

ISO/IEC JTC 1 N 9065
ISO/IEC JTC 1
Information Technology

2008-05-15

Document Type: Summary of Voting/Table of Replies

Document Title: Summary of Voting on JTC 1 N 8933 –Request for Approval of the GS1 (Global Office) as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO)

Document Source: JTC 1 Secretariat

Reference:

Document Status: Although the majority of National Bodies voting approved this request, several National Bodies submitted significant comments along with their vote. Therefore, SC 31 is instructed to review and respond to the comments submitted on the request prior to any further action being taken by JTC 1.

Action ID: Information

Due Date:

No. of Pages: 9

Result of voting

Ballot Information:

Ballot reference: JTC001-N-8933

Ballot type: CIB

Ballot title: Request for Approval of the GS1 (Global Office) as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO)

Opening date: 2008-02-08

Closing date: 2008-05-08

Note: This document is circulated to JTC 1 National Bodies for a three month letter ballot. Please submit your vote via the online balloting system

Member responses:

Votes cast (26)

Australia (SA)
 Canada (SCC)
 China (SAC)
 Czech Republic (CNI)
 Denmark (DS)
 Finland (SFS)
 France (AFNOR)
 Germany (DIN)
 India (BIS)
 Ireland (NSAI)
 Italy (UNI)
 Jamaica (BSJ)
 Japan (JISC)
 Kazakhstan (KAZMEMST)
 Korea, Republic of (KATS)
 Malta (MSA)
 Netherlands (NEN)
 New Zealand (SNZ)
 Norway (SN)
 Singapore (SPRING SG)
 Slovenia (SIST)
 South Africa (SABS)
 Spain (AENOR)
 Switzerland (SNV)
 Turkey (TSE)
 USA (ANSI)

Comments submitted (0)

Votes not cast (14)

Algeria (IANOR)

Belgium (NBN)
 Côte-d'Ivoire (CODINORM)
 Ecuador (INEN)
 Iran, Islamic Republic of (ISIRI)
 Kenya (KEBS)
 Malaysia (DSM)
 Nigeria (SON)
 Pakistan (PSQCA)
 Philippines (BPS)
 Saudi Arabia (SASO)
 United Kingdom (BSI)
 Uruguay (UNIT)
 Venezuela (FONDONORMA)

Questions:

Q.1	"Does your National Body approve the request for approval of GS1 (Global Office) as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO)?"
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Answers to Q.1: "Does your National Body approve the request for approval of GS1 (Global Office) as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO)?"

13 x	yes	Australia (SA) China (SAC) Czech Republic (CNI) Finland (SFS) India (BIS) Ireland (NSAI) Italy (UNI) Japan (JISC) Korea, Republic of (KATS) Netherlands (NEN) Norway (SN) Singapore (SPRING SG) USA (ANSI)
11 x	abstain	Denmark (DS) France (AFNOR) Germany (DIN) Jamaica (BSJ) Kazakhstan (KAZMEMST) Malta (MSA) New Zealand (SNZ) Slovenia (SIST) Spain (AENOR) Switzerland (SNV) Turkey (TSE)
2 x	no	Canada (SCC) South Africa (SABS)

Comments from Voters

Member:

Comment:

Date:

Canada (SCC)	<i>Comment File</i>	2008-04-14 14:52:56
CommentFiles/Canada(SCC).dot		
France (AFNOR)	<i>Comment File</i>	2008-05-08 17:46:53
CommentFiles/France(AFNOR).doc		
Germany (DIN)	<i>Comment File</i>	2008-05-08 13:21:42
CommentFiles/Germany(DIN).doc		
South Africa (SABS)	<i>Comment File</i>	2008-05-08 15:05:23
CommentFiles/SouthAfrica(SABS).pdf		
Spain (AENOR)	<i>Comment File</i>	2008-05-07 13:55:50
CommentFiles/Spain(AENOR).doc		

Comments from Commenters		
Member:	Comment:	Date:

Annex

Date	Document	Project Nr.
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National Committee	Line number	Clause/ Subclause	Paragraph Figure/ Table	Type of comment (General/ Technical/Editorial)	COMMENTS	Proposed change	OBSERVATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT on each comment submitted
					<p>GS1 - today is very active in generating standards for industry - with a special focus on retail. Contributions and standards are drafted by members of GS1 which require annual membership fees in order to participate. Membership is limited.</p> <p>This limits the contributions to members.</p> <p>For this reason the Canada cannot support the request. Although the process of producing a Referencing Explanatory Report (RER) for each document submission refernencing a GS1 document is time consuming Canada believes that it helps and is necessary to determine the validity of the reference.</p>		

AFNOR comment on document JTC 8933

AFNOR wishes to make one observation on the content of document JTC 1 N 8933 which shall be considered as completely independent of the reason for our abstention.

The conditions for public availability of a standard from the ARO, as indicated in note 1 , include the following condition:

Standards that are Publicly Available to implementers, evaluators and other interested parties for as long as the IS that references them is an active document are those which:

- *May be obtained from the source organization by any person (with or without payment) simply by quoting the reference number given in the IS to the source organization or typical supplier.*

...

