

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)

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ABSTRACT

This liaison contribution summarizes the results of the TIA TR-41 meetings hosted by Plantronics in Santa Cruz, CA the week of April 29, 2013 to May 3, 2013 and provides additional follow-up information stemming from those meetings.

NOTICE

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Date: July 25, 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 April 29 through May 3 in Santa Cruz, CA. The meeting was graciously hosted by Plantronics. The next round of meetings will be held as virtual web conferences the week of August 19-23, 2013. Some of the Working groups will also be holding virtual meetings the previous week.

This liaison report is intended to provide a high level summary of the meetings and related follow-up information that has occurred since that time. 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>.

TR-41 decided to change its name from "User Premises Telecommunications Requirements" to "Performance and Accessibility for Communications Products" as part of an effort to revitalize the committee by better identifying the type of work we wish to concentrate on and better relating to the type of participants we wish to attract. The scope statement for the committee's work has also been significantly updated (see Annex A).

A significant news item of major interest to ACTA is that the FCC has released a Public Notice for CG Docket No. 13-46 (DA 13-1601) dealing with TIA's petition to adopt the ANSI/TIA-4965 standard on Conversational Gain as the receive volume control measure cited in Part 68. Comments are due August 9 and reply comments are due September 19. We are hopeful that ACTA will file comments in support of the TIA petition.

Our TR-41.9 Technical and Administrative Regulatory Considerations Subcommittee has drafted text for an amendment to the TSB-31-D Part 68 Measurement Guide covering the Conversational Gain test procedures. That amendment should be going out for 30-day committee ballot in the next couple of weeks so that it will be available once the FCC acts on the petition.

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We are reaching out to the FCC Consumer & Government Affairs Bureau's Disability Rights Office (DRO), the U.S. Access Board, and the Department of Justice about the TR-41.3.14 Working Group activities concerning accessibility of products. It looks like we will be holding our November TR-41 meeting at TIA headquarters in Arlington, VA, and we are inviting representatives from each of these organizations to participate in our TR-41.3.14 meeting. A significant effort is being made to raise public awareness of our ANSI/TIA-4953 standard for high-gain amplified telephones and the logos available under license from TIA for identifying telephones that comply with this standard for meeting the needs of people with mild, moderate, or severe hearing loss. The next major TR-41.3.14 project is expected to be a revision of the 4953 standard to cover speakerphones, telephones with digital interfaces, and possibly cell phones.

The Subcommittee TR-41.3 work on standards for wideband analog telephones that may be used with Analog Terminal Adapters (ATAs) and Voice Gateways (VGs) to provide "high definition" VoIP voice services is coming to fruition. Draft ANSI/TIA-PN-470.112 on transmission requirements for wideband analog telephones with handsets will complete a default ballot on July 26. Initial ballots on the 470.132 headset standard and the revised 470.210-E impedance standard will close on July 29, and the 470.122 speakerphone initial ballot will close on August 9. All of these documents are products of the TR-41.3.5 Working Group.

Progress is being made on the Draft ANSI/TIA-PN- 920.110-B digital telephone handset standard that will cover the transmission performance of both wideband and narrowband 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.

TR-41.7, Environmental and Safety Considerations, is continuing its work on the revision of the ANSI/TIA-571-B standard on environmental performance requirements. As previously noted, the surge requirements are being modified by deleting the least severe surges and by changing basic functionality following the more severe surges from a "should" to a "shall". However, this is an area where we could definitely benefit from greater participation by potentially affected parties.

Concerns about the ongoing viability of TR-41.7 and TR-41.9 as separate subcommittees will be discussed at our August meeting. Attendance has significantly fallen off and we have not had an official chair for TR-41.9 for quite some time. With leadership elections coming up in November, we may need to consider combining them into one subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Stephen R Whitesell
Chair, TIA TR-41

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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.

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