



INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

Technical Committee No 3: Documentation and Graphical Symbols

Sub-Committee 3C: Graphical Symbols for use on Equipment

Report from the Chairman of SC3C

Main results since the last meeting in Charlottenlund:

1 Publications

The first amendment to the new version of IEC 60417 is ready for publication. 72 new symbols will be added.

2 FDISs

Seven **FDISs** containing medical symbols were been approved for publication at the Maintenance Team and Advisory Group meeting in Treviso.

Central Office is requested to ensure that electronic voting on individual graphical symbols is possible for future FDISs and CDVs.

3 Committee Drafts

The results of voting on two **CDVs** containing three graphical symbols were considered at this meeting. Symbol 5775 Pr "Power source separator" was not approved. The technical committees with the need for this symbol (TC66 and TC74) will be informed.

5501 / 99 "Connection" was approved by national committees but SC3C considered that the title and description involved a change in meaning which did not include the original meaning "Call-back". This is an important breach of the principles for creating graphical symbols, i.e. that a symbol should have only one meaning. The symbol will therefore be put back to stage 0 and national committees informed.

Four **CDs** containing 21 symbols were considered. 15 of the symbols will be circulated as CDVs. However, the 6 symbols for tumble dryers will be referred back to the German national committee in view of the fact that representatives of TC59D clearly expressed their lack of support for the project.

4 New proposals

27 multimedia symbols proposed by the Japanese national committee have been accepted for work following the new procedure and will be circulated as CDs. A further 14 symbols already approved as new proposals by SC62A have been received and these will also be circulated as CDs.

Changes to the title and description of symbol 5216 "Suitable for live working" are being processed following the "fast procedure" in consultation with TC78. Further symbols for processing are expected from SC34D and TC96 following contact with these committees.

5 ISO/TC145 - IEC/SC3C JWG11 "Basic principles for the development and use of graphical symbols"

A report was received from the Convenor of the JWG11. The title of the joint working group was noted and the tasks reconfirmed as follows:

"To revise IEC 60416 (ISO 3461-1) and ISO 4196 and develop additional parts in order to publish a joint ISO/IEC standard comprising of:

Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols

Part 2: Form and use of arrows

Part 3: Guidelines for the application of graphical symbols

Part 4: Supplementary principles for the creation of graphical symbols for use on screens and displays (icons)"

Parts 1 and 2 are currently being circulated as CDVs and a working draft for Part 3 is in preparation.

6 Further comments

Procedure for processing graphical symbols for use on equipment

The new procedure has been approved by the Committee of Action (CA/1491A/RV). The comments on the procedure made by National Committees have been reviewed and will be taken into account as part of the general review of the procedure during the two year trial period.

The maintenance team described as part of this process is effectively SC3C. As the maintenance of IEC 60417 is a continuous process, it is inappropriate to submit a Maintenance Cycle Report (59/AC). SC3C requests TC3 to note the special circumstances concerning its maintenance activities. Should further action be necessary, eg. the formal appointment of a maintenance team, the advice of TC3 would be appreciated on how this should best be done.

The success of the new procedure depends on the close cooperation with the product committees at an early stage when symbols first appear in projects. The support of the Technical Officers for the product committees concerned is critical and Central Office is requested to ensure the necessary levels for awareness.

Electronic support and database for IEC 60417

SC3C is concerned that rapid progress should be made towards setting up an official database for IEC 60417. Also, the work of the advisory panel and the validation decision should be carried out electronically. This assumes a database and appropriate IT support from Central Office, eg. for a moderated discussion group to handle comments within the fast procedure.