

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)

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### ABSTRACT

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TIA Engineering Committee TR-41, *User Premises Telecommunications Requirements*, addresses voluntary standards for telecommunications terminal equipment and systems, specifically those used for voice service, integrated voice and data service and Internet protocol (IP) applications. The work of TR-41 involves developing performance and interface criteria for equipment, systems and private networks, as well as the information necessary to ensure their proper interworking with each other, with public networks, with IP telephony infrastructures and with carrier-provided private-line services. TR-41 also provides input on product safety issues, identifying environmental considerations for user premises equipment, and addressing the administrative aspects of product approval processes. In addition, TR-41 develops criteria for preventing harm to the telephone network, which become mandatory when adopted by the Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA).

This contribution provides a summary of the TR-41 meeting held Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 2012, in San Antonio TX. The next meeting of TR-41 will be held June 4-June 8, 2012, at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine TX (Dallas area) and collocated with TIA Event 2012.

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## Summary of TIA TR41 Meeting held Feb. 27-Mar. 2 in San Antonio TX.

### TR-41 User Premises Telecommunications Requirements<sup>1</sup>

**1. New Committee Manager:** The TR-41 Chair, Steve Whitesell, officially welcomed Marianna Kramarikova to her first TR-41 meeting as TR-41's Standards Manager. The committee was glad to have the opportunity to finally meet her in person and looks forward to working with her in the future. Marianna expressed her pleasure at being the new Standards Manager for TR-41. She is also the standards manager for TR-8, TR-14, and TR-42.

**2. Future Direction of TR-41:**<sup>2</sup> TR-41 held discussions about the future direction of TR-41 and how TR-41 could create standards that would truly qualify a product as "good." Many of the existing TR-41 standards are necessary, but not sufficient, to qualify a product as "good." For example, the TR-41 voice transmission standards generally cover things like frequency response, loudness, and noise but do not get into other important areas such as voice switching, echo control, and step sizes for volume controls. In general, the future goals of TR-41 include more participants, more relevant standards, and industry recognition for TIA. TR-41 agreed to establish a Future Directions Task Group. Jim Bress (AST Technology Labs) will serve as Chair of the task group. The task group will define the scope of products covered by TR-41 and then develop a two-page questionnaire that TIA can use in conjunction with the TIA 2012 trade show to obtain information regarding the need for new standards.

**3. Next Meeting of TR-41:** The next meeting of TR-41 will be held June 4-June 8, 2012, at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine TX (Dallas area) and collocated with TIA Event 2012. Additional information is available at the TIA web site.<sup>3</sup>

### TR41.3 Analog and Digital Wirline Terminals<sup>4</sup>

**1. Handset Acoustic Performance Requirements for Analog Telephones:** At the November 2011 meeting, TR-41.3 approved sending the TIA-PN-470.110-D draft out for ballot after editorial cleanup, but that has not happened yet. The editor will have the draft standard ready for ballot in time for the ballot to close before the June 2012 TR41.3 meetings in Dallas.

**2. Telephone Answering Devices:** The ANSI/TIA-470.330-C has been approved and has been sent to TIA for publication.

**3. Transmission Requirements for Wideband Digital Wireline Telephones with Handsets:** The error in TIA-920.100-A has been corrected in an errata document. The errata has been approved and submitted to TIA and they have forwarded the document to HIS to be included with the TIA-920-110-A standard.

**4. Transmission Requirements for Wideband Digital Wireline Speakerphones:** At the November meeting, TR41.3 agreed to send TIA-920-120-A out for committee ballot. During pre-ballot editing, technical problems were discovered and significant work was needed to get the draft standard ready for ballot. The work was completed at the February meeting and TR41.3 agreed to send the draft standard out for a committee ballot. TR41.3 also approved an interim meeting for the purpose of ballot comment resolution. The target completion date is June, 2012.

**5. Transmission Requirements for Wideband Digital Wireline Telephones with Headsets, Addendum 1 (to become TIA-920.130-A-1):** The normalized RLR value for TCLw

measurement for binaural headsets was not included in the recently published TIA-920.130-A standard. A draft proposed addendum was prepared and approved for a ballot at the November, 2011, meeting. Due to the need for extensive editorial work, the draft addendum did not go out for a letter ballot as planned. At the February 2012 meeting, TR41.3 agreed that the editor would complete final edits and send the draft addendum to TIA for a committee ballot.

