



ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7  
Software and System Engineering  
Secretariat: CANADA (SCC)

## ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7 /N2707R

2002-09-23, 10-19

<b>Document Type</b>	Comments
<b>Title</b>	Comments received - Request for comments on SC7 N2617, IEEE CS Liaison Proposal
<b>Source</b>	SC7 Member Bodies
<b>Project</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Reference</b>	SC7 N2617, N2655
<b>Action ID</b>	FYI or ACT
<b>Due Date</b>	
<b>Mailing Date</b>	2002-09-23, revised 10-19
<b>Distribution</b>	AG
<b>No. of Pages</b>	4
<b>Note</b>	Comments to be resolved by the BPG

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**Balloted document:** [ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 7 N2655 Comments on SC7 N2617, IEEE Computer Society Liaison Proposal](#)  
**Vote:** [Approve with comments.](#)

National Body ID	ID	Category (TH, TL, E, G)	Page	Paragraph, Figure, Table	Comment and rationale	Proposed alternative (if applicable)
USA	1	TL	Slide 12		This slide implies that any proposed new standards work of SC7 would first have to consider existing IEEE standards. Other standards bodies from other countries or industry groups may desire the same consideration, which may lead to analysis paralysis.	None suggested.
USA	2	TL	Slide 12	2nd bullet	This states that SC7 standards should be at a "higher level of abstraction" than IEEE standards. Where IEEE adopts SC7 standards, would this mean a necessary revision to the SC7 standard to remove detail?	Revise wording to state that SC7 standards <u>may</u> be at a higher level of abstraction than IEEE standards.
USA	3	G	All		Coordination of SC7 standards with IEEE standards could lead to unplanned revisions by both standards bodies. It could also lead to a race to publish first.	Suggest both bodies include statements in their standards that indicate compliance with specific versions of standards of the other organization.
USA	4	G	All		It is unclear whether this coordination with IEEE CS could lead to pricing competition between ISO and IEEE.	None suggested.
USA	5	TL	Slide 12		These principles of liaison are not part of the JTC1 directives and, thus, have no power of enforcement.	Suggest a documented procedure specifying these principles.

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AUS	1	G	General		Australia endorses and supports the principles of harmonisation of the two groups of standards, which form such a significant resource (separately and in combination) for the software engineering profession. The concerns noted need to be addressed in a formal and comprehensive agreement		
AUS	2	G	General		The issue of IEEE procedures for adoption of SC7 standards is not addressed here. They may be covered in existing procedures, but it would be useful for completeness to incorporate them here. The question of involvement of appropriate SC7 experts in the IEEE process in particular needs to be		
AUS	3	TH	General		The proposal does not address how progress can be made to ensure consistency of the existing IEEE Standards Collection with the ISO documents. Some long-standing IEEE standards are inconsistent to a significant degree with various ISO Standards; recent attempts to initiate revisions of these documents on the grounds of such inconsistency have failed, because of the inherent conservative approach of IEEE re-endorsement ballots. Some mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure positive		
AUS	4	G	General		A document of this form is adequate for the development and agreement of general principles; however a more comprehensive and formal procedure needs to be set down and agreed by both parties as the basis for an ongoing relationship. The comprehensive OMG procedures are a good example. It is suggested that this could be undertaken in conjunction with the pilot fast-track project.		

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AUS	5	TH	13	"SC7 standards should be at a higher level of abstraction than SESC standards. ..."	<p>This view is too extreme, and too poorly defined to be applicable. While the general principle is understandable, there are several significant issues.</p> <p>a. National Bodies will need to retain within SC7 the power to propose development of International Standards on any matter within the terms of reference of SC7. Providing the rules regarding participation can be met, the proposal would be carried forward.</p> <p>b. In general terms, SC7 has adopted a policy of concerning itself with specifying requirements for processes, rather than with product or resource related standards. It would be anticipated that this policy would be continued.</p> <p>c. We would not see that IEEE CS would not wish to surrender the authority to develop standards at any stage of abstraction.</p>	
AUS	6	G	13	ISO adoption implies loss of IEEE intellectual property rights. ISO adoption deprives the professionals who developed the standard of control of its evolution. Generally, only adoption as a full standard is an appropriate exchange for this loss.	Agreed. This implies that SC7 would not proceed with adoption of IEEE standards as Technical Reports.	
AUS	7	TL	13	Maintenance / revision of adopted documents should be accomplished through a coordinated process so both organizations have the same standard.	Agreed. It does not seem that this is any different from the general principles governing the relationship between ISO committees and other standards-developing liaison groups (e.g. OMG).	

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AUS	8	TH	14	<p>Thereafter, "Coordinated Adoption" for maintenance and revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o SC7 initiates revision project; IEEE provides WG chair or project editor.</li> <li>o IEEE initiates a revision project with same person as "official reporter."</li> <li>o SC7 CD/FCD balloting is synchronized with IEEE balloting. Comment resolution deals with comments from both sources.</li> </ul>	<p>The major issue with this is the appointment of personnel for the revision. A number of situations can be envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A SWG could be established within an existing WG, and an SWG Chair and Project Editor appointed.</li> <li>o The work item could be assigned to an existing WG. Here the WG Convenor is already appointed.</li> <li>o A new WG could be set up and assigned a program of work with the IEEE work item as its first concern.</li> </ul> <p>The scenario proposed seems to imply that the first of these options would always (or usually) apply, and that both Chair and Editor would be drawn from IEEE. This seems to be surrendering too much independence on the part of SC7; it is proposed that the position of Project Editor should be acceptable to IEEE, and that it should normally be the Chair of the IEEE Working Group. The position of Chair / Convenor should not be specified as part of the agreement.</p> <p>The joint resolution of comments should not cause any difficulties, providing scheduling is properly managed. Any Class A Liaison can</p>	
AUS	9	TH	14	Neither party approves standard until both reach consensus.	It is not clear how this would be achieved, or whether it is consistent with the ISO	
AUS	10	TH	General		The proposed "Coordinated Adoption" doesn't say anything about dispute resolution. As it stands IEEE can initiate a revision to a standard and simply keep ISO informed but if ISO initiates a revision IEEE must provide a chair or project editor. If IEEE don't particularly want the standard revised, all they have to do is stall. What is proposed	
AUS	11	G	23	WG9 has requested fast-track of 1540.	Noted. Australia endorses the appointment of Terry Rout as Chair of the SWG established to undertake this work.	