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AFNOR has reviewed ISO/IEC SGFS N100 Rev 4 and believes that this document is a very useful summary of Profiles/ISPs development.

However AFNOR wants to draw the attention of SGFS to a practice that, even if it may present some advantages, may lead to great confusion and to significant disagreements : The allocation of ISP number to a working draft, ie a document (to become an ISP) that has not yet reached the pDISP stage.

This would be similar, for base standards, to the allocation of an ISO standard number to either an NP (New Work Item Proposal) or a document at working draft stage. This is not common practice in ISO/IEC JTC1, and should not be done in ISPs development.

One reason may be that not all ISP Working Drafts will result in ISP publication, therefore leaving holes in the numbering system, or introducing confusion by reusing a number. This is especially true for ISPs, since the structure of an ISP allows it to include zero, one or more profiles and profile development may well lead to restructuration of the corresponding ISP(s).

Another reason is the confusion that results from using an ISP number to refer to a document that is not at pDISP, DISP or ISP stage. Since ISPs, during their development or after they have been approved, are of interest of a very large community (ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS, ISO/IEC JTC1/SCs, CCITT relevant SGs, S-Liaisons, and all bodies that will use ISPs, for example for public procurement), and considering that this large community does not always master the subtle differences in document appellation, nor is fully aware of the precise stage of development for each document, we should aim at keeping the ISP development easily understandable and in line with common ISO practice.

This means that a profile working draft should be referenced by its PROFILE IDENTIFIER only, until the document that defines it reaches pDISP stage, and therefore receives an ISP number. This would fit perfectly in table 1,2,3,4 of N100 Rev 4, where the profile status information is organized, in a very logical way, on a profile basis. The fact that for some profile, the "ISP and Part Number" column is empty would then mean that the profile definition has not yet reached pDISP stage. This is a very useful piece of information that is not currently available.

The tables in Clause 7 would then only list those ISP numbers for which a document really exists (ie at pDISP, DISP or ISP stage), which would again be a valuable piece of information. (Currently, when reviewing tables in Clause 7, nothing indicates that ISP11188 - taken as an example- does \*not\* exist, and this is very confusing).

AFNOR therefore urges SGFS (and ITTF) to not allocate ISP numbers to documents that have not yet reached pDISP stage.