

TITLE: Liaison Statement from JTC1/SGFS to ISO/IEC JTC1/SWG-CA on the recommended request from the SWG-CA for Action Plans and information on the implementation of JTC1 policy on Conformity Assessment and Interoperability (JTC1 N3826).

SOURCE: ISO/IEC JTC1/SGFS Plenary Meeting, June 17-19, 1996, Tokyo, Japan

SGFS has circulated document JTC1 N3826 (SGFS N1331) to its members National Bodies and S-liaisons and has considered its response to some of the issues raised in it. The profiling process which is the remit of SGFS is an important tool in the promotion of interoperability, since it identifies specific subsets of standards (and, in the future of PAS) answering a user requirement.

Firstly, SGFS does not define methodologies of its own for testing or formal descriptions, but applies the methodologies used in the definition of base standards composing the profiles it prepares.

Secondly, it is a view of the S-liaisons that the heavyweight, formal conformance testing attempted in the past has not met with a great market success, have been very expensive to prepare and are difficult to maintain. They have begun to move in the direction of preparing methodologies for lighter-weight *interoperability* testing and, when this is completed, will encourage its profile developers to concentrate on this approach. See SGFS N1334 (attached) for an EWOS contribution.

They have also expressed a strong requirement for *reference implementations* as a mechanism which complements profiles very effectively. They may, in future, prepare such implementations.

It is also relevant that SGFS expects to receive profiles making references to PASs in addition to formal standards and would encourage SWG-CA to take account of this in its planning.

Lastly, on the question of Formal Description Techniques, SGFS received the three attached documents from Korea (SGFS N1356, N1357, N1358) and considers them an important contribution to the ongoing discussions in SWG-CA.