

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 February 4-8, May 12-16, and August 18-22, all in 2014. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17-20, 2014 in Tucson, AZ.

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Date: October 17, 2014

To: ACTA
Subject: TR-41 Liaison Report

TIA's Engineering Committee TR-41, along with its various subcommittees and their working groups, have met at the following times and locations so far in 2014:

- Feb 10-14, Embassy Suites – Love Field, Dallas, TX
- May 12-16, Industry Canada Laboratory, Ottawa (Kanata), ON
- Aug 18-22, TIA Headquarters, Arlington, VA

The next round of meetings will be held November 17-20, 2014 at the Embassy Suites - Paloma in Tucson, AZ. We will be trying out a new format for this meeting with all Subcommittee and Working Group meetings held sequentially (no parallel sessions). We will also shorten the meeting to four days by dispensing with the Friday morning closing plenary and holding a Monday evening opening plenary instead.

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>.

Unfortunately, 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standard on Conversational Gain be adopted by reference into Part 68.317 of the Commission's Rules to replace the outdated requirements for receive volume control.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 public comment period on the petition itself (not an NPRM) closed just over a year ago 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. We have been assured by the Disability Rights Office (DRO) that they are working on the NPRM and hope to have it out "soon". We did receive a technical inquiry from Bill Hurst of the

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FCC in late July regarding the distortion requirements, which does give us hope that some progress is being made.

This extended delay in releasing an NPRM has created a quandary for TR-41.9 in terms of issuing some amendments to the TSB-31-D testing guidelines document. Amendment 2, describing the test procedures for Conversational Gain was approved through the balloting process in 2013 but has been on hold to avoid the confusion that would be created by releasing a test procedure for something that has not yet been adopted as a Part 68 requirement. In the meantime, Amendment 3 was drafted dealing with the sequence of environmental simulations, equipment states subject to test, and the use of a real voice speech signal input for measurements of out-of-band metallic and longitudinal signal power on equipment with acoustic inputs. However, it could not go forward because it relied on material such as the specification of the real speech test signal being added by Amendment 2.

To resolve this quandary, the authorization to publish TSB-31-D-2 has been withdrawn. The text that was drafted for Amendment 3 has been augmented with the necessary information on the real speech test signal and will be re-balloted as a new Amendment 2. The remaining text from the old Amendment 2 has been re-designated as a new Amendment 3 and will be re-balloted when the NPRM for ANSI/TIA-4965 is released. [The new Amendment 3 could become Amendment 4, 5, or N if enough time elapses and the need for additional amendments to TSB-31-D are identified.]

The new TSB-31-D-2 amendment is needed to support Amendment 2 to ANSI/TIA-968-B, which will specify the use of a real voice 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 ANSI/TIA-968-B-2 amendment has gone through balloting, but an error was discovered when preparing the document for publication submittal. The reference to the IEEE 269 standard defining the real speech test signal was identified as “informative” when it should have been “normative.” The document is being submitted to a default ballot to correct this error. It will then be submitted to ACTA for adoption once that has been completed.

An inquiry concerning the plating requirements for 6-pin and 8-pin modular connectors was received in the March time frame. It quoted text from notes in TIA-968-A and TIA-1096 and asked whether a gold flash over palladium-nickel plating system was acceptable. A response was provided pointing out the latest version of both standards and noting that the FCC had issued a Public Notice in 1995 announcing that AT&T had demonstrated “equivalence” of a palladium-nickel plating system. However, the response clearly stated that any such alternative plating systems being considered need to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Clause 5.2 of TIA-1096-A.

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In other news, the TR-41.3.3 digital transmission working group has about completed its efforts on a new ANSI/TIA-920.110-B transmission performance standard for both wideband and narrowband digital telephones with handsets. It will replace the existing TIA-920.110-A wideband standard and the ANSI/TIA-810-B narrowband standard. The draft document went through an internal committee ballot and will be submitted for ANSI ballot after changes to resolve the committee ballot comments are incorporated. Corresponding 920.120-B and 920.130-B standards for digital speakerphones and headsets will follow.

The TR-41.3.5 analog telephone working group is revising the ANSI/TIA-912-B voice gateway and the ANSI/TIA-1063 analog port terminal adapter standards to add wideband performance requirements to both. Work has also been completed on a revised alerter (ringer) acoustic output standard, ANSI/TIA-470.220-D, and it is ready to be submitted for publication.

The TR-41.3.14 accessibility working group is continuing its efforts to revise ANSI/TIA-1083-A to include wideband magnetic coupling requirements and allow the use of real speech test signals. It has also opened a project to revise the ANSI/TIA-4953 high gain amplified telephone standard to add requirements for sidetone, distortion at maximum volume control setting, and for products with digital line interfaces.

Subcommittee TR-41.7, Environmental and Safety Considerations, is working through comments received on its ballot of the draft ANSI/TIA-PN-571-C environmental considerations standard. Since the document is now intended to cover a broader range of products than telephones (e.g., set-top boxes), it was necessary to redefine “basic functionality” in broader terms than “going on and off hook, dialing, ringing, and talking.” The other major task still to be handled is related to EMC immunity requirements.

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 2015.

Sincerely,

Stephen R Whitesell
Chair, TIA TR-41

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