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                         Concerning the Requirements for Different Language Versions

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SC 2 Proposal for modifying the ISO/IEC Directives Part 2 concerning the requirements for different language versions

The following contradiction is constantly encountered by project editors in applying Directives to edit normative documents. This has been noticed by some national bodies during French and English ballot processing for ISO/IEC 14651 2nd Edition (2007) in particular, but that issue will potentially apply in every International Standard balloted and published (simultaneously or not) in English and French.

There is a contradiction between the following three mandatory rules to edit different language versions of an International standard :

- All language versions of an International Standard shall be equivalent, paragraph by paragraph [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, §4.5, "The texts in the different official language versions shall be technically equivalent and <u>structurally identical</u>."]
- Definitions shall be presented in alphabetical order in each language [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, §6.3.2, "all <u>symbols</u> should be <u>listed in alphabetical order</u>"]
- Each definition shall be sequentially numbered in each language version [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, §5.2.2, "The clauses in each document or part shall be numbered with Arabic numerals,[…] The <u>numbering shall be continuous</u>".

It is typically impossible to achieve these three mandatory rules at once, because the equivalent definitions typically can not share the same order. ITTF has always chosen in practice to ignore the first requirement in this case, making in sort that the last two requirements currently have precedence in published IS without known exception. However it creates problesm to translators – or other parties – who want to be sure of ISO/IEC terminology equivalences.

JTC1/SC2 requests that a new rule be drafted that could be applicable at the ISO and IEC level to solve this issue by making sure that there always be a reciprocal reference (cross-reference) between terms of each publication language relative to the other, so in particular in both English and French language versions, at least when both versions are produced simultaneously during the early standard development. In this way the three current rules would be respected in spirit.