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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | TSAG-TD675 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | RG-WM | Geneva, 29 July – 2 August 2024 |
| **TD** |
| **Source:** | Rapporteur, TSAG Rapporteur group on working methods |
| **Title:** | LS/o to all study groups about the use of specific editions (with a date of approval) for normative references in clause 2 of ITU-T Recommendations |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** |
| **For action to:** | – |
| **For information to:** | All ITU-T study groups |
| **Approval:** | TSAG, 2 August 2024 |
| **Deadline:** | N/A |
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| **Abstract:** | This liaison statement informs study groups about the recommended use of specific editions (with a date of approval) for normative references in clause 2 of ITU-T Recommendations (instead of using the term "in force"). |

TSAG was asked (see [TSAG-TD626R2](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240729-TD-GEN-0626/en)) to clarify if normative references could use the term "(in force)" instead of their publication date in clause 2 of ITU-T Recommendations.

Considering that:

* most study groups prefer to stay with the current (date of approval) approach;
* the current approach already covers the "(YYYY or later edition)" approach because the [Author's guide for drafting ITU-T Recommendations](https://www.itu.int/oth/T0A0F000004/en) encourages users of the Recommendation "*to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed*";
* the "(in force)" approach could break cross-references or create technical incompatibility if a referenced standard evolves whereas the date approach informs implementers that the Recommendation was compatible with the referenced standards at the time of publication;

**TSAG recommends** to continue using the current (date of approval) approach as specified in the [Author's guide for drafting ITU-T Recommendations](https://www.itu.int/oth/T0A0F000004/en).

In the exceptional cases, e.g. of a common text with ISO/IEC JTC 1 (see [Recommendation ITU‑T A.23](https://itu.int/ITU-T/A.23), Annex A) or an incorporation of text from another standards development organization (see [Recommendation ITU-T A.25](https://itu.int/ITU-T/A.23)), and if there is a strong and justified need to reflect current practice in the originating SDO, **TSAG agrees** that the "(in force)" approach could be tolerated. In this case, the need should be documented in the meeting report of the Question for further approval by the study group or working party, as appropriate.

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