



ISO/IEC JTC 1 N 9235
ISO/IEC JTC 1
Information Technology

2008-08-04

Document Type: Disposition of Comments Report

Document Title: Response to JTC 1 Ballot Comments in JTC 1 N 9099 for Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) - EPCglobal, Inc

Document Source: SC 31 Secretariat

Reference:

Document Status: As SC 31 has reviewed and responded to the comments received on document N9099, the Request for Approval of EPCglobal Inc. as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) is now approved

Action ID: Information

Due Date:

No. of Pages: 7

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31

Automatic Identification and Data Capture Techniques

Secretariat: ANSI (USA)

DOC TYPE: Disposition of Comments Report

TITLE: JTC 1 Ballot Comments & Answers for Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) - EPCglobal, Inc.

SOURCE: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 Secretariat

PROJECT:

STATUS: SC 31 is instructed to review and respond to the comments submitted on the EPCglobal, Inc. request prior to any further action being taken by JTC 1.

ACTION ID: FYI

DUE DATE:

DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 members

MEDIUM: ISO TC Portal (LiveLink)

NO. OF PAGES: 6 (including this cover)

MB ¹	Clause/ subclause (e. g. 3.1)	Para- graph/ Figure/ Table (e. g. Table 1)	Type of com- ment ² (e. g. ed)	Comments: Justification for change	Proposed change	<i>DRAFT – For Comment</i> Observations of the secretariat on each comment submitted
SE (SIS)				Yes with comments. Sweden finds it strange that EPCglobal Inc. should need its own liaison with SC 31. We suggest that SC31 invite GS1 (EPCglobal's parent organization) to clarify ownership of any referring standards to ensure that there is no parallel input.		EPCglobal Inc is part of GS1 but it is a separate legal entity and it has its own standard development process. This is why a separate ARO request was filed for EPCglobal Inc.
FR (AFN OR)				JTC 1 has recently submitted two requests for Approval of GS1 and EPCglobal Inc. as Approved RS Originator Organizations (ARO) for vote within JTC 1. Considering the comments and results of the similar vote on the first request regarding GS1 (see JTC 1 N 9065), the French mirror committee of JTC 1 cannot approve the request in JTC 1 N 8972 for the time being and invites JTC 1 to forward the request to SC 31 for examination and discussion at its Toronto Plenary Meeting in June.		GS1 will be more than happy to provide an explanation and to answer any questions at the SC31 plenary meeting of 6 June 2008.
DIN				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 judgment 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.		GS1 has issued a request for ARO status in response to a change in the ISO/IEC JTC 1 directives and as the most practical way to address this change. It was not GS1's responsibility to inform the national bodies about the change in the directives. GS1 will be more than happy to provide an explanation and to answer any questions at the SC31 plenary meeting of 6 June 2008.

¹ MB = Member body (Enter two-letter country code, e. g. CN for China)² Type of comment: ge = general te = technical ed = editorial

NB Columns 1, 2, 4, 5 are compulsory

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ZA (SAB S)				<p>Having reviewed the statement included in JTC001-N-8972, the national body of South Africa (SABS) does not approve the recognition of EPC Global as an ARO.</p> <p>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 overriding legitimate issues raised by other countries, is also of concern.</p> <p>This request from EPC Global must be considered together with JTC001-N-8933 wherein GS1 requested recognition as an ARO as well as with JTC001-N-8918, wherein EPC Global requested a Category C liaison with SC 31. EPC Global 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.</p> <p>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?", EPC Global responds that "There is some flexibility to do such ..." (our emphasis on "some" which is very vague) This also avoids the issue of what becomes of the JTC 1 standard being balloted while the EPC Global standards development or amendment process runs its course and also skirts the issue of future collaborative development.</p>		<p>EPCglobal fully respects the ISO process and always makes sure to work in a constructive and collaborative way in the various SC31 working groups.</p> <p>EPCglobal understands that the authority to add features or to modify ISO/IEC standards controlled by SC31 belongs to SC31, even if these standards include specifications originally developed by EPCglobal, through normative reference or otherwise.</p>

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				<p>In clause 3.2 of the ARO template, the response states (in part) " EPC Global 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 EPC Global 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 EPC Global." As mentioned earlier, standards development by EPC Global is focused on the needs of their members, and would exclude the participation of other experts from JTC 1.</p> <p>The meaning of the last sentence in GS1's response to clause 3.2 is not clear (i.e. "If substantive changes are advisable, EPC Global expects to seek to offer them for re-transposition by ISO, after EPC Global approval under its usual rules, as it is a EPC Global policy to ensure convergence and avoid duplicate standards". If it is EPC Global '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 EPC Global to JTC 1.</p> <p>The objectives of EPC Global 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 JTC 1 is not questioned. Their extensive involvement in JTC 1 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 JTC 1, since the needs of the community served by JTC 1 is considerably larger than that addressed by the EPC Global/GS1 membership, and the needs also span a wider spectrum of users.</p>		

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				In conclusion, we consider it essential that JTC 1 and its SCs have 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 all contributions from GS1 or EPCglobal.		
UK1 (BSI)				The UK draws attention to attention to the issue of IP and suggests that any EPCglobal standards/documents that are normatively referenced in an ISO standard should be subject to the ISO Patent policy		The ISO patent policy applies automatically to documents that are normatively referenced by ISO/IEC standards. It should be noted that the EPCglobal IP policy pursues similar goals than the ISO patent policy but in a somewhat more stringent manner.
CA (SCC)				Canada does not approve EPCglobal as an ARO as this is a limited membership organization based on fee for membership, thus limiting membership in the organization.		GS1 is a not-for-profit independent organization financed primarily through membership fees. Any organization can acquire membership in one of the 108 local GS1 organizations. Approximately 1,2 million companies in the world are member of GS1.

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ISO commenting template/Report of voting

Date : 2008/06/07

Document: JTC001-N-9099

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