
Source: MCC
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Title: Renumbering TSs 21.102, 21.103, ... and 41.102, 41.103, ...

Document for: decision

1 The status quo

When Release 99 was being developed (August 1999), it was agreed (in ETSI TC SMG, based on an original idea by WOME) to produce a Technical Specification 01.01 entitled “GSM Release 1999 Specifications” which would, amongst other things, provide a complete list of all TSs and TRs which composed the set required to build a Release 99 GSM network and mobiles. It was agreed that this was a Good Thing, and shortly afterwards, 3GPP decided to produce a similar document listing the 3rd Generation specs for R99. By analogy, this document was entitled “Release 1999 Specifications” and was numbered 21.101.

It was an obvious step to create equivalent documents for Release 4, but since the title of the original TSs included the Release identity, those for Rel-4 could not use the same numbers. (It has always been a premise of good standardization work that a document’s title remains constant from one edition to the next. Except in exceptional circumstances such as those to be outlined below!)

Thus the next numbers in the sequence were chosen, bearing in mind that the “GSM” spec numbering scheme had been changed from R99 to Rel-4 to produce a harmonized document [numbering scheme and version numbering system](#) for all TSs and TRs under the control of 3GPP. This resulted in 21.102 for “UMTS” and 41.102 for “GSM” or, more accurately, for systems using a UTRAN radio access network and a GERAN radio access network respectively.

By extension, the Rel-5 documents were 21.103 and 41.103. And it should come as no surprise that Rel-6 documents in the pipeline were intended to become 21.104 and 41.104. This is summarized in table 1.

Table 1: Release-dependent spec list TSs

Release	“GSM” spec list		“UMTS” spec list	
R99	01.01	GSM Release 1999 Specifications	21.101	Release 1999 Specifications
Rel-4	41.102	GSM Release 4 Specifications	21.102	Release 4 Specifications
Rel-5	41.103	GSM Release 5 Specifications	21.103	Release 5 Specifications
Rel-6	41.104	GSM Release 6 Specifications	21.104	Release 6 Specifications
etc	

Apart from what might be seen as a profligate waste of spec numbers, this system could have gone on for several more Releases. (At Rel-13 there would be a clash with TS numbers assigned for different purposes, the first such being 21.111, which number was allocated long before that for 21.101.)

2 How to upset the apple cart

This series of specifications eventually fell victim to its own success. At SA#19, MCC was tasked to produce similar lists of (GSM) specifications for the earlier Releases, as far back as Phase 1. These lists are readily produced from the [3GPP Specifications Status database](#).

For want of a better numbering scheme, it was decided to re-use the number TS 01.01 for the pre-R99 GSM lists. However, it would be necessary to change the (common) spec title to remove the reference to Release 1999. Since every 3GPP TS and TR title as rendered on its cover page is followed, on a line of its own, by the Release identity (see figure 1 for an example), removing the Release identity from the title proper causes no problem.



Note: The Release identity is arrowed if this document is viewed in page-layout view.

Figure 1: Typical 3GPP TS cover page, showing Release identity

A separate Change Request to TS 01.01 proposes to change its title to “Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a GERAN-based 3GPP system”. Not only does this remove the Release from the body of the title, but it also better reflects its contents.

The remainder of this contribution assumes that this CR will be – or has been – approved at TSG SA#20.

3 How to make a neater pile of apples

TS 01.01 now has versions – all bearing the same title – from Phase 1 right up to Release 99 (assuming that the CRs proposing to create the earlier versions are approved). Since TS 41.102 is the continuation of this spec into the new numbering scheme introduced in Rel-4, it would be logical that 41.102 bear the same title as 01.01. That is, 41.102’s title would also be Release-free.

Similarly, TS 41.103 is the continuation of 41.102 into Release 5, and 41.104 the continuation into Release 6. So these also should bear the same title.

If all these specifications have the same title, there is little justification for their having different numbers.

Thus **it is proposed**:

1. To change the title of TSs 41.102, 41.103, etc. to be the same as that of TS 01.01 (“Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a GERAN-based 3GPP system”).

2. To change the number of 41.102 (Rel-4) to 41.101 (Rel-4), to change the number of 41.103 (Rel-5) to 41.101 (Rel-5), etc.

And while we are at it, it would be logical to do a similar exercise with the 21.10x series, changing their title to a common, Release-free “Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a UTRAN-based 3GPP system” and to renumber all members of the series to the starting point of 21.101.

That is, **it is proposed**:

1. To change the title of TSs 21.101, 21.102, 21.103, etc, to be compatible with that of TS 01.01, i.e. to “Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a UTRAN-based 3GPP system”.
2. To change the number of 21.102 (Rel-4) to 21.101 (Rel-4), to change the number of 21.103 (Rel-5) to 21.101 (Rel-5), etc.

TSG SA is asked to agree to these proposals.

The result would be a much neater set of specifications shown in table 2.

Table 2: Revised, Release-independent spec list TSs

Release		“GSM” spec		“UMTS” spec
Ph 1	01.01	Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a GERAN-based 3GPP system		Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for a UTRAN-based 3GPP system
Ph 2	01.01			
R96	01.01			
R97	01.01			
R98	01.01			
R99	01.01		21.101	
Rel-4	41.101		21.101	
Rel-5	41.101		21.101	
Rel-6	41.101		21.101	
etc	

Finally, it is stressed that it is NOT proposed to effect this change using Change Requests, but rather simply to make a decision at TSG SA level. For each of the newly-created specs, the events leading up to its creation would be clearly shown in the “change history” annex. MCC undertakes to create the new documents as soon as TSG SA approves the proposal.