

Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects  
Meeting #19, Birmingham, UK, 17-20 March 2003

**TSGS#19(03)0096**

**Source: SA WG3**

**Title: 2 CRs to 33.108: Coding of ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING (Rel-5, Rel-6)**

**Document for: Approval**

**Agenda Item: 7.3.3**

The following CRs were approved by SA WG3 meeting #27 and are hereby presented to TSG SA#19 for approval.

SA doc#	Spec	CR	R	Phase	Subject	Cat	Current Version	WI	SA WG3 doc#
SP-030096	33.108	007	-	Rel-5	Coding of ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING	F	5.2.0	SEC1-LI	S3-030094
SP-030096	33.108	008	-	Rel-6	Coding of ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING	A	6.0.0	SEC1-LI	S3-030095

<b>CHANGE REQUEST</b>		CR-Form-v7
#	<b>33.108 CR 007</b>	# rev <b>-</b> #
		Current version: <b>5.2.0</b> #

For **HELP** on using this form, see bottom of this page or look at the pop-up text over the # symbols.

**Proposed change affects:** UICC apps  ME  Radio Access Network  Core Network

<b>Title:</b>	# Coding of ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING		
<b>Source:</b>	# SA3 LI		
<b>Work item code:</b>	# SEC1-LI	<b>Date:</b>	# 20.02.2003
<b>Category:</b>	# <b>F</b>	<b>Release:</b>	# Rel-5
	Use <u>one</u> of the following categories:		Use <u>one</u> of the following releases:
	<b>F</b> (correction)	<b>R96</b> (Release 1996)	<b>2</b> (GSM Phase 2)
	<b>A</b> (corresponds to a correction in an earlier release)	<b>R97</b> (Release 1997)	
	<b>B</b> (addition of feature),	<b>R98</b> (Release 1998)	
	<b>C</b> (functional modification of feature)	<b>R99</b> (Release 1999)	
	<b>D</b> (editorial modification)	<b>Rel-4</b> (Release 4)	
	Detailed explanations of the above categories can be found in 3GPP <a href="#">TR 21.900</a> .	<b>Rel-5</b> (Release 5)	
		<b>Rel-6</b> (Release 6)	

**Reason for change:** # In the current text of TS 33.108, nowhere the ordering of the individual nibbles of each octet is specified. Usually, the ordering is such that the least significant nibble is put into bitposition 1-4 and the most significant nibble into bitposition 5-8, as it is e.g. the case for the representation of ASCII characters. However, in some standards, see e.g. the Calling Party Number in ISUP, which is referenced in TS 33.108, the order is such that the most significant nibbles (BCD coded digits of the E.164 number) are put into bitposition 1-4 and the least significant nibble is put into bitposition 5-8.

As we have seen implementations where the latter rule has been applied also for other ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING, we feel it necessary to insert a statement specifying the general rule into the introduction part of the ASN.1 description in Annex B of TS 33.108.

**Summary of change:** # In order to avoid divergent implementations, the ordering of the nibbles in each octet of the ASN.1 parameters of the type OCTET STRING should be specified.

**Consequences if not approved:** # Possibly divergent implementations

<b>Clauses affected:</b>	# Annex B		
<b>Other specs affected:</b>	#	#	
	#	#	Other core specifications
	#	#	Test specifications
	#	#	O&M Specifications
<b>Other comments:</b>	#		

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## 2 References

[29] [ITU-T Recommendation Q.763: "Formats and Codes of the ISDN User Part of Signalling System No. 7".](#)

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### B.1 Syntax definitions

The transferred information and messages are encoded to be binary compatible with [5] (Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1)) and [6] (Basic Encoding Rules (BER)).

These recommendations use precise definitions of the words *type*, *class*, *value*, and *parameter*. Those definitions are paraphrased below for clarity.

A *type*, in the context of the abstract syntax or transfer syntax, is a set of all possible values. For example, an INTEGER is a type for all negative and positive integers.

A *class*, in the context of the abstract syntax or transfer syntax, is a one of four possible domains for uniquely defining a type. The classes defined by ASN.1 and BER are: UNIVERSAL, APPLICATION, CONTEXT, and PRIVATE.

The UNIVERSAL class is reserved for international standards such as [5] and [6]. Most parameter type identifiers in the HI ROSE operations are encoded as CONTEXT specific class. Users of the protocol may extend the syntax with PRIVATE class parameters without conflict with the present document, but risk conflict with other users' extensions. APPLICATION class parameters are reserved for future extensions.