However, it seems that access to a GS1 standard from the web site is conditioned to the requester registering their personal details and their intent regarding the standard before getting access to the standard. GS1 indicates on the web page that they are tracking the users of their standards. Afnor wonders whether the condition “may be obtained ... simply by quoting the reference number...” is satisfied when a registration process is necessary for access, and what use is made of the personal identification information which is collected. It is suggested that SC31 investigates this point.

Germany would like to abstain on JTC 1 N 8933 and JTC 1 N 8972.

There are at present two JTC 1 votes dealing with requests for acceptance as Approved RS Originator Organizations. These ballots have been initiated on behalf of GS1(Global Office) and EPCglobal Inc., see JTC 1 N 8933, with a deadline of May 8, 2008, and JTC 1 N 8972, deadline May 26, 2008.

Unfortunately, to our knowledge, the members of the affected subcommittee, namely SC 31, have not received any advance information from GS1/EPCglobal about the reasons behind their applications to become AROs for SC 31 standards. We furthermore feel after thorough study of both documents that the information that is given in the filled-in application forms is not sufficient to allow us a well thought-through judgement regarding the requests.

Germany requests GS1/EPCglobal to present their applications at the forthcoming meeting of SC 31 from June 2 to June 6, 2008 in Toronto, where the national bodies should be given the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the applications.

We believe that such an explanation would not only benefit the national bodies that are participating in SC 31 but also the ARO applicants.

Comments on JTC001-N-8933 by the South African national body (SABS)

2008-05-01

Having reviewed the statement included in JTC001-N-8933, the national body of South Africa (SABS) does **not approve** the recognition of GS1 (Global Office) as an ARO.

It is our opinion that the statement has not addressed various substantive issues. In addition, South Africa is deeply concerned by the increasing tendency of international organizations to use the JTC 1 processes to circumvent the consensus-building process that is the corner-stone to the success and international acceptance of ISO and IEC standards. The ability of large multi-national organizations to influence many national bodies, with the resultant block-voting over-riding legitimate issues raised by other countries, is also of concern.

This request from GS1 must be considered together with JTC001-N-8918, wherein EPCglobal requested a Category C liaison with SC 31. EPCglobal is a joint venture between GS1 (formerly known as EAN International) and GS1 US™ (formerly the Uniform Code Council, Inc.). It is an organization set up to achieve world-wide adoption and standardization of Electronic Product Code (EPC) technology.

Since GS1 develops standards in a closed environment through its paying members, there is no guarantee that the resulting standards represent the interest of the greater public as served by JTC 1. In addition, although GS1 is an organization of significant size with recognised technical expertise, especially in bar codes, it only services a very small part of the total market sector covered by JTC 1/SC 31.

In clause 2.2 (a) of the ARO template, in response to the question "*What is the flexibility of the ARO candidate to apply changes to an RS if so requested during the process of balloting a referencing standard?*", GS1 responds that "*The GS1 standard development processes are open to receiving contributions from any party, aiming to improving the existing specifications, as long as the requirement is justified by genuine users needs.*" This avoids the issue of what becomes of the standard being balloted while the GS1 standards development or amendment process runs its course and also avoids any mention of collaborative development after the request or contribution is 'received' by GS1.

In clause 3.2 of the ARO template, the response states (in part) "*GS1 expects however that the submitted specifications will be adopted with substantially the same content as submitted. GS1 requests that any change or improvement proposals be cycled back through a GS1 technical committee for inclusion in errata (if the correction of a defect) or a future version (if in the nature of amendment or revision), to be developed by GS1.*" As mentioned earlier, standards development by GS1 is focussed on the needs of their members, and would exclude the participation of other experts from SC 31.

The meaning of the last sentence in GS1's response to clause 3.2 is not clear (i.e. "*If substantive changes are advisable, GS1 expects to seek to offer them for re-transposition by ISO, after GS1 approval under its usual rules, as it is a GS1 policy to ensure convergence and avoid duplicate standards.*" If it is GS1's intention to seek convergence, then JTC 1's PAS or 'Fast track' mechanisms are more suitable, although they do transfer future control of the standard from GS1 to SC 31.

The objectives of EPCglobal and GS1 are, rightly, to benefit their members. The technical expertise of their many members in a large number of countries that participate actively in SC 31 is not questioned. Their extensive involvement in SC 31 has benefited the international standards development process. However, we consider it essential that the responsibility for any normative requirements of an international standard remains within SC 31, since the needs of the community served by SC 31 is considerably larger than that addressed by the EPCglobal/GS1 membership, and the needs also span a wider spectrum of users.

In conclusion, we consider it essential that SC 31 has the right to modify or to add features to any standards in order to meet the needs of the international users of the ISO/IEC standards. This right should include control over contributions from GS1 or EPCglobal.

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Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: 2007-08-14	Document: ISO JTC1/SC32 FDIS 15944-4
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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	(7)
MB ¹	Clause No./ Subclause No./ Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/ Note (e.g. Table 1)	Type of com- ment ²	Comment (justification for change) by the MB	Proposed change by the MB	Secretariat observations on each comment submitted
ES				Abstention due to the absence of national position		

1 **MB** = Member body (enter the ISO 3166 two-letter country code, e.g. CN for China; comments from the ISO/CS editing unit are identified by **)

2 **Type of comment:** **ge** = general **te** = technical **ed** = editorial

NOTE Columns 1, 2, 4, 5 are compulsory.