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Canadian Contribution on the Relationships of the ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement and JTC 1 Standing Documents

Canada desires the maximum usability of the ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement and Standing Documents that will govern JTC 1 activities once these documents are implemented. In the past, JTC 1 members including all those associated with JTC 1 sub-groups, have had, for the most part, only to look in a single location, the JTC 1 Directives, for guidance and direction regarding policies, procedures and activities. Once the new scheme comes into force in mid 2010 this may no longer be the case unless action is taken.

Once the new scheme is implemented, an individual may need to look in three locations: the ISO/IEC Directives, the JTC 1 Supplement and the Standing Documents (SD).

Specific instances of issues with examples identified:

Issue	Example
Placement of significant JTC 1 directives' topics has been contorted in an attempt to fit the directives layout, leading to inconsistent treatment and resulting in difficulties for the user in knowing where to look for topics.	PAS and Voting have been placed in Annexes, Fast Track is in the supplement, and Meetings is in a Standing Documents.
The creation of long (sometimes in excess of a page) chains of paragraphs that have only a single high level number.	Makes referencing of material problematic, e.g. 1.8.2, 1.9.2, 2.1.6.
Users of this document now must contend with the Directives, the JTC 1 supplement, four annexes, and fourteen Standing Documents. The understanding of almost any topic will involve extended searches over many of these documents.	Material on Liaison, ITU-T and International Standardization Profiles are distributed in at least 3 locations each.

To aid it in performing its tasks, SWG-D has been provided with an "integrated version" of the ISO/IEC Directives and the draft JTC 1 Supplement.

It has been inferred that the availability of the "integrated version" will continue once the new scheme is implemented. However, this is not backed by a documented plan, and issues related to accuracy and timeliness could potentially still arise. Further, it is imperative that any form of "integrated version" must be product non-specific. Finally, there is the issue of longer term availability in future revisions and the level of effort required for its development. Canada applauds the initial effort towards producing an "integrated version" and wishes its availability continue and be formalised.

There has also been discussion of the development of a "Directives Guidance Document" which will provide information on how the ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement and Standing Documents are to be used in combination. However, no draft or outline for the

document has yet materialised, nor the scheme it will use, and it has not yet been determined if it will be developed.

JTC 1 has been precluded from placing any form of reference in the ISO/IEC Directives, and for having references to the Standing Documents in the JTC1 Supplement. Canada has noted that many topics are distributed in multiple locations throughout the three components, thus making extremely difficult to location all relevant information on a specific topic. Canada percieves that the “Directives Guidance Document” will assist in resolving this problem by providing a master guide.

Canada considers it imperative that the new set of governance documents can be used easily, without error, consistently, and by those experienced in JTC 1 operations and those new to JTC 1. Further, Canada believes that it is critical that the set of governance documents can be used in the integrated form and as separate documents, and that the "Directives Guidance Document" is essential in either case. Canada therefore offers the following draft resolution for JTC 1's consideration.

"Resolution bb - ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement and Standing Documents Relationships

JTC 1 instructs SWG-Directives to consider the appropriateness of creating:

- an integrated version of the ISO/IEC Directives and the JTC 1 Supplement on a regular and timely basis with consideration of how its availability will be assured; and
- a Directives Guidance Document for the ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement and the Standing Documents.

In addition, mechanisms such as hidden XML tags should be considered for insertion in the JTC 1 Supplement and Standing Documents and, if possible, in the ISO/IEC Directives, to avoid problems, such as incorrect placement of JTC 1 Supplement text relative to ISO/IEC Directives text, arising during the creation of an integrated version."