

DIS 29500 Project Editor's Report: 2007-10-01

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1. Introduction

Comment Identifiers

Currently, my primary task is to produce a "Proposed Disposition of Comments" document for distribution on 2008-01-14. In order to do that, I need each comment submitted to have a unique identifying name, which I shall call its *comment ID*, so I can refer to specific comments in that document. And by my distributing a version of the submitted comments with comment IDs, we can all be sure we're talking about the same thing when discussing particular comments.

A comment ID has the form *MM-nnnn*, where *MM* is the ISO 3166 two-letter country code (or in the case of the DIS 29500 submitter, Ecma International, "ECMA"), and *nnnn* is a 4-digit number starting from 1 for each submitter, and having leading zeros. For example, Germany's 3rd comment is DE-0003, and France's 112th comment is FR-0112.

Each comment in the attached comment set files (see "Comments with IDs.zip") has a unique comment ID, written in Column 7, in bold 18-point type. I had originally planned on adding the "-nnnn" to the end of the MB code required for Column 1. However, I decided against this once I found that, as submitted, Column 1 sometimes contained more or other information, such as a suffix containing an MB comment number, the MB standards organization name, and sometimes Column 1 was empty.

The Comment Form

I am working on the assumption that comments on DIS 29500 (indeed, any DIS or FDIS) need to be submitted using a specific format, which I shall call the *ISO form*. This form is described in the attached document "ISO Comment Template (N3409).pdf". Here, I quote several extracts from that document:

"A commenting template had been introduced into ISO as part of the electronic balloting application in order to ensure that all comments on draft and final draft international standards (DIS and FDIS) were received in a structured form. Such a form is a pre-condition to subject the comments to further automated processing (merging them into one comment file and sorting them on the basis of the clause number to which they relate)."

As I am performing automated processing on the comment forms, I needed to make sure that all submissions either were in that form, or could be converted to that form.

"The TMB therefore decided at its meeting in April 2002 that all comments shall be submitted with the latest version of the commenting template (**version 2001-10**) and has authorized the Central Secretariat to reject a vote and accompanying comments if other versions of the template are used.

The Central Secretariat has decided to implement this decision and to reject votes and comments submitted in other versions than the latest template as of 1 July 2002."

Although most submissions were made using some version of the ISO form from 2001-10, more than a few were not. In those latter cases, I have converted them to the ISO form; however, a one-for-one transposition was not always possible. See §3 below for the details of each such transposition and an explanation as to why not everything that was submitted appears in the numbered comment lists.

At this time, I have not been notified by the Central Secretariat that any submitters' comments have been or will be rejected based on the requirements cited above. And unless that happens, I will assume that no comments have been rejected.

Comment Filenames

As I received them, the comments were in files each having a name of the form "J1N8726-*nn*.doc", where *nn* is a number between 01 and 48, inclusive. As far as I can tell, the numbers correspond to the alphabetical ordering by submitter organization name (as shown in the "Standards Body" column of the table in §2).

Unfortunately, this naming pattern is not meaningful. For example, there is no relation between file number 13 and Malaysia. (In fact, not only does the name of that file not indicate the MB, no MB codes are present inside it! So I hope my assumption that it is from Malaysia is correct.)

As such, I have adopted meaningful names for the corresponding files containing numbered comments. The new pattern is "*nn-MM-mmmm* Comments with IDs.doc", where *nn* is the same as existed for the original distribution, *MM* is the 2-letter MB code (or ECMA), and *mmmm* is the ISO 3166 country name (or "Ecma International"). Examples are "01-BR-Brazil Comments with IDs.doc", "22-TN-Tunisia Comments with IDs.doc", and "46-TR-Turkey Comments with IDs.doc". The reason I retained the *nn* from the original submissions in the most significant position is so that when two sorted folders or lists containing the original and numbered comment files, respectively, are compared, they are in the same order. For example, "J1N8726-01.doc" and "01-BR-Brazil Comments with IDs.doc" are for the same submitter as their first significant parts both begin with 01, and "J1N8726-33.doc" and "33-AT-Austria Comments with IDs.doc" are for the same submitter as their first significant parts both begin with 33.

Some Notes about the Comment Processing Technology

1. Each ISO form-full of comments was saved as an Office Open XML file, which was then loaded into a database as XML, with all text preserved as submitted (or as transposed by me).
2. The key to each comment is its comment ID, and the submitter code was deduced from the first part of that comment ID.
3. Proposed disposition responses will be entered into the database using WordprocessingML.
4. Any/all of the comments in the database can be mapped to SpreadsheetML, and viewed/updated as a spreadsheet. (See §4 below.)
5. The "Disposition of Comments" document will be produced automatically from the database as WordprocessingML.

