



ISO/IEC JTC 1 N 9239
ISO/IEC JTC 1
Information Technology

2008-08-07

Document Type: Disposition of Comments Report

Document Title: Response to JTC 1 Ballot Comments in JTC 1 N 9065 for Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) - GS1(Global Office)

Document Source: SC 31 Secretariat

Reference:

Document Status: As SC 31 has reviewed and responded to the comments received on document N9065, the Request for Approval of GS1(Global Office) as an Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) is now approved

Action ID: Information

Due Date:

No. of Pages: 6

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) - GS1

SOURCE: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 Secretariat

PROJECT:

STATUS: SC 31 is instructed to review and respond to the comments submitted on the GS1 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: 5 (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
CA				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. This limits the contributions to members. For this reason the Canada cannot support the request. Although the process of producing a Referencing Explanatory Report (RER) for each document submission referencing a GS1 document is time consuming Canada believes that it helps and is necessary to determine the validity of the reference.		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. GS1 specifications are normatively referenced in many ISO/IEC standards since SC31 was launched in 1996.
FR (AFNOR)				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.		The GS1 General Specifications are available from any GS1 Member Organization. In some countries, the specifications are available publicly and anonymously, see for example http://www.gs1uk.org/standards/general_specs.asp . In other countries, the specifications are available upon request and indication of the requestor's intent. These different practices are determined by the local GS1 Member Organizations. GS1 will endeavor to make the GS1 General Specifications available publicly from www.gs1.org .

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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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.
ZA (SABS)				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 overriding 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		GS1 fully respects the ISO process and always makes sure to work in a constructive and collaborative way in the various SC31 working groups. GS1 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 GS1, through normative reference or otherwise.

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				<p>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</p>		

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				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.		
ES				Abstention due to the absence of national position		

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