



Committee Correspondence

May 20, 2003

Jimmy Salinas
Chair
Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments
1200 G Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC, 20005

Subject: TIA comments on ACTA request for information on FIC/SOC codes

Mr. Salinas,

This letter is in response to the letter the Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA) submitted to TR41 on 22 April 2003 seeking recommendations on FIC/SOC codes, their usefulness, and their need to be retained in the ACTA database. The letter also asked about the potential overhaul and continued use of Equipment Codes. It was passed to Subcommittee TR41.11 and addressed during their meeting on 7 May 2003.

We are providing a separate response for each of the two questions asked by the ACTA. We have replicated your questions herein for clarity and provided our response immediately following each question.

Question 1) "The ACTA seeks input on the usefulness of retaining these codes, on approved terminal equipment listed in the ACTA database, for use by federal agencies, service providers, and consumers."

The TR41.11 opinion on perceived usefulness of retaining these codes in the ACTA database for each of the groups mentioned is:

- consumer, usefulness not that great since this information is in the customer instructions received with the product.
- federal agency (e.g. FCC or Customs), no usefulness that we know of. They are interested mainly in the connection between approval number and responsible party.
- service providers, useful to resolve compatibility and harms issues.

TR41.11 felt that FIC and SOC codes themselves do not need to be collected and retained in the ACTA database but that relevant interface information for each product is required to be collected and retained for service providers.

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TR41.11 also noted that FIC and SOC codes were traditionally not required for single and two line devices. However, single and two line devices are no longer used solely in loop start applications and knowing the interface information for these types of products would be useful. Also, it is important to note the FIC and SOC codes currently identified for use in the ACTA database have not kept pace with available interface technology.

Question 2) “Additionally, ACTA requests a recommendation regarding the potential overhaul of and/or the continued use of the “Equipment Codes” (Ref., Annex A of TIA’s TSB168 – Labeling Requirements) and/or replacement of Equipment Codes with FIC and SOC Coding, as the continued use of all codes is partially redundant and more descriptive codes could be used to replace those which are less descriptive.”

TR41.11 has addressed this issue and provided some Equipment Code consolidation in TSB-168-A, which will be submitted to the ACTA in the near future. We did agree that further consolidation could be done.

We hope that this information is useful to the ACTA. We are please to answer any further questions the Council may have.

Sincerely,

Stephen R Whitesell
Chair, TR-41

CC: Mr. Greg Slingerland, Chair TR41.11, Administrative
Regulatory Considerations.
Mr. Mike Fargano, Chair T1M1, Internetwork Operations,
Administration, Maintenance, and Provisioning
Ms. Stephanie Montgomery, Senior Manager, Standards
Development and Promotion, TIA

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