2. Comment Submission Summary

In the following table, the number of comments submitted by each MB (and Ecma International) is shown, in alphabetical order of English MB name.

MB Code	MB Name	Comment Set	Standards Body	Number of Comments
AR	Argentina	24	IRAM	1
AU	Australia	35	SA	30
AT	Austria	33	ON	1
BE	Belgium	31	NBN	1
BR	Brazil	01	ABNT	64
BG	Bulgaria	05	BDS	3
CA	Canada	38	SCC	79
CL	Chile	21	INN	217
CN	China	37	SAC	1
CO	Colombia	18	ICONTEC	237
CZ	Czech Republic	09	CNI	75
DK	Denmark	12	DS	168
Ecma	Ecma International	14	Ecma	76
EC	Ecuador	20	INEN	1
FI	Finland	39	SFS	15
FR	France	03	AFNOR	592
DE	Germany	11	DIN	162
GH	Ghana	17	GSB	12
GR	Greece	15	ELOT	113
IN	India	06	BIS	82
IR	Iran , Islamic Republic of	25	ISIRI	58
IE	Ireland	32	NSAI	12
IL	Israel	40	SII	33
IT	Italy	47	UNI	2
JP	Japan	26	JISC	82
JO	Jordan	27	JISM	1
KE	Kenya	29	KEBS	81
KR	Korea, Republic of	28	KATS	25
MY	Malaysia	13	DSM	23
MT	Malta	30	MSA	5
MX	Mexico	10	DGN	7
NZ	New Zealand	43	SNZ	54
NO	Norway	41	SN	12
PE	Peru	19	INDECOPI	10
PH	Philippines	07	BPS	7
PL	Poland	34	PKN	4

MB Code	MB Name	Comment Set	Standards Body	Number of Comments
PT	Portugal	23	IPQ	118
SG	Singapore	44	SPRING SG	2
ZA	South Africa	36	SABS	17
ES	Spain	02	AENOR	1
CH	Switzerland	42	SNV	19
TH	Thailand	45	TISI	1
TN	Tunisia	22	INNORPI	3
TR	Turkey	46	TSE	1
GB	United Kingdom	08	BSI	635
UY	Uruguay	48	UNIT	18
US	USA	04	ANSI	288
VE	Venezuela	16	FONDONORMA	73
				3,522†

† This total includes many duplicates. The number of unique comments is about 1,030.

The comments from Jordan, Singapore, and Turkey were extracted by me from written submissions. (For details, see §3 below.)

3. Remarks on Each Submission

48 sets of comments were received, 47 of which were from MBs, and one was from the DIS 29500 submitter, Ecma International. Each of these sets is discussed below. The text following the country name is the name of the corresponding file that contains the numbered comments.

Authorized representatives of any MB wishing to contact me regarding my transformation of its comments may do so at rex@RexJaeschke.com. In such communications, please indicate your name, MB, and position with that MB.

Argentina (24-AR-Argentina)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed trailing empty rows from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Australia (35-AU-Australia)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. The comments were contained in two tables, one following the other. The two tables were merged into one.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Austria (33-AT-Austria)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Belgium (31-BE-Belgium)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Brazil (01-BR-Brazil)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the narrative that followed the end of the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Bulgaria (05-BG-Bulgaria)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using an IEC form. It was converted to the ISO comment form.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Canada (38-CA-Canada)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Some horizontal grid lines were missing from the table. These were restored.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Chile (21-CL-Chile)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Some horizontal grid lines were missing from the table. These were restored.
2. For 12 comments (CL-0040 through CL-0044, CL-0046 through CL-0049, and CL-0051 through CL-0053) text from Column 6 (Proposed change by the MB) somehow spilled over into Column 7. The text from Column 7 was moved to the end of the corresponding comment text in Column 6.
3. Comments CL-0041, CL-0046, and CL-0051 are duplicates. Although all three were given comment IDs, the second and third ones were marked as duplicates of CL-0041.
4. Comments CL-0042, CL-0047, and CL-0052 are duplicates. Although all three were given comment IDs, the second and third ones were marked as duplicates of CL-0042.
5. Comments CL-0043, CL-0048, and CL-0053 are duplicates. Although all three were given comment IDs, the second and third ones were marked as duplicates of CL-0043.
6. Comments CL-0044 and CL-0049 are duplicates. Although both were given comment IDs, the second one were marked as a duplicate of CL-0044.
7. Assigned an ID to each comment.

