3GPP TR 21.801 V16.3.0 (2022-09)

Technical Report

3rd Generation Partnership Project;

Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects;

Specification drafting rules

(Release 16)

** 

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# Foreword

This Technical Report has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Secretariat on behalf of the 3GPP Technical Specification Groups (TSGs).

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version x.y.z

where:

x the first digit:

1 presented to TSG for information;

2 presented to TSG for approval;

3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.

y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.

z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

The present document is based ISO/IEC Directives. Most clauses of the ISO/IEC document have been retained, while some clauses have been modified or deleted. Additional material has been inserted.

Items concerning word-processor specific layout and formatting matters when using the Microsoft Word for Windows based skeleton documents and templates are shown with shaded background. Boiler plate text (i.e. text which shall be directly used in 3GPP specifications) is represented by *italic* characters.

# 1 Scope

The present document specifies rules for the structure and drafting of documents intended to become a 3GPP Technical Specification or Technical Report. These rules are intended to ensure that such documents are drafted in as uniform a manner as is practicable, irrespective of the technical content.

The present document is based on the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3, but is a self-contained document that will be maintained as such.

These drafting rules complement the 3GPP Working Procedures.

# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non‑specific.

- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.

- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1] to [5] void

[6] 3GPP TS 21.801 Release 17: "Specification drafting rules".

# 3 to 7 Void

Annex A to J (informative):  
(void)

Annex K (informative):  
Change history

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Change history | | | | | | |
| TSG SA# | TDoc | Version | CR | <Phase> | New Version | Subject/Comment |
| 05-2000 |  |  | - |  | 0.0.0 | First draft, internal to MCC. |
| 06-2000 |  | 0.0.0 | - |  | 1.0.0 | Editorial clean up |
| SP-08 | SP-000278 | 1.0.0 | - |  | 1.0.1 | Presentation to SA#8 |
| SP-08 |  | 1.0.1 |  | Rel-4 | 4.0.0 | Approved (Rel-4) |
| SP-11 | SP-010193 | 4.0.0 | 001 | Rel-4 | 4.1.0 | Automatic numbering of references |
| SP-11 | SP-010213 | 4.0.0 | 002r1 | Rel-4 | 4.1.0 | Clarification on use of automatically numbered figures, tables, etc. |
| SP-13 | SP-010482 | 4.1.0 | 003 | Rel-4 | 4.2.0 | Corrections of invalid clause reference |
| SP-15 | SP-020105 | 4.2.0 | 004 | Rel-4 | 4.3.0 | Correction of invalid table number, annex H. |
| SP-16 |  | 4.3.0 |  | Rel-5 | 5.0.0 | Upgrade to Rel-5. |
|  |  | 5.0.0 |  | Rel-5 | 5.0.1 | 2002-07-19: Correct cover page. |
|  |  | 5.0.1 |  | Rel-5 | 5.0.2 | 2003-05-15: Correct cover page. |
| SP-23 |  | 5.0.2 |  | Rel-6 | 6.0.0 | Upgrade without change to Release 6 |
| SP-28 | SP-050401 | 6.0.0 | 009 | Rel-7 | 7.0.0 | The use of 'void' |
| SP-29 | SP-050535 | 7.0.0 | 013 | Rel-7 | 7.1.0 | Introduction of MS Visio |
| 014r1 | Specification of versions of permitted software packages |
| SP-30 | SP-050689 | 7.1.0 | 015 | Rel-7 | 7.2.0 | Inclusion of version identity for Visio |
| SP-34 | SP-060914 | 7.2.0 | 017 | Rel-7 | 7.3.0 | Alignment of section 6.6.4.2 and annex I in  respect of figure format. |
| SP-37 | SP-070527 | 7.3.0 | 018 | Rel-8 | 8.0.0 | Upgrade to Rel-8, allowing for more recent versions of application file formats |
| SP-39 | SP-080078 | 8.0.0 | 020 | Rel-8 | 8.1.0 | Correction of illegal text |
| 021 | Elimination of IPR provisions |
| SP-46 |  | 8.1.0 |  |  | 9.0.0 | Upgrade to Rel-9, no technical change |
| SP-48 | SP-100365 | 9.0.0 | 024r4 | Rel-10 | 10.0.0 | References to Figures and Tables |
| SP-100422 | 026r1 | Clarification on usage of "may", "may not", "can" and "cannot" |
| SP-49 | SP100655 | 10.0.0 | 028r3 | Rel-10 | 10.1.0 | Supported file formats |
| 029r3 | Rules on referencing unpublished documents |
| SP-100629 | 030 | Clarification on the use of References |
|  |  | 10.1.0 |  | Rel-10 | 10.1.1 | Editorial correction to previous meeting's entry in this history table. |
|  |  | 10.1.1 |  | Rel-10 | 10.1.2 | Editorial correction to table H.3 |
| SP-55 | SP-120112 | 10.1.2 | 031r1 | Rel-11 | 11.0.0 | Clarification on treatment of void clauses |
| SP-56 | SP-120317 | 11.0.0 | 033 | Rel-11 | 11.1.0 | Page breaks before annexes |
| SP-57 | SP-120610 | 11.1.0 | 034r1 | Rel-11 | 11.2.0 | TS and TR titles |
| SP-61 | SP-130365 | 11.2.0 | 035r1 | Rel-12 | 12.0.0 | Use of colour and other text decoration |
| 036 | Permissible file formats |
| SP-64 | SP-140201 | 12.0.0 | 037 | Rel-12 | 12.1.0 | Underlining |
| SP-65 | SP-140447 | 12.1.0 | 039 | Rel-12 | 12.2.0 | UML tool |
| SP-67 | SP-150115 | 12.2.0 | 040 | Rel-12 | 12.3.0 | On number stability and hanging paragraphs |
| SP-70 |  |  |  | Rel-13 | 13.0.0 | Upgrade without technical change |

