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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SGFS
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Title : Report of Task Group on Conformance testing
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SGFS N623

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During the SGFS June 1992 meeting a task group was (temporarily) formed to consider the conformance material submitted to the meeting (see SGFS N454 - agenda item 20). The Task Group analysed the input as follows:-

- * Two of the documents have been distributed for information only (N381, N528).
- * One document requests the preservation of the 2-character notation until such time that a stable alternative is available (N474)
- * One document reports an update of the S-liaison register (N541).
- * One input document describes the role of the SGFS with respect to Profile Test Specifications and asks guidance from National Bodies and Liaison Organizations for some issues relating to the (absence of) test specifications (N383).
- * The other contributions are National Body responses to these questions; in general the SGFS position taken in N383 is endorsed with the following remarks:
 - submitted PTSs should be harmonized;
 - if a PTS refers to an ATS which has not been available before, the review and ballot periods are too short;
 - if an ATS for the Base Standard exists in ISO/IEC, then the Review+Ballot process for the PTS is an appropriate process. However, if the ATS does not exist, it seems more appropriate to replace the Review by a National Body Ballot at SGFS level;
- * It was reported that (for OSI profiles) JTC1/SC21 is studying the situation where a PTS is based on an incomplete/absent Base Standard ATS.

The Task Group recommends as follows:

- * It is recognized that the SGFS will need to extend its Procedures to include the Review+Ballot of PTSs. Such activity should use the experience gained in the approval of test suites for Base Standards. The Authorized Subgroup meeting should draft a proposal for this extension and, at its discretion, include it in the next Procedures proposal, using SGFS N601 as a base.
- * The task group did not recognize the need for specific liaison statements at this time.
[editors remark: Note that the discussion in the SGFS-plenary gave rise to Resolutions 18 and 22 relating to testing (see SGFS N626)]