

**Sub-TAG 3 to the US TAG to ISO/TC 207
Environmental Labeling
Draft Meeting Summary
March 13, 2002
Indianapolis, IN**

Opening Remarks

Richard Davis, Sub-TAG 3 Chair, welcomed meeting participants and identified issues to be discussed during the meeting.

- **14020, 14021, and 14024**

ISO 14020 second edition was adopted in 2000. ISO 14021 and 14024 were adopted in 1999. ISO may require these standards to be revised or reconfirmed every five years. If this is the case, the revision or reconfirmation process may need to be initiated in the near future.

Action Item: Deborah Scott, Sub-Tag Administrator will research the ISO policy on revisions of ISO Standards to determine when a revision or reconfirmation is necessary and at what level this process is initiated, i.e. – the international level or a national level.

- **14025**

A decision needs to be made by March of 2003 whether to withdraw Technical Report 14025 (Type III Labeling), extend it, or move it to standardization. Richard Davis provided some background history on the development of this Technical Report and a summary of the discussions about TR 14025 at the SC 3 Meetings in Kuala Lumpur in 2001. Sub-TAG 3 to the US TAG/ISO TC/207 should try to establish if there is still support for the original position on the future of 14025 prior to the meetings in Johannesburg in June 2002. Since the Sub-TAG meeting in Indianapolis, Richard Davis has sent out a letter to Sub-TAG 3 describing the issues around 14025 and has asked for comments from Sub-TAG 3 members. A conference call will be scheduled if necessary, so that the US delegates can adequately address issues, if necessary, at the SC 3 WG 4 meetings in Johannesburg. Only Working Group 4 under SC 3 will be meeting in Johannesburg. Anyone interested in attending this meeting, should let Richard Davis know of his or her intent to attend.

Since it has been announced that SC3 will not hold a Plenary meeting in Johannesburg, a letter ballot will be circulated prior to March of 2003 to determine the fate of TR 14025. We will have to establish our position sometime this fall in order to adequately respond to the ballot.

- **French NWIP for a Sector-Specific Type III Labeling Standard for Building Materials**

This item relates to the above summary on TR 14025. In Kuala Lumpur, SC 3 agreed to postpone their decision regarding TR 14025 and the NWIP. Most objectors were opposed to writing a standard, especially a sector-specific standard, because they felt there was not yet enough information/knowledge about this type of labeling to move forward with a Standard. This issue will be revisited at the SC 3 WG 4 meeting in Johannesburg. The decision on how to proceed with TR 14025 will affect the decision regarding this NWIP.

- **Trade barriers and ISO Environmental Labeling Standards**

Richard Davis discussed the topic of trade barriers and ISO Environmental Labeling Standards. When the US worked on 14021, Sub-TAG 3 tried to get the standard to be as consistent with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines as possible and succeeded on most points. Richard Davis highlighted some of the main differences between FTC labeling guidelines and ISO 14021 guidelines. When 14021

is revised again, one of the goals of the US TAG will be to try to harmonize 14021 with FTC guidelines, and/or request the FTC to provide a letter indicating safe harbor for companies meeting ISO guidelines.

Closing Comments

Richard Davis thanked meeting participants and explained that he may attend the meetings in Johannesburg and will be making a decision about his participation after he receives an agenda for the meetings. Sergio Galeano, a member of Sub-TAG 3, will most likely be attending the meetings in Johannesburg.

Meeting was adjourned.

Note: At the closing plenary of the US TAG, the TAG requested that Sub-TAG 3 prepare a position on 14025 which can be presented at the SC 3 WG 4 meeting in Johannesburg. Richard Davis agreed to draft a letter to Sub-TAG 3 requesting their input on this issue. (This letter was circulated to the Sub-TAG on March 18, 2002.)