China (37-CN-China)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Colombia (18-CO-Colombia)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using a custom form. It was converted to the ISO comment form. In the process, the column containing what appears to be a sequential comment number was removed. However, this information is now available in Column 7 via the comment ID. The extra group "title" rows that spanned all columns were removed and their text added as a prefix to Column 2 for all comments in the group below each title row, thereby making each comment's part and clause number be completely qualified.
2. Comment CO-0074 was submitted in Spanish. This was translated to English.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Czech Republic (09-CZ-Czech Republic)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Denmark (12-DK-Denmark)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Ecma International (14-Ecma-Ecma International)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Ecuador (20-EC-Ecuador)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Finland (39-FI-Finland)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the cover page letter.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

France (03-FR-France)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the first three pages, which contained narrative proposing a new approach to the whole process. However, the technical comments referred to in clause 3 on page 3 were all retained.
2. Removed pages 118-122, "Annex – Suggested Factorization for Submitted Comments Analysis".
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Germany (11-DE-Germany)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Ghana (17-GH-Ghana)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using a different version of the comment form. It was converted to the ISO comment form.
2. A few comments had extra blank lines at the end of one or more column's text. These were removed.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Greece (15-GR-Greece)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the first two pages, which contained narrative containing a request to SC 34. Separately, the two specific issues mentioned are covered by comments in the pages that follow.
2. This was submitted using a non-standard form. It was converted to the ISO comment form.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

India (06-IN-India)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. At least one comment had extra blank lines at the end of one or more column's text. These were removed.

2. The blank line following the table was removed.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Iran, Islamic Republic of (25-IR-Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Some horizontal grid lines were missing from the table. These were restored.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Ireland (32-IE-Ireland)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Israel (40-IL-Israel)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Italy (47-IT-Italy)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Japan (26-JP-Japan)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. The custom heading on page 1 was replaced by the ISO form header used on all other pages.
2. The narrative regarding Japan's vote that preceded the comment table was removed.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Jordan (27-JO-Jordan)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. The submission consisted of six pages, containing a letter and several attachments. This information was turned into a single general comment.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Kenya (29-KE-Kenya)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using a custom form. It was converted to the ISO comment form.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Korea, Republic of (28-KR-Korea, Republic of)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using a customized version of the ISO form. It was converted to the standard ISO comment form.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Malaysia (13-MY-Malaysia)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Malta (30-MT-Malta)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty rows from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Mexico (10-MX-Mexico)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

New Zealand (43-NZ-New Zealand)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Norway (41-NO-Norway)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Peru (19-PE-Peru)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Philippines (07-PH-Philippines)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Poland (34-PL-Poland)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Portugal (23-PT-Portugal)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Singapore (44-SG-Singapore)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted as a 1-page letter, which was converted to the standard ISO comment form as two technical comments.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

South Africa (36-ZA-South Africa)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Spain (02-ES-Spain)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Removed the trailing empty row from the table.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Switzerland (42-CH-Switzerland)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. A number of comments were submitted in German. These were translated to English.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Thailand (45-TH-Thailand)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Tunisia (22-TN-Tunisia)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. All three comments were submitted in French. These were translated to English.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Turkey (46-TR-Turkey)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted as a 16-page report, which was converted to the standard ISO comment form as one general comment, taken from section 4, "Conclusion", of that report.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

United Kingdom (08-GB-United Kingdom)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. This was submitted using a customized version of the ISO comment form. The extra group "title" rows that spanned all columns were removed and their text added as a prefix to Column 2 for all comments in the group below each title row, thereby making each comment's part and clause number be completely qualified.
2. An extraneous page break mid-way through the table was removed.
3. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Uruguay (48-UY-Uruguay)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Some horizontal grid lines were missing from the table. These were restored.
2. Assigned an ID to each comment.

USA (04-US-USA)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

Venezuela (16-VE-Venezuela)

The following operations were performed on the comments list:

1. Assigned an ID to each comment.

4. Comments Spreadsheet

The attached file "All Comments.xls" is an Excel spreadsheet that contains all of the comments, one per row. This is provided for MB convenience as it allows rows to be sorted or filtered on various criteria.

For each comment,

- Column A contains the comment ID.
- Column B contains the 2-letter MB code (or "ECMA").
- Columns C, D, E, F, and G contain the text from columns 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively, of the corresponding ISO form.

5. Project Editor Web Page

I have been asked by the JTC 1 chair to provide a "Disposition of Comments" document by January 14, 2008, so MBs can review my proposed responses in preparation for the BRM. This document will contain written responses to all comments received.

Considering the large number of comments, it will be beneficial for MBs to get earlier access to some of this information. As such, using a project editor web page, I will provide partial and interim updates of this information on a regular basis, starting in mid-October. That way, MBs can start their review much earlier, and, therefore, have more time in which to do the review.

By mid-October, the address of this web page will be posted at <http://www.ecma-international.org/activities/index.html>. See the link shown under "Office Open XML Formats".

Authorized representatives of any MB wishing to contact me regarding my published proposed disposition of any comments may do so at rex@RexJaeschke.com. In such communications, please indicate your name, MB, and position with that MB.