

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)**

TITLE: TIA TR-41 Liaison Report  
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2013  
SUBMISSION DATE: November 11, 2013  
SOURCE\*: TR-41 Chair (Steve Whitesell)  
PURPOSE: Informative  
DISTRIBUTION TO: ACTA General Meeting

---

**ABSTRACT**

This liaison contribution summarizes the results of the TIA TR-41 meetings held the week of November 4-8, 2013. It also covers relevant information from the series of virtual meetings held the week of August 19-23, 2013.

---

**NOTICE**

This correspondence represents "working papers". Therefore, contents cannot be viewed as reflecting the corporate policies or the views of the Telecommunications Industry Association or of any company. The Association, the companies and individuals involved, take no responsibility in the applications of this document.

---

\* CONTACT: Steve Whitesell, Whitesell Consulting LLC, [swhitesell@ieee.org](mailto:swhitesell@ieee.org)



## TR-41 CORRESPONDENCE

Stephen R Whitesell  
Chair, TIA TR-41  
Whitesell Consulting LLC  
Email: [swhitesell@ieee.org](mailto:swhitesell@ieee.org)

Date: November 11, 2013

To: ACTA  
Subject: TR-41 Liaison Report

TIA's Engineering Committee TR-41, along with its various subcommittees and their working groups, met the week of November 4-8, 2013 at TIA Headquarters in Arlington, VA. They also held a series of virtual meetings the week of August 19-23, 2014. The next round of meetings will be the week of February 10-14, 2014 in Dallas, TX.

This liaison report is intended to provide a high level summary of the meetings and related follow-up information. It is intended more as a current status update rather than a report on the specific results from each of the two meetings. More details may be found in the individual Meeting Reports, which may be accessed from links on the TR-41 web page: <http://www.tiaonline.org/all-standards/committees/tr-41>.

Probably the most significant news item for ACTA concerns the status of TIA's petition for rulemaking requesting that our ANSI/TIA-4965 standard on Conversational Gain be adopted by reference into Part 68.317 of the Commission's Rules to replace the outdated requirements for receive volume control. The User Premises Equipment Division (UPED) held an ex parte meeting with members of the FCC Disability Rights Office (DRO) on October 25, 2014 to discuss the status of the petition and answer any questions that the DRO might have. We were happy to note that the public comment period and the reply comment period have ended with the record showing support from two stakeholder groups representing people with hearing loss and from the hearing aid industry. Most importantly, there was no opposition to the proposal.

Members of the FCC DRO also participated in our TR-41.3.14 Accessibility Working Group meeting on November 6 in which we discussed TR-41's long history of working accessibility issues dating back to our creation of the original 1983 EIA RS-504 standard on magnetic coupling that was adopted verbatim into Part 68.316 of the Rules. We also explored ways in which we might work more closely together going forward. In addition, we were able to announce that TR-41.9 had approved the TSB-31-D-2 addendum providing guidance on showing compliance with the

(This correspondence represents "working papers". Therefore, contents cannot be viewed as reflecting the corporate policies or the views of the Telecommunications Industry Association or of any company. The Association, the companies and individuals involved, take no responsibility in the applications of this document.)



Conversational Gain requirements for publication. TIA has since filed another ex parte concerning that meeting in which we urge the FCC to proceed with the rulemaking as soon as possible.

TR-41.9 has also agreed to open two new projects, one for a second amendment to ANSI/TIA-968-B and one for a third addendum to TSB-31-D. The 968-B amendment has to do with use of an acoustic stimulus signal when making out-of-band emissions measurements and in-band longitudinal signal measurements on equipment having a microphone for live voice input. Some may recall that a 1000 Hz tone was used for this purpose at one point in time but appears to have disappeared when the Part 68 and CS-03 requirements were harmonized a number of years ago. The proposal is to use a real voice test signal as specified in IEEE Std 269-2010 (and available for download via a link in that standard) as an acoustic stimulus when making these tests.

