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| Title: ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | | TSAG-TD616 |
| TSAG |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | | N/A | | Geneva, 29 July - 2 August 2024 |
| **TD (Ref.:** [SG16-LS210](http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/ls/sp17-sg16-oLS-00210.docx)**)** | | | | |
| **Source:** | | ITU-T SG16 | | |
| **Title:** | | LS/r on using the term "In force" instead of indicating the actual date of Approval of the Recommendations in clause 2 references (SG2-LS103) [from ITU-T SG16] | | |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** | | | | |
| **For action to:** | | | TSAG | |
| **For information to:** | | | ITU-T SG2, SG3, SG5, SG9, SG11, SG12, SG13, SG15, SG17, SG20 | |
| **Approval:** | | | ITU-T SG16 management (by correspondence, 05 July 2024) | |
| **Deadline:** | | | Ongoing | |
| **Contact:** | | | Noah Luo Huawei Technologies China | Tel: +86 (755) 2878 0808 E-mail: [noahluozz@gmail.com](mailto:noahluozz@gmail.com) |

This liaison statement answers [SG2-LS103](https://www.itu.int/ifa/t/2022/ls/sg2/sp17-sg2-oLS-00103.zip).

A new liaison statement has been received from SG16.

This liaison statement follows and the original file can be downloaded from the ITU ftp server at <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/ls/sp17-sg16-oLS-00210.docx>.

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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | | | **SG16-LS210** | |
| **STUDY GROUP 16** | |
| **Original: English** | |
| **Question(s):** | | All/16 | | | 5 July 2024 | |
| **LS** | | | | | | |
| **Source:** | | ITU-T SG16 | | | | |
| **Title:** | | LS/r on using the term "In force" instead of indicating the actual date of Approval of the Recommendations in clause 2 references (SG2-LS103) [to TSAG] | | | | |
| **LIAISON STATEMENT** | | | | | | |
| **For action to:** | | | | TSAG | | |
| **For information to:** | | | | ITU-T SG2 and all other ITU-T SGs | | |
| **Approval:** | | | | ITU-T SG16 management (by correspondence, 05 July 2024) | | |
| **Deadline:** | | | | Ongoing | | |
| **Contact:** | | | Noah Luo Huawei Technologies China | | | Tel: +86 (755) 2878 0808 E-mail: [noahluozz@gmail.com](mailto:noahluozz@gmail.com) |

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| **Abstract:** | This reply LS provides the perspective of the SG16 management regarding the use of the term “in force” in place of an actual Approval date for normative references to ITU-T Recommendations. |

ITU-T SG16 would like to reply to the LS in [SG2-LS103](https://www.itu.int/ifa/t/2022/ls/sg2/sp17-sg2-oLS-00103.zip), that requests input from the ITU-T SGs with views and previous practice regarding the use of “In force” instead of indicating the actual date of Approval in Recommendations it has developed.

Of the large collection of currently in-force Recommendations developed by SG16, there are only 38 texts that used the "in force" approach instead of using the actual date of a reference. Most texts following this approach were developed collaboratively with ISO/IEC (video and image compression standards) or Recommendations of the Continua Design Guidelines suite, and reflect practice in the originating SDOs. In many cases, the generic reference is justified to minimize the need for text maintenance when a reference is to a general concept or approach, and details of its application or implementation do not impact the Recommendation; for example, that Unicode (ISO/IEC 10646) should be used, irrespective of possible future extension of the existing version.

In terms of general approach, SG16 supports the current practice of defining a specific date of approval or publication for a referenced text, so that specific clause references could always be resolved by readers of the Recommendation. When the "in force" approach is used, future editions of a standard could have clause renumbering or suppression and make it difficult for readers of the Recommendation to identify the correct clauses or provisions in the referenced text. In order to facilitate such identification in future cases, when an "in force" type of reference would be useful, we would suggest that the date of the relevant reference at the time the Recommendation is issued be included, with an indication, for the applicable references, that future editions would be applicable. The following formulations illustrate the idea:

[ITU-T T.35] Recommendation ITU-T T.35 (2000 or in force), *Procedure for the allocation of ITU-T defined codes for non-standard facilities*.

Or, alternatively:

[ITU-T T.35] Recommendation ITU-T T.35 (2000\*), *Procedure for the allocation of ITU-T defined codes for non-standard facilities*.

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\* The indicated edition or a more recent edition in force.

ITU-T SG16 looks forward to fruitful discussions on the matter.

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