



Question(s): N/A

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CONTRIBUTION**Source:** American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)**Title:** A.25 ambiguity regarding TDs and contributions**Purpose:** Action

Contact: Einar Bohlin Tel: +1.703.227.9867
Policy Analyst E-mail: ainarb@arin.net
Government Affairs and Public Policy
ARIN

Keywords: A.1; A.5; A.25; contributions; TDs; IPR**Abstract:** A.25 "provides generic procedures for incorporating (in whole or in part, with or without modification) the documents of other organizations in ITU-T Recommendations..." IPR must be properly considered in ITU output documents; it should not matter how the text was received. Annex A contains a proposed revision to A.25 to indicate A.25 covers both TDs and contributions.**Introduction**

There is confusion about how and when A.25 applies in practise.

A.25 is titled, "Generic procedures for incorporating text between ITU-T and other organizations". The scope indicates the following about ITU output, "This Recommendation provides generic procedures for incorporating (in whole or in part, with or without modification) the documents of other organizations in ITU-T Recommendations (or other ITU-T documents), and..."

In September 2017, ITU-T Study Group 20 began to work on 24 technical specifications from another standards development organization (oneM2M). The specifications were submitted by proxy as contributions. SG 20 has been incorporating the specifications into ITU-T Recommendations and Technical Reports.

As the specifications were being incorporated, it appeared that A.25 would have applied. However the specifications were submitted as contributions, and TSB informed SG 20 that A.25 did not apply to contributions, but rather Recommendation A.1 Clause 3.1.6 applies to all contributions (See [SG 20 TD 553](#) for more information on the collaboration between ITU and oneM2M). It's also worth noting that TSB and oneM2M have an agreement and have developed their own procedures for maintenance of the ITU-T recommendations and tech reports.

Discussion

ITU-T output (recommendations and technical reports) should properly consider IPR regardless of how the text is received.

1. Should A.25 apply to contributions? A.25 is ambiguous as far as contributions vs. TDs is concerned: Clause 6.1.2 appears to exclude contributions, but they are included in clause 6.2.3.

6.1.2 *These documents are not issued as contributions. As soon as they arrive they are made available, with the agreement of the study group chairman, and subject to the*

permission arrangements set out in clause 6.3 and to the copyright arrangements set out in clause 6.4, for advance consideration by the relevant group. Moreover, they are issued as a document to the relevant group with a reference to the originating organization, i.e. as a TD at a study group or working party meeting, or as a document at a rapporteur meeting. In the latter case, the receipt and disposition of the document received should be recorded in the report of the rapporteur meeting.

6.2 *Process for incorporation*

6.2.3 *Information is provided in a TD (or a contribution), as outlined in clauses 6.2.3.1 to 6.2.3.10.*

We propose an amendment to 6.1.2 to align with an A.25 that was intended to cover both TDs and contributions. If that was not the intent, then a similar mechanism to A.25 may be needed for text received from contributions.

2. The following text is in A.5 (the procedures for references):

The case of ITU-T accepting texts, in part or in whole, from another organization is addressed in [b-ITU-T A.25].

This pointer is confusing when it only applies to TDs; it may need additional guidance.

Proposal

TSAG should amend A.25 due to the ambiguity with regard to contributions and temporary documents that exists in Recommendation ITU-T A.25 and the subsequent potential IPR issues that may occur in ITU output documents. The amendment would ensure that any text from another standards development organization is incorporated in a manner that has no issues with the IPR.

Annex A contains a proposed revision to A.25 to indicate A.25 covers both TDs and contributions.

Annex A - Proposed Revisions to ITU-T A.25

6.1 Documents received from other organizations

6.1.1 An ITU-T study group may incorporate text (in whole or in part, with or without modification) from a draft or approved document from another organization in a draft ITU-T Recommendation (or in another ITU-T document) as explained in clauses 6.1.3 and 6.3.1. ITU-T study groups are strongly encouraged to incorporate approved text rather than draft text from other organizations.

6.1.2 These documents are preferably received as TDs, rather than contributions. As soon as they arrive they are made available, with the agreement of the study group chairman, and subject to the permission arrangements set out in clause 6.3 and to the copyright arrangements set out in clause 6.4, for advance consideration by the relevant group. Moreover, they are issued as a document to the relevant group with a reference to the originating organization, i.e., as a TD (or contribution) at a study group or working party meeting, or as a document at a rapporteur meeting. In the latter case, the receipt and disposition of the document received should be recorded in the report of the rapporteur meeting.
