

Irish comments on FCD ISO/IEC 10646-1/PDAM 28 (Ideographic Description Characters) - Reference: SC2 N3186

Closes: 1999-01-29

Date: 1999-01-19

Q1: Ireland approves the PDAM registration.

Q2: Ireland disapproves the draft with the technical and editorial comments given below: Acceptance of these comments and appropriate changes to the text will change our vote to Yes.

Technical:

1. The glyphs must be improved. We can provide better ones if necessary.
2. The names of the characters are too long. Each should be changed from IDEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION CHARACTER XYZ to IDEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTOR XYZ. Note that this term is used in the Table title on pages 2 and 3.
3. This needs to be done in the table of names, in clause D.3.2, in Table D.1, and in the entry for page 729, annex E.
3. The name of 2FFB IDEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION CHARACTER OVERLAID should be changed to IDEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTOR OVERLAY so that the tense of the verb is the same as the previous characters, which are named SURROUND, not SURROUNDED.
4. On page 4, clause D.3: "Ideographic Description Character (IDC)" should be changed to "Ideographic Descriptor (ID)". In the second sentence, it should be specified that these are *CJK* ideographs, since other ideographic writing systems exist which may not make use of the Ideographic Descriptors. In the second paragraph, should the "is not" and "does not" be "shall not"? In clause D.3.1, change "IDS acronym & syntax" to "IDS acronym and syntax" since that is what appears in the table.
5. The acronyms LTR, ATB, LMR, AMB, FSD, SAV, SBL, SLT, SUL, SUR, SLL, and OVL are used but they are not specifically defined. Adding the acronyms parenthetically in the section names between the long name and the parenthesized UCS hex position could establish them adequately.
6. There seems to be a serious flaw in the algorithm, if algorithm it is. It says that a DC can be followed by an ideograph, a radical, an ideographic component, or another IDS. What tells the user when the string of combined entities is ended? We would like this question to be specifically addressed. For instance, why shouldn't the IDCs be placed between the characters they link in the data stream?
7. A note should be added:

NOTE: The primary use for IDs is seen to be CJK characters; however, other ideographic scripts (e.g. Jurchin, Kitan, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Mayan Hieroglyphs, Naxi, Tungut) may be able to make use of these characters.

Editorial:

1. In headers, add space between "Amd." and "28", and between "1999" and "(E)".
2. In title, add em dash between technology and Universal" and after "(UCS)"
3. Page 1, additions to page 15, clause 25: increase point size of "Ideographic Descriptors". Also change "(Amendment 5)" to "(Amd. 5)" as is customary.
4. Page 2, the "G = 00" and "P = 00" must be centred on the right side of the page beside the code table.
5. In clause D.3.1, delete one of the superfluous spaces between "the" and "number" (do this globally). Add a space between "e.g." and "IDC-LTR".
6. In the note for Table D.1, the word "Note:" should be capitalized.
7. Clause D.3.2. Change "D3.2" to "D.3.2" in title, and remove the full stop at the end of the title. The typography of the descriptors and the ideographs could be better; at least use TrueType instead of bitmaps if possible.