



ISO/TC 197
Hydrogen technologies

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Letter regarding 19884

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Background: Please find a ttached a letter from Dr. Andrei V. Tchouvelev, chair of ISO TC 197, regarding the failed FDIS Ballot for document 19884.

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Date	2019-08-01
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Subject: ISO FDIS 19884 Disapproved – Next Steps and Path Forward

Announcement to ISO/TC 197 Members

Dear All:

I believe all of you are aware of the recent disapproval of ISO FDIS 19884; nevertheless the voting results are attached here for convenience. In the past few days we've been in communications with Andy Dryden, our ISO Program Manager, to determine our next and immediate steps, as well as to consider our options for the future. This announcement follows his guidance.

For information, this FDIS disapproval happened for the first time in TC197 history (since 1990). Also, according to Mr. Dryden, in his memory it is the first time in 8+ years when he has seen *"a CEN approval and an ISO disapproval."* Meaning, it failed at ISO level, but passed at CEN level. These two facts make this case quite rare, if not extraordinary for us.

As you may be aware, ISO Directives recommend publishing a lesser deliverable such as a TS in the case of FDIS failure. However, this option is unavailable for us at this time. As Mr. Dryden advised, *"we are past the absolute maximum timeframe for this project and it is now subject to cancellation at the end of the month, so there's not really any time to finish this all in just a couple weeks."*

In view of the above, quoting Mr. Dryden, *"TC197 would need to decide quickly if you want to let CEN go and finish the document and publish on their side"*. In this regard, since we don't have time even for reasonably brief CIB, 3-4 weeks (considering the time of the year) to gather views of the P-members, I suggested using the FDIS vote results for this purpose. Clearly, although FDIS did not pass ISO publication criteria, the majority of TC197 P-members voting were in favour of the standard publication. Hence, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of P-members voting would agree to give CEN a go-ahead for an independent publication. I consulted with our TAB members and Mr. Dryden, and we had a consensus that this is a reasonable and fair approach under the current circumstances.

Another important point, as advised by Mr. Dryden, is that TC197 needs to proactively cancel the project rather than let the ISO system cancelling it automatically. In the former case, when we do it ourselves, it is much easier to re-

activate the cancelled Work Item when we are ready. Otherwise, a special vote by ISO TMB is required with a lot of administrative hassle. Hence, as Mr. Dryden commented, the latter must be avoided at all costs.

Summing up, following the guidance by our ISO Program Manager, the immediate actions are:

- Proactively cancel Work Item 19884 at this time (a few days before the automatic cancellation). Note: Mr. Dryden advised that this project would be cancelled by Friday July 26, 2019. WG15 will be formally disbanded (note: this was our resolution at the last plenary as well).
- Issue a letter to CEN inviting them to pursue the document publication on their side (this action was completed on July 24, 2019 – see the attached letter).

In terms of the path forward, we have a number of options:

- Adopt the CEN standard after it has been published; or
- Publish (or not) a TS as an interim step preceding the revision of the current FDIS to eventually publish an IS.
- Clearly, the above will require setting up new WG under new convenorship. NWIP(s) will also be required.
 - Note: Mr. Dryden advised that we can keep the existing WI 19884 number as well as WG 15 number. However, the experts will require re-registering through their National Bodies as for any new WG.

Before the above happens, however, I'd like to get a confirmation from the TC that we should continue pursuing this project. This is a fair question to ask in view of the fact that TC197 had already two tries that both failed to pass: first with DIS 15399 and now with FDIS 19884. Most importantly, however, as my analysis shows (see attached) the FDIS vote was impossible to predict since, in my opinion, the key voting decisions were taken outside formal TC197 footprint. This includes outside storage experts who had a lot to say during the final vote in some cases. As you will see from my table, 10 P-members switched their votes from DIS to FDIS. I realized that TC197 essentially did not have control over its own document. This is sort of 'a litmus paper test' indication to me that *maybe* our committee is not a proper home for this project.

In this regard, I asked TAB members to take the time to think about it and send me their views and suggestions for path forward in September. I thus invite the P-members to do likewise and send your thoughts on this subject either to a TAB member or to me directly.

We will try to produce recommendations or diverse opinions summary in advance of the plenary meeting in Grenoble.

Also, we are planning to have a healthy discussion on FDIS 19884 lessons learned during the plenary meeting in Grenoble (under the mini-road table on Day 2), where we should take a decision, which way to go. Andy Dryden will be in attendance and help us choose the right direction and answer various questions related to the ISO process.

I hope this was a useful summary of the background, immediate actions and path forward options in regards to this project.

With this, I wish you all a very pleasant summer and am looking forward to welcoming you at the next plenary meeting in Grenoble in December. Thank you for your continued dedication to ISO/TC197 and your support.

Cheers,
Andrei