The TSB-31-D addendum will address test procedures corresponding to the amendment to 968-B. It will also address two additional issues raised by Industry Canada. One has to do with grounding requirements related to making longitudinal voltage measurements on devices with multiple interfaces. In particular the shield of a USB cable should not be considered an acceptable grounding means since that interface may not be connected under some usage conditions.

The second issue has to do with demonstration of compliance after the application of surges. Some labs have been reporting data showing compliance before surges and after completion of both Type-B and Type-A surges. The problem occurs when the Type-A surge causes the equipment to be permanently on-hook, which is allowed for the Type-A surge. However, if results are not reported after the Type B surges, there is no way of knowing if those surges might have caused a non-compliant condition.

In other news, the TR-41.3.5 Working Group has completed its work on five documents and approved submitting them for publication. Three of the documents are new standards related to the transmission performance of wideband analog telephones equipped with handsets (ANSI/TIA-470.112), speakerphones (470.122), and headsets (470.132). The two other documents are 470-series revisions. ANSI/TIA-470.210-E contains appropriate changes in its impedance requirements to accommodate wideband analog telephones. ANSI/TIA-470.110-D covers transmission performance for traditional narrowband analog telephones with handsets. Among the changes are the use of real speech test signals, addition of Conversational Gain as the volume control measure, specification of compliance with the ANSI/TIA-1083-A magnetic coupling standard, and tightening of several requirements.

Progress continues on the Draft ANSI/TIA-PN- 920.110-B transmission performance standard for both wideband and narrowband digital telephones. Corresponding 920.120-B and 920.130-B standards for digital speakerphones and headsets will follow. This effort is being undertaken in the TR-41.3.3 Working Group.

The TR-41.3.14 Working Group has kicked off a project to revise ANSI/TIA-1083-A to include wideband magnetic coupling requirements and allow the use of real speech test signals. It is also

(This correspondence represents "working papers". Therefore, contents cannot be viewed as reflecting the corporate policies or the views of the Telecommunications Industry Association or of any company. The Association, the companies and individuals involved, take no responsibility in the applications of this document.)



exploring the possibility of revising the ANSI/TIA-4953 high gain amplified telephone standard to add coverage for speakerphones, products with digital line interfaces, and perhaps high gain cell phones.

Subcommittee TR-41.7, Environmental and Safety Considerations, has voted to submit the draft ANSI/TIA-PN-571-C environmental considerations standard for ballot

Steve Whitesell was elected for another two-year term as TR-41 Chair during the recent November meeting.

Sincerely,

*Stephen R Whitesell*

---

Stephen R Whitesell  
Chair, TIA TR-41

(This correspondence represents "working papers". Therefore, contents cannot be viewed as reflecting the corporate policies or the views of the Telecommunications Industry Association or of any company. The Association, the companies and individuals involved, take no responsibility in the applications of this document.)



Annex A  
New Title and Scope for TR-41

- **TR-41 Performance and Accessibility for Communications Products**

Committee TR-41 develops and maintains voluntary standards for the performance and accessibility of communications products. The products addressed by these standards include telephones with handsets, headsets, and speakerphones, communications gateways, and other products that are typically installed at the user's premises. The products may connect to a communications network using digital and analog wireline or radio (e.g., Wi-Fi® or Bluetooth®) media. They may connect directly to the network or through another device (e.g. a USB headset connected through a computer).

TR-41's standards may include performance requirements for voice, video, and other features that are associated with communications services. They cover requirements for a product's performance related to signal transmission, environmental impacts, interfacing to networks and other equipment, accessibility, and usability.

TR-41 addresses issues pertaining to administrative aspects of regulatory product approval processes and develops criteria for preventing harm to the telephone network, which become mandatory when adopted by the Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA). TR-41 is a point of contact for expert technical opinions, advice, and actions for standards development for government agencies that deal with communications including the FCC. It also provides input to other organizations that develop and publish product safety standards.

(This correspondence represents "working papers". Therefore, contents cannot be viewed as reflecting the corporate policies or the views of the Telecommunications Industry Association or of any company. The Association, the companies and individuals involved, take no responsibility in the applications of this document.)