

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)

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ABSTRACT

This liaison contribution summarizes the results of TIA TR-41 meetings held during the weeks of November 17-20, 2014 in Tucson, AZ and February 9-12, 2015 in Savannah, GA. The next set of meetings is scheduled for May 11-14 in San Jose, CA and is being hosted by Cisco.

NOTICE

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Date: April 21, 2015

To: ACTA
Subject: TR-41 Liaison Report

Since its last liaison report to ACTA, TIA's Engineering Committee TR-41, along with its various subcommittees and their working groups, have met at the following times and locations:

Nov 17-20, 2014, Embassy Suites – Paloma, Tucson, AZ

Feb 9-12, 2015, Hilton Savannah DeSoto, Savannah, GA

Our scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2015 are as follows:

May 11-14, hosted by Cisco, San Jose, CA

Aug 4-7, hosted by Industry Canada, Kanata (Ottawa), ON

Nov 2-5, at TIA Headquarters, Arlington, VA

This liaison report provides a high level summary of the meetings and is intended more as a current status update rather than a report on the specific results from each of the 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>.

From a leadership viewpoint, Jason Nixon of Industry Canada has agreed to serve as Interim Chair of the TR-41.9 Subcommittee that deals with regulatory issues of interest to ACTA. He has not stood for full election as Chair because of uncertainty as to whether he will be able to attend all of our meetings. As noted in the previous liaison report, Steve Whitesell has indicated he will most likely not run for re-election as TR-41 Chair when his current two-year term ends in November.

We are still waiting for the FCC to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on TIA's petition 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standard on Conversational Gain be adopted by reference into Part 68.317 of the Commission's Rules to replace the outdated requirements for receive volume control.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 last time we checked with the FCC, we were informed that they were still working on this, but, frankly, we have no idea as to when it will happen.

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Amendment 2 to ANSI/TIA-968-B has been approved by TIA and adopted by ACTA. It requires the use of a real voice acoustic stimulus signal (specified in IEEE Std 269-2010 and available as a .wav file download from a link in that standard) 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 Industry Canada CS-03 requirements were harmonized a number of years ago.

Because test labs will need to obtain a copy of the IEEE document, set up a speaker for providing the acoustic stimulus signal, and modify their test procedures accordingly, TR-41.9 recommended allowing a 6-month transition period for implementing this new requirement. However, we failed to include that recommendation in the amendment itself, and it was not included in the Public Notice.

We have since become aware that the ACTA OP&P includes a statement (clause 10.2) that an SDO should provide transition time and mandatory compliance date information directly in the technical criteria it submits. This poses a bit of a problem since our understanding is that Industry Canada is making plans to discontinue its CS-03 document and simply reference our ANSI/TIA-968 instead. It would be better from TIA's viewpoint if we could submit the technical criteria document accompanied by a separate recommendation concerning transition times and mandatory compliance dates. ACTA could then include that information in its announcement of the 30-day review period for the new technical criteria and again in the Public Notice that is issued when the document is adopted. While it would make sense for both ACTA and IC to have the same transition period, allowing each entity to make its own decision on this matter is probably preferable.

The extended delay in releasing an NPRM on TIA's Conversational Gain petition has resulted in TR-41.9 withdrawing approval for a completed, but on hold, amendment to our TSB-31-D measurement guide describing test procedures for Conversational Gain. While we did not want to introduce that test procedure without the requirement being adopted into Part 68, the information included in the withdrawn amendment about the IEEE Std 269 real voice speech stimulus is essential to the test procedures for the new ANSI/TIA-968-B-2 amendment. So a new Amendment 2 to TSB-31-D covering those measurements has been approved and published. The text of the amendment on measuring Conversational Gain has been modified accordingly and is available whenever the FCC acts.

Contributions concerning appropriate grounding of equipment during testing and the possibility of adding G.FAST requirements to ANSI/TIA-968-B were discussed during the November 2014 meeting. There were no new developments on either for the latest meeting in February. An older item dealing with elimination of B-type ringing requirements was discussed, and a suggestion made that we request input from ATIS and ACTA on this issue. It was noted that only 20 Hz ringing was included when the T1.401 network interface standard (now ATIS-0600401.2006) was revised some 15 years ago (ANSI/TI.401-2000). Is there a real need for terminal equipment connected to the PSTN to support anything other than 20 Hz ringing?

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At the February meeting, TR-41.9 reviewed a contribution from Cisco on allowing e-labeling of equipment that has an integrated display screen. The FCC now allows e-labeling for RF-related labels, and IC allows it for both RF-related and CS-03 labels. Another contribution from IC dealt with the issue of devices having a label with an REN of 0.0. This implies that an infinite number of the devices can be connected to the telephone line. The proposal was to make 0.1 the minimum REN shown on the label. A decision was made to open a new project to revise TIA-168-B to address these two contributions.

In other news, TR-41 has seven documents with ballot close dates falling in April. The ANSI/TIA-PN-1083-B magnetic coupling and ANSI/TIA-PN-4953-A high gain amplified telephone initial ballots both closed on April 5. The 1083-B document adds wideband (100 Hz to 7000 Hz) magnetic coupling requirements and allows the use of real voice speech signals for testing. It had two negative votes and three sets of comments to resolve. The 4953 document adds requirements for speakerphones, telephones with digital network interfaces, and wideband transmission performance in addition to making a number of other changes. It had no negative votes, but there are three sets of comments to resolve.

The ANSI/TIA-PN-912-C voice gateway and ANSI/TIA-PN-1063-A analog terminal adapter interface requirements default ballots closed on April 9. Both documents add performance requirements for wideband transmission performance. There was a negative vote and comments on the 912-C document that will need to be resolved. The ANSI/TIA-PN-571-C environmental considerations re-ballot closed on April 16. Its scope is broadened to cover all types of communications equipment located on a customer's premises, with a corresponding broadening of the definition of what it means to "function normally" being more than the ability "to go on and off hook, dial, ring, and talk." Although the lightning surge specifications themselves were not changed, the revised document requires the ability to function normally after higher levels of several of the surge types. There was one negative vote and two sets of comments that will need to be resolved.

The ANSI/TIA-PN-920.000-B digital transmission performance overview document initial ballot closed on April 17 without any negative votes, but with one comment to be resolved. The ANSI/TIA-PN-920.110-B digital handset transmission performance document initial ANSI ballot will close on April 30. It combines the wideband digital handset transmission performance requirements that were in TIA-920.110-A with those for narrowband digital handset transmission performance that were in ANSI/TIA-810-B. Several changes have been made in the requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen R Whitesell
Chair, TIA TR-41

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