field of validity of the assumptions, the methods and the modelings retained compared to their application to calculation of the structures. This field must be acquired in addition by the user, who is only responsible for the relevance of the results that it produces. For any study under Quality assurance, it will be able to give a report on what it knows of the functionalities employed thanks to the Handbook of Reference, the adequacy of these functionalities to the problem which it deals with is of its only responsibility. The reference material thus does not replace the notes of study aiming at giving elements to delimit this field of validity. These notes which can prove extremely useful, are published under the responsibility of the Departments. They will be quoted, as much as possible, by the reference documents.

The Handbook of Reference must make it possible to establish the link between the documentation of use and the source code for which knows the principles of programming described in Handbook D. It does not substitute for the comments which must be present in the source, but it must facilitate the reading of it. A failure with this principle can lead to the rewriting of the programming or reference material. The reference material must, indeed, make it possible the Departments to quickly find substitutes effective when a developer has suddenly changed function.

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