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| **Change history** | | | | | | | |
| **Date** | **Meeting** | **TDoc** | **CR** | **Rev** | **Cat** | **Subject/Comment** | **New version** |
| 2016-09 | SA#73 | SP-160746 | 0043 | 1 | B | Precisions on how to void redundant clauses | 13.1.0 |
| 2016-12 | SA#74 | SP-160800 | 0044 |  | F | Disambiguation of terminilogy | 14.0.0 |
| 2017-06 | SA#76 | SP-170409 | 0046 |  | F | Updates to drafting rules on TTCN file formats | 14.1.0 |
| 2017-10 |  |  |  |  |  | Correction of spelling error | 14.1.1 |
| 2018-06 | SA#80 | SP-180466 | 0047 |  | B | Introduction of new drawing tool | 15.0.0 |
| 2018-09 | SA#81 | SP-180846 | 0049 |  | F | Allow specs in .docx format, forbid curly quotes, modify decimal point rules, allow automatic clause numbering during drafting | 15.1.0 |
| 2018-12 | SA#82 | SP-181246 | 0050 | 1 | B | Introduction of MathType | 16.0.0 |
| 2019-03 | SA#83 | SP-190025 | 0053 |  | F | Reduce use of the term "subclause" | 16.1.0 |
| 2019-03 | SA#83 | SP-190257 | 0052 | 1 | F | Clarifications on References, including copyright issues for referenced works no longer publicly available | 16.1.0 |
| 2019-03 | SA#83 | SP-190271 | 0054 | 2 | F | Minor restructuring as a result of more logical categorization of elements | 16.1.0 |
| 2019-09 | SA#85 | SP-190665 | 0055 |  | F | Correction of internal references | 16.2.0 |
| 2022-09 | SA#97e | SP-220751 | 0060 |  | F | Eliminate contents of Rel-16 and substitute with pointer to Rel-17 | 16.3.0 |