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3(Montreal/Secretariat)13

**REPORT
2003-10-21**

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

Technical Committee No. 3 Information structures, documentation and graphical symbols

Report from the workshop of TC3 2003-10-16 in Montreal

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chairman of TC3, Mr. Brückner, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

The program of the workshop together with items of discussions was presented as a slide presentation. This is available as document 3(Montreal/Secretariat)12.

2 Presentation of Task Force results

The Secretary, Mr. Svensson presented the results of the Task Forces set up at the last meeting of TC3 in Prague.

2.1 Terminology in the databases

This Task Force had first worked together through the e-forum, and then made a final conclusion at the co-ordination meeting of the TC3 officers in April 2003. The result is available as documents 3/663/INF and 3/686/INF.

Regarding the implementation in IEC 60417 database Prof. Ikeda pointed out that there are some difficulties to implement part of the terminology since it is laid down in IEC 60416. This concerns esp. Identity number and Name. Also, agreement has been reached with ISO TC145 to set up a common database for IEC 60417 and ISO 7000. This might require a further harmonization, so he asked for time for the full implementation.

2.2 Marketing efforts

At the last meeting in Prague it was suggested that a CD should be prepared, describing the IEC standards for documentation. TC100 had made such a CD.

This idea was discussed at the co-ordination meeting in April, but was then rejected, since it was not clear exactly which group to address or what to do in order to get the CD in the hands of that group.

It had been suggested to let Documentation be one of the "IEC Zones" appearing on home page of IEC. This proposal had been met positively by IEC/CO, but has not yet been implemented.

The Chairman then informed that the day before the Workshop, he and the secretary had been informed by Mr. Brougham of the IEC/CO, that some changes in the marketing policy were being made:

- **Promotion → Communication:** Instead of spreading information widely to possibly interested parties, concentrate on specific ones, and communicate more intensively with them. This could be done e.g. through specific magazines. IEC/CO needs help from the TCs to depict such magazines.

- **Zones → TC (and subject) sites:** IEC/CO will provide the TCs with better tools for managing the TC sites, based on templates in order to get the same “look and feel”, and also simpler for the information providers to handle. The information on those sites was intended to be structured with regard to different target groups. From the TC we had emphasized that at least some sites need to be subject-oriented, since the TC structure is entirely unknown by normal users.
- **Working forum per TC:** The e-forum is being changed so that it can be easier handled by the TCs and limited
- **New slide presentation templates:** IEC/CO has developed a set of templates, with the same “corporate image” for use by the TCs. Document 3(Montreal/Secretariat)12 is applying it.

In the following discussion the following topics were discussed:

One specific area to address would be universities and students, e.g. by making relevant standards available at a lower price.

Prof. Ikeda mentioned that IEC plan to visit a number of universities to provide information during the coming year.

Regarding the magazines, the Chairman said that many of those are issued in other languages than English. Therefore it might be a need to involve also the NCs for **translation of the material provided by the CO.**

Mr. Thorn pointed out that magazines for machinery is one important channel for the TC3 standards.

TC3 has for a number of years had workshops, which tend to be internal for the TC. Sometimes, in the context of GMs, we have had the ambition to widen them, but normally without success, for the simple reason that people in the other TCs do not have the time required.

Therefore the idea was raised that the “TC officers workshop” could be used for this purpose. We realize that IEC/CO primarily wants these workshops to be used for bringing up general ideas in how to improve the standardization procedures, but one possibility would be to let **horizontal committees present their work to the other TC officers** during the time required for compiling the results of the break-out sessions (instead of a special keynote speaker, as in Montreal). One could e.g. use one hour to let four TCs make presentations.

Regarding the e-forum the need for a **signalling function**, with a mail, was emphasized. One cannot expect that people enters a forum every day to see if something has happened.

3 Database standards – organization of the work in the National Committees

3.1 Support of the Validation Team member(s)

Of those NCs that have appointed VT members were DK, DE, FI, FR, IT and JP represented at the workshop. Common to all those were that a kind of reference group has been organized to support their VT member(s). The VT member is redistributing evaluation and validation proposals to this reference group, compiling the comments and delivering the feedback.

DE – has one reference team

DK – has one reference team, the same is used for IEC 60417 and IEC 60617

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JP – has two teams as well. The team for IEC 60417 is a 12-member group, in which the members have different interest. The group has monthly meetings.

FR – Mr. Codet who is the FR member, direct the proposals to the relevant responsible within UTE that in turn contacts the responsible persons within relevant committees

FI – has two reference teams

IT – has just recently become a member of the VTs

The organization on National level has been formed in a fairly similar way, which could be of guidance for those who have not yet set up their teams. No negative experiences were expressed.

