Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects *TSGS#10(00)0615*

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Meeting #10, Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 14 December 2000

Source:	**MCC**
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Title:	**Changes to stock text in the "References" clause of 3GPP specs**
Document for:	**approval**
Agenda Item:	**8.7**

1 Interpretation of non-specific references

All 3GPP specifications contain a clause providing a list of references to other documents. The 3GPP TS and TR skeleton documents (boiler-plates) carry the following text:

> The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.
>
> • References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
>
> • For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
>
> • For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies.

This text was originally taken from the standard ETSI boiler-plate, and does not recognize the "release" mechanism employed in 3GPP. By comparison, the GSM specifications contained an additional bullet point of the form:

> • For this Release 1998 document, references to GSM documents are for Release 1998 versions (version 7.x.y).

Of course, this text varied from release to release and had to be edited manually when a specification was upgraded from one release to the next.

It is proposed to introduce a similar concept into the 3GPP specifications by modifying the existing third bullet point as shown below:

> • For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document.*

This text overcomes the potential problem of interpretation: it avoids a non-specific reference **in** (for example) **a Release 1999 specification** being interpreted as being to a subsequent **Release 4** specification.

All TSGs are asked to agree to the new text, and to instruct the Support Team to include it in every 3GPP TS or TR which is being edited for the implementation of approved CRs (without the need for an explicit CR for each specification in which it is proposed to include the text).

A similar contribution will be made to TSG-GERAN at its next meeting.

2 Interpretation of references to GSM specs from Release 4 (and subsequent) specs

The modification above does not avoid a "null" reference from, say, a Release 4 specification to a specification which only exists in a Release 1999 version (because no changes are necessary for use of that document for Release 4

application, and the responsible TSG has not yet taken the decision to upgrade it to the next Release). The TSGs (and their WGs) have a duty to maintain the references in their specifications, and these should be regularly reviewed.

Delegates are reminded that, on the transfer of the GSM specifications from ETSI TC SMG to 3GPP, it was agreed that, for Release 4 onwards, a new numbering scheme would be employed:

- 40 is added to the first part of the specification number (before the point); and

- the second part of the specification number (after the point) is extended from two to three digits.

Thus the (hypothetical) GSM specification known up to and including Release 1999 as 02.14 would become, for its Release 4 incarnation, 42.014.

A problem arises in reference to GSM specifications made from 3GPP specifications – both from pure GSM and from 3G ones – pertaining to Release 4 (or a subsequent Release): what does a reference to 02.14 mean? Does it mean a reference to:

02.14 Release 1999 (or earlier, if no R99 document has been produced); or to

42.014 Release 4; or maybe to

22.014 Release 4 if this document exists as a common 2G-3G spec; or even to

22.114 Release 1999 or Release 4 if such a document exists?

(Of course, 42.014 and 22.014 cannot *both* exist, but *either* one or the other may; or *neither*! – in which case the reference is indeed to 02.14. Similarly, 22.014 and 22.114 are unlikely both to exist.)

Further, if such a reference is made in a document approved prior to the creation of 42.014 Rel-4, does its meaning change from 02.14 Release 1999 to 41.014 Release 4 when, eventually, that latter document is created? Logically, yes; but this may be far from obvious to the reader / system designer.

This emphasis the need for references to be rigorously reviewed and maintained.