3GPP/PCG Meeting#12
Saint Paul de Vence, France,
14 April 2004

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Source: **3GPP TSG-SA Chairman, Niels Peter Skov Andersen**

Title: **References in 3GPP specifications**

Agenda item: 4.1

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	**X**
Information	

Introduction

At 3GPP PCG #11 it was discussed if there is a need for clarification of the rules for referencing external documentation and specifications. The purpose of this document is to list a number of the most likely scenarios for references in the 3GPP Specifications.

References

Source of referenced material

References in 3GPP Specifications can be to different type of material published by different sources below is provided a list of potential type of sources for the referenced material.

1. 3GPP

2. SDO which is parent to 3GPP

3. Other SDOs, e.g., ITU, IEEE or regional SDOs

4. 3GPP MRP, e.g., GSMA

5. IETF

6. Open Fora, such as OMA, Liberty Alliance etc.

7. De Facto Standards

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8.   Other published specifications

Types of references

Generally references in the 3GPP specifications can be split into two main groups normative and informative references. However, these can again be sub divided into a number of subcategories as below (

1.   Normative - Complete specification of a functionality, e.g complete stage 2, Stage 3, and/or protocols, codecs etc,

2.   Normative - Specification of supporting functionality, e.g., transport network

3.   Normative – Specification of protocol elements, e.g., codepoints, cause values etc.

4.   Normative – Specification of specific formats to be or encoding hereof, e.g. MIME encoding

5.   Informative –

Todays situation

In the table below is provided an first attempt to identify the types of references which should cause no problem or questions using the existing guidelines. Please the content of the table and the comments have not yet been review by the 3GPP SDOs legal experts and can therefore only be considered as preliminary:

Type of reference / Source of reference	Normative Complete Functionality	Normative Supporting Functionality	Normative Specification of elements	Normative Formats and encoding	Informative
3GPP	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
SDO of 3GPP	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Other SDOs,	OK[1]	OK[1]	OK[1]	OK[1]	OK
3GPP MRP,	2	2	2	2	OK[3]
IETF	OK?[4]	OK?[4]	OK?[4]	OK?[4]	OK[3]
Open Fora	5	5	5	5	OK[3]

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De Facto Standards	6	6	6	6, 8	OK[3]
Other published specifications / Documentation	7	7	7	7	OK[3]

1. Assuming that we talk about recognized SDOs with a IPR policy similar to that of the 3GPP SDOs, (Fair and reasonable and also to non-members)

2. Seems that this needs to be evaluated individually for each of the MRPs

3. Assuming the relevant documentation is public available.

4. This is currently done in numerous cases, and thus it is assumed to be acceptable, however it was not possible to find any record of an official acceptance of this from the 3GPP SDOs

5. Seems that this needs to e evaluated individually for each Fora which specifications are referenced. Currently references to For a specification exist in several case. Examples of of Fora which specifications are referenced are OMA and Liberty Alliance, A review of the 3GPP specifications are required to identify all the relevant Fora.

6. This needs to be dealt with on a case per case basis. Often de facto standards are old industry standards not necessarily well documented or proprietary specifications. De facto standards risk to be a more frequent occurring case with the integration of the cellular and the computer industry. Can 3GPP ignore, e.g., a de facto standard codec with a lot of content available on the internet ?

7. This needs to be dealt with on a case per case basis.

8. With use of references to coding and transport formats, often the 3GPP specifications will have opened for the use of other codecs and formats than those discussed in 3GPP, including, e.g., de facto standards and proprietary codecs

Conclusion

Only in a few cases it seems possible to provide general guidance in the remaining cases it seems necessary perform a case per case study.

Suggestion: It is suggested that the SDOs review the above cases and in that in the meantime all the organizations referred to and potentially to be referred to in 3GPP specifications are identified. Next step would be to initiate the individual evaluation of each of the relevant bodys.

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