**6. Network Signaling Performance requirements for Analog Telephones:** The ballot to reaffirm ANSI/TIA-470.230-C) closed on Dec. 11, 2011. The ballot failed due to a lack of majority of the voting pool submitting ballots. Administrative steps will be taken to address the lack of a majority.

**7. Cordless Telephone Operation and Feature Performance Requirements:** The ballot to reaffirm ANSI/TIA-470.320-C) closed on Dec. 11, 2011. The ballot failed due to a lack of majority of the voting pool submitting ballots. Administrative steps will be taken to address the lack of a majority.

**8. Analog Telephone Port Requirements for Packet-based User Premises Terminal Equipment:** In August, TR-41.3 approved a project to revise ANSI/TIA-1063-2007. The justification for this project is currently being drafted and when it is completed the project will be opened. The new revision will be ANSI/TIA-1063-A. The target completion date is June, 2012.

**9. Acoustic Performance Requirements and Measurement Methods for High-Gain Amplified Telephones (to become ANSI/TIA-4953):** The ballot for this draft standard closed on Jan. 30, 2012, with the following results: 8 Approve, 2 Approve with Comments, 1 Not Approve, 2 Abstain, and 4 Ballots Not Returned. The working group reviewed the ballot comments at the February meeting and edited the document. All edits were deemed to be editorial in nature. The “no” vote from Plantronics was resolved and their representative agreed to change their vote to “approve”. TR41.3 agreed to send ANSI/TIA-PN-4953 to TIA for publication after a final editorial clean-up. Jim Bress (AST Technology Labs) plans to provide contributions in the future proposing to revise TIA-4953 to include digital interface telephones, telephones without tone control, and possibly mobile telephones.

**10. Receive Volume Control Requirements for Digital and Analog Wireline Terminals (to become ANSI/TIA-4965):** The ballot for this draft proposed standard closed after the February meeting on Mar. 10, 2012. Once the draft standard is approved, TR41 will propose the adoption of this standard by both the FCC and Industry Canada to replace their existing volume control requirements. The target completion date is June, 2012.

### **TR41.7 Environmental and Safety Considerations**<sup>5</sup>

**1. Ethernet First Mile Overvoltage Tests:** No contributions on this topic were received. The proponent of this work, Phil Havens (Littelfuse), clarified that the scope of this project was Ethernet on the network side of the demarcation point including cell sites, the central office environment and remote equipment on the network. Phil feels this work should be addressed by the ATIS STEP-NEP committee as that committee has more expertise in the network environment. Since TR41.7 expects no further contributions on this topic, it agreed to close the project.

**2. Surge Resistibility of Smart Grid Equipment:** The approved TIA-1194 standard, *Surge Resistibility of Smart Grid Equipment Connected to either DC or 120/240 V Single Phase AC and Metallic Communication Lines*, has been published.

**3. Hazard Based Standard for AV, IT and Communications Equipment:** UL62368-1 was published Feb. 17, 2012. The standard includes requirements for centralized dc power systems (Annex DVD), Overvoltage/Power Cross (Annex DVI) and the latest acoustic limit requirements developed by TR41.7 (Annex DVJ).

**4. Information Technology Equipment – Safety – Part 1: General Requirements:** UL60950-1 was published Dec. 19, 2011. The standard includes acoustic limits developed by TR41.7 (Annex NAD).

**5. Environmental and Safety Considerations:** TIA-571-B is up for a five year review in 2012. TR41.7 agreed to open a project to review and revise the standard. Items under consideration include the scope, vibration tests, surge tests, etc.

**6. National Electrical Code:** Work on the 2014 edition of the NFPA-70 standard is underway. Report on Proposals (ROP) meetings were held in Jan. 2012. Almost 300 proposals were reviewed by Panel 16 that is responsible for Chapter 8 dealing with communications. The report will be publically available in July. Public comments on panel actions in the ROP are due by October 17, 2012 and will be considered by the panels at the December code making panel meetings.