A *value* is a particular instance of a type. For example, five (5) is a possible value of the type INTEGER.

A *parameter* in the present document is a particular instance of the transfer syntax to transport a value consisting of a tag to identify the parameter type, a length to specify the number of octets in the value, and the value.

In the BER a *tag* (a particular type and class identifier) may either be a primitive or a constructor. A *primitive* is a pre-defined type (of class UNIVERSAL) and a *constructor* consists of other types (primitives or other constructors). A constructor type may either be IMPLICIT or EXPLICIT. An IMPLICIT type is encoded with the constructor identifier alone. Both ends of a communication must understand the underlying structure of the IMPLICIT types. EXPLICIT types are encoded with the identifiers of all the contained types. For example, an IMPLICIT Number of type INTEGER would be tagged only with the *Number* tag, where an EXPLICIT number of type INTEGER would have the *INTEGER* tag within the *Number* tag. The present document uses IMPLICIT tagging for more compact message encoding.

For the coding of the value part of each parameter the general rule is to use a widely use a standardized format when it exists (ISUP, DSS1, MAP, ...).

As a large part of the information exchanged between the user's may be transmitted within ISUP/DSS1 signalling, the using of the coding defined for this signalling guarantee the integrity of the information provided to the LEMF and the evolution of the interface. For example if new values are used within existing ISUP parameters, this new values shall be transmitted transparently toward the LEMF.

[For the ASN.1 parameters of the type 'OCTET STRING', the ordering of the individual halfoctets of each octet shall be such that the most significant nibble is put into bitposition 5 – 8 and the least significant nibble into bitposition 1 – 4. This general rule shall not apply when parameter formats are imported from other standards, e.g. an E.164 number coded according to ISUP \[29\]. In this case the ordering of the nibbles shall be according to that standard and not be changed.](#)

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## Annex E (informative): Bibliography

The following material, though not specifically referenced in the body of the present document (or not publicly available), gives supporting information.

1. ITU-T Recommendation X.25: "Interface between Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) and Data Circuit-terminating Equipment (DCE) for terminals operating in the packet mode and connected to public data networks by dedicated circuit".
2. EN 300 356-1 to -20: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Signalling System No.7; ISDN User Part (ISUP) version 3 for the international interface; Parts 1 to 20".
3. EN 300 403-1 (V1.2): "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. one (DSS1) protocol; Signalling network layer for circuit-mode basic call control; Part 1: Protocol specification [ITU-T Recommendation Q.931 (1993), modified]".
4. EN 300 061-1: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Subaddressing (SUB) supplementary service; Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. one (DSS1) protocol; Part 1: Protocol specification".
5. EN 300 097-1 including Amendment 1: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Connected Line Identification Presentation (COLP) supplementary service; Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. one (DSS1) protocol; Part 1: Protocol specification".
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15. ITU-T Recommendation Q.850: "Usage of cause and location in the Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. 1 and the Signalling System No. 7 ISDN User Part".
16. ITU-T Recommendation X.881: "Information technology - Remote Operations: OSI realizations - Remote Operations Service Element (ROSE) service definition".
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  20. EN 301 344, GSM 03.60: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); GPRS Service description stage 2".
  21. RFC-2228: "FTP Security Extensions", October 1997.
  - ~~22. ITU-T Recommendation Q.763: "Signalling System No.7 - ISDN User Part formats and codes".~~
  23. ETSI TR 101 876 "Telecommunications security; Lawful Interception (LI); Description of GPRS HI3".
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## CHANGE REQUEST

# **33.108 CR 008** # rev **-** # Current version: **6.0.0** #

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<b>Work item code:</b>	# SEC1-LI	<b>Date:</b>	# 20.02.2003
<b>Category:</b>	# <b>A</b>	<b>Release:</b>	# Rel-6
	Use <u>one</u> of the following categories:		Use <u>one</u> of the following releases:
	<b>F</b> (correction)		2 (GSM Phase 2)
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			Rel-5 (Release 5)
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<b>Other specs affected:</b>	#								
	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; text-align: center;">Y</td> <td style="width: 20px; text-align: center;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">#</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">#</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">#</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table> Other core specifications # Test specifications # O&M Specifications #	Y	N	#	X	#	X	#	X
Y	N								
#	X								
#	X								
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<b>Other comments:</b>	#								

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