3.2 National language variants of the symbol standards

Mr. Thorn informed that DK will make a change of their National symbol standard next year and expressed a wish to be able to enter its language dependant information in the database.

DE will make a similar approach, and FI also would have a national language variant.

The Secretary mentioned that he had got information also from NO that the Norwegian symbol standard was to be revised, and that they also wanted to do this in the database.

In Europe this approach has become natural, as CENELEC has decided to let the current IEC database standard (for IEC 60617 and IEC 60417) also be the valid EN standards, in unchanged form, and that there is a “stand still” for European standardization in these areas.

There was then a discussion about the responsibility for the different language variants, and the conclusion was that (and this should be expressed clearly):

1. The database should be seen as a **tool for the management** of the IEC standard as well as of the language dependant texts for the National language variants for those who want to use it.
2. The database contains the valid IEC standard, but **it is only the English and French languages that are part of the IEC standard**, and entered under the responsibility of IEC.
3. **Other language dependant information** is entered under the responsibility of the relevant National Committee, and **is not part of the IEC standard**, even if it is contained in the same database.

The present National Committees expressed a strong preference for the solution to manage the National language variants directly in the same database as the IEC standard.

The national languages could then be entered at a very early stage, e.g. already in the context of the validation. The alternative: to make copies of the database for National use, was not favoured.

Mr. A. Maislisch said that IEC/CO requires a request from the first National Committee(s) that want to use the database for the storage of National language variants. There are no specific difficulties to prepare the (symbol) databases for this, but there is an amount of work that needs to be done, and for the planning of this work, a 6 months advance notice (before start of the expected usage) is required.

The database for IEC 61360 presents a special problem, in so far that the present information model and database design does not allow the management of multiple languages for the language dependant parts of the information.

This database has not yet formally replaced the printed publication IEC 61360-4, and the question was raised whether or not it is possible for this database, in English only, to become an EN standard, in the same way as IEC 60617 and IEC 60417.

4 Two years of experiences of the IEC 60617 database

The Chairman recalled that when the database for IEC 60617 was first released in July 2001, this was made based on decision from the SMB (CA at that time) to do this for a trial period of two years. This period has now elapsed, and we need to report to the SMB on the experiences that we have gained. In document 3/697/INF "Report on the status of the database IEC 60617 *Graphical symbols for diagrams*, and the implementation of the associated procedures" been asked to prepare for a discussion of the experiences.

4.1 The working process – the normal database procedure

Most NCs has organized their support of the VT members through a reference team, see the item above. It was pointed out that, depending on the subject, the VT member can nevertheless feel isolated in some cases. It was also pointed out that for symbols of general nature, the present response time is needed, and cannot be shortened.

4.2 The working process – the extended database procedure

On a question raised, it was stated that printouts from the database should be included in the circulated documents also for the future, since these documents are being sent to people who do not all have IECtech access to the database.

4.3 The user perspective

A possibility for a condensed printout was desired. It would be useful especially for National language variants. Mr. Maislisch said that it is not uncomplicated to create such printouts. The Secretary said that some of the classifying information might be reasonable to omit in such a case; however, the trickiest part is to find out how the application notes should be handled. It is difficult to find a way to print them in context.

Mr Nakamura asked if the "look and feel" could be improved. Clickable information on the left hand menu might be better shown as push buttons. (How to do this, is however also part of the entire "corporate image" of the IEC site.)

A quicker entry to the keywords were asked for, since the keywords lists are long; maybe a successive selection starting from the first letter of the first word, and then successive restriction of the number of alternatives.

4.4 Marketing perspective

Prof. Ikeda said that for IEC 60617 they in JP have met a demand for digital representations of the symbols for use in CAD systems. The Chairman said that we are aware of this and have been looking into this earlier but the discussions have always ended because of the amount of work involved and associated economical risk.

Mr. Thorn said that in DK they have the experience that customers still prefer printed variants, and especially in the National language.

Mr. Maislisch said that IEC has the experience that customers often make a subscription for three months and then do not extend it. The three months alternative might have been priced to low maybe should not even have been offered.

The Chairman made the conclusion that the experiences are generally good, and there is no need for any drastic changes, but adjustments and fine-tuning of the procedures are always possible.

5 Blank detail specifications

As the workshop was very close to lunch, Mr. Reuter made a very quick introduction of the subject: DE intends to define one or more NWIPs on the Blank detail specifications, i.e. basically product class bound templates containing the attributes to be used for the specification of the actual class. Additionally, also templates for the specification of the properties of environmental objects (rooms, buildings, ground areas for sites) will be dealt with.

These specifications can successively be implemented in XML definitions, e.g. downloadable from IEC.