### **TR41.9 Technical and Administrative Regulatory Considerations** <sup>6</sup>

**1. Addendum to TIA-968-B:** The ballot for the draft proposed addendum to TIA-968-B closed on Feb. 11, 2012 with 10 approval votes, 2 abstentions, and 3 ballots not returned. No comments were received. TR41.9 approved sending the addendum to TIA for publication and to **forward the standard to ACTA for public review and adoption**. The addendum (TIA-968-B-1) updates several informative references and corrects errors in several tables and figures related to VDSL2.

**2. TR41 Part 68 FAQs:** The TR41.9 project to update the Part 68 FAQ list currently provided on the TIA website was completed at the February meeting. Several editorial changes were made, mostly updates of technical references, and a few technical changes were made as well. The final version was approved for posting on the TIA website.

**3. Addendum to TSB-31-D:** A project was approved to develop an addendum to TIA TSB-31-D to correct the HAC/VC test methods in Section 14. The addendum (to become TSB-31-D-1) was completed at the February meeting and will be sent out for ballot after a final review by the subcommittee.

**4. Project to develop conversational gain test methods.** TR41.3 is in the process of developing a new volume control standard (TIA-4965) that is based on the concept of conversational gain. The new standard will require corresponding test methods to be developed and added to TSB-31-D once TIA-4965 is published and adopted by the FCC. A project was approved to revise the volume control test methods in TSB-31-D to include conversational gain. Steve Whitesell (TR41 Chair) reported that UPED plans to meet with Karen Peltz-Strauss who is a longtime advocate for people with hearing disabilities and now Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau that houses the Disability Rights Office. TR41.9 would prefer that the FCC reference volume control requirements adopted by ACTA using the same privatized process like the other technical criteria formerly in Part 68, rather than including the new TIA-4965 standard in Part 68 as is presently done with the existing outdated volume control standards: ANSI/EIA-470-A-1987 and ANSI/EIA/TIA-579-1991. As an alternative, it would be acceptable for the FCC to reference the latest version of the TIA standard in their rules

as long as there are provisions included in the rules allowing updates to the rules to reference later versions of the standard without a rulemaking proceeding. TR41.9 also encourages TIA and UPED to make clear their position on grandfathering existing equipment and the effective date of any new standards to allow a transition period from the old standard to the new standard. TR41.9 would prefer that use of the new standard be acceptable immediately with the option to use the current requirements for 18 months. Previously registered terminal equipment would be grandfathered and not required to be retested under the new standard. Representatives from Industry Canada indicated that they would not require previously certified equipment to be resubmitted or retested.

**5. Standards due for 5-year ANSI review:** The TIA-1096-A (Connector standard) and TIA-168B (Labeling standard) are due for a five year review in 2013. The subcommittee was asked to review the standards for the June meeting and submit contributions for needed changes, if any. If no proposed changes are forthcoming, TR41.9 will move forward with reaffirmation of the standards. Projects will be opened at that time with the type of project depending on whether the document needs to be opened for revision or will be reaffirmed. TR41.9 agreed to *send liaison letters to ACTA and TR42 informing them of the five year review and requesting their assistance in encouraging parties who feel there is a need to revise either standard to bring their concerns and issues to TR41.9.*

**6. Incorrect Connector Data Sheets:** It was reported that the connector data sheets provided by a number of modular plug and jack manufacturers incorrectly reference compliance with Part 68, Subpart F of the FCC rules (which no longer exists) instead of ANSI/TIA-1096-A. TR41.9 approved sending a *liaison letter to ACTA requesting their assistance in informing connector manufacturers and the industry in general of the current standard for telecommunications connectors (ANSI/TIA-1096-A).*

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<sup>1</sup> TR41-12-03-003-TR-41 Meeting Report.doc

<sup>2</sup> TR41-12-03-010-M-New Project-for-TR41-Brainstorming-Session-Notes-2012-03-01.docx

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tiaonline.org/all-standards/committees/tr-41>

<sup>4</sup> TR41-12-03-005-MR1-TR41.3 Chairs Report.doc

<sup>5</sup> TR41-12-03-006-MR1-TR41.7 Chairs Report.doc

<sup>6</sup> TR41-12-03-007-MR1-TR41.9 Chairs Report.doc