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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SGFS
Title: ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Group on Functional Standardization
Secretariat: NNI (Netherlands)

Title : Liaison Statement on Standardization of Profile Test Specifications

Source : SGFS Authorized Subgroup Meeting, London, December 1992

Status : In accordance with Resolution 1 of the Authorized Subgroup Meeting of SGFS, 8 - 11 December 1992, this liaison statement is sent to JTC1/SC21/WG1, S-Liaisons, and National Bodies for comment. Comments received will be reviewed by SGFS at its meeting to be held in Seoul, 5 - 9 July 1993.

Note :

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SGFS has discussed the subject of Standardization of Profile Test Specifications at its Authorized Subgroup Meeting held 8 - 11 December 1992. It is our intent to modify our procedures document, SD-1 "Taxonomy Update, ISP Approval, & Maintenance Process" at our meeting scheduled for Seoul, 5 - 9 July 1993. We request comments on the following principles which are a result of our December meeting.

1) The role of SGFS in the PTS process:

The role of SGFS for PTSS is similar to the role the SGFS has for profiles:

- a) The SGFS will create an environment which allows for the submission of (preferably) harmonized draft PTSS as PDISPs, and their progression towards publication as ISPs.
- b) The SGFS will expand its Framework and Procedures documents to allow for the above responsibility, as well as for the update and maintenance of approved PTSS.
- c) The SGFS will rely on other parties
 - i) to generate and maintain the ATS definitions of the base standards, and
 - ii) to create the draft PTSS.

2) Assignment of Responsibilities

SGFS re-asserts that:

- a) Base standards groups have responsibility for standardizing Abstract Test Suites for base standards.
- b) SGFS has responsibility for standardizing Profile Test Specifications.
- c) If a PTS is submitted to SGFS which has no corresponding ATS, SGFS will suspend processing of the PTS until the ATS has progressed sufficiently. See also 4) below.

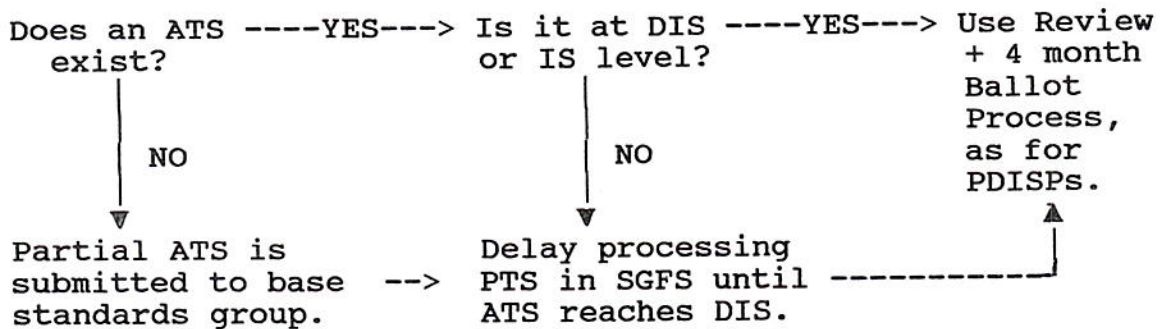
3) Standardization of "Partial ATSS"

SGFS foresees a definite need to standardize "partial ATSS",

that is, ATSS which correspond to a subset of the functionality of the base standard. Such a subset would correspond to the functionality of a profile. SGFS would like SC21/WG1 Conformance to confirm that this is permitted by ISO/IEC 9646.

4) PTS Approval Process within SGFS

SGFS expects to adopt a PTS approval process based on the following:



5) Method of Packaging Profile Testing Material

DIS 9646-6, Clause 10.5, describes two method of packaging profile testing material, depending on whether the profile specification document addresses one profile or multiple profiles.

SGFS would like to inform SC21/WG1 Conformance that the latter situation (as ISP documenting multiple profiles) is by far the normal occurrence, and that the parts of such an ISP are developed in an on-going manner over a period of time. (ISPs exist which have nearly 50 parts already planned.) We believe that intermingling parts related to testing within such a document may lead to confusion.

We therefore suggest that Clause 10.5 of 9646-6 be reworded to allow flexibility in packaging profile-related material. Specifically, we request that the possibility of creating a separate testing standard for profiles is explicitly mentioned. This approach of using a separate standard would align with the approach currently used for documenting test specifications for base standards.