

U.S. Committee for Office Equipment Standards--INCITS W1

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Abstract

The InterNational Committee on Information Technology (INCITS) W1 subcommittee develops standards for office equipment -- scanners, printers, facsimile equipment, copiers and multi-function devices and consumables for this equipment. It serves in two capacities: as INCITS W1 (national standards) and as the US Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the International Standards Organization / International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) JTC1, Information Technology, Subcommittee 28 on Office Equipment (international standards). The Committee's activities focus on office equipment test standards (image reproduction), evaluation standards (image quality and longevity, office equipment & consumables quality and performance) and calibration techniques (perception-based metrics and optimization systems).

All current W1 projects are for directly developing international standards in cooperation with ISO/IEC JTC1/SC28. The projects in which W1 members are actively participating are:

- ISO/IEC NP 18050 "Print Quality Attributes for Machine-readable Digital Postal Marks." The development of this standard is at the CD (Committee Draft) stage and is actually being carried out by CEN, the European standards organization. On completion it will be converted to an ISO standard. The project editor is Dr. Claude Zeller of Pitney Bowes. zellerpb@earthlink.net
- ISO/IEC NP 19751 "Determination of Image Quality for Printer Systems." This is a multi-part project with broad scope. Several papers explaining the status of the work on this standard were given at the Rochester NY PICS conference in May of this year. The areas of work are: Text and Line Quality (edalal@crt.xerox.com), Macro Uniformity (rrasmussen@crt.xerox.com), Micro Uniformity (robert.zeman@kodak.com), Gloss and Uniformity (yee_ng@nexpress.com), Color Rendition (robert.cookingham@kodak.com), and effective resolution (nwb@boi.hp.com). The overall project editor is Eric Zeise of NexPress. Eric_Zeise@nexpress.com
- ISO/IEC NP 24700 "The Quality and Performance of Office Equipment That Contains Reused Components." This is a mature project at CD stage and should soon be ready to be presented for international ballot as a Draft

International Standard (DIS). The project editor is Anne Stocum of Xerox. anne.stocum@usa.xerox.com

- ISO/IEC NP 19752 "Method for the determination of toner cartridge yield for monochromatic electrophotographic printers and multi-function devices that may contain printer components." This standard is near completion. The FDIS (Final Draft International Standard) international ballot is expected to be held starting in the fall of this year. The project editor is Paul Jeran of Hewlett-Packard. paul.jeran@hp.com
- ISO/IEC NP 19753 "Method for the Measurement of Banding"-- Addendum to ISO/IEC 13660. Banding is defined as objectionable regions of varying color or optical density within an area that should be homogeneous or should have a smooth gradient. The method is to be a fast deterministic computer based measurement system (but will be well correlated with human perception). The method is intended for measuring office equipment printed or copied output. This project is in a very early stage--determining goals and forming a working group. The project editor is Paul R. Spencer of Spencer Services and Design. paul-spencer@pullman.com
- ISO/IEC NP 19799 "Method of Measuring Gloss Uniformity for Printed Pages." Initial research has been done, and work has been started on an initial committee draft of the standard. The project editor is Yee Ng of NexPress. Yee_Ng@nexpress.com
- ISO/IEC NP 19798 "Method for the determination of toner cartridge yield for color electrophotographic printer and multifunction devices that may contain printer components". This project is in the formative stages with little work going on because the people working on it are busy with the monochrome cartridge yield standard (NP 19752 above). The project editors are Paul Jeran of Hewlett-Packard and David Spencer of Spencer Labs. paul.jeran@hp.com david@spencer.com

The members of NCITS W1 are U.S. companies and U.S. subsidiaries of foreign corporations manufacturing office equipment and consumables for that equipment.

Anyone interested in starting or participating in standards projects for office equipment is welcome to join W1. The committee has one face-to-face meeting a year lasting 1 1/2 days, usually in Washington D.C. In addition

here are approximately eight 90-minute telephone conference meetings each year. Because most of W1 standards development is done to develop international standards directly, many W1 members also participate in the yearly plenary meeting of the ISO/IEC JTC1/SC28 (the international office equipment standards committee). The actual standards work is done by email or phone collaboration.

In addition to the advantage of having influence by helping write standards affecting office equipment, committee members know the essence of emerging national and international standards in draft form long before final issuance as an official standard. This enables a company to prepare for the standard and even design and build a company "response" into products before a standard is issued, rather than reacting to the standard when it becomes public. Because standards development is a consensus process, a single company can have a large influence on the content of standards. Individuals participating in committee

work have the advantages of meeting and working with technical experts from other companies in both the U.S. and other countries who are working on many the same problems.

In order to find out more information about standards development activities at international and national levels, please visit the following sites on the world wide web.

ISO:	http://www.iso.ch
IEC:	http://www.iec.ch
JTC1/SC28:	http://www.jbmia.or.jp/sc28/
NCITS:	http://www.incits.org
W1:	http://www.incits.org/tc_home/w1.htm

If you need more information regarding the NCITS W1 subcommittee or are interested in becoming a member, please contact the W1 chairman, Paul Spencer: paul-spencer@pullman.com 509-332-6699