

<b>Doc Type</b>	<b>Member Contribution</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposal to Make Character Stability Normative</b>
<b>Source:</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>Review at WG2 Meeting 55</b>
<b>Distribution:</b>	<b>SC2/WG2</b>

The operational assumption within SC2 and WG2 is that character names are immutable. This is reflected in the Principles and Procedures document ([N3452](#)): section 3 of that document states, “In principle, the character names in the standard are not to be changed.”

In fact, immutability of character name is not actually stated normatively in ISO/IEC 10646. Clause 11 of the 2003 edition states:

**11 Revision and updating of the UCS**

The revision and updating of this coded character set will be carried out by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2.

NOTE – It is intended that in future editions of ISO/IEC 10646, the names and allocation of the characters in this edition will remain unchanged.

The same wording is found in clause 7 of ISO/IEC CD 10646:

**7 Revision and updating of the UCS**

The revision and updating of this coded character set will be carried out by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2.

NOTE – It is intended that in future editions of ISO/IEC 10646, the names and allocation of the characters in this edition will remain unchanged.

It can be seen, then, that this principle is stated in an informative note, not in a normative clause of the standard.

It is proposed that this principle be made normative in the new edition of 10646. The following text is proposed for clause 7:

The revision and updating of this coded character set will be carried out by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2.

The names and code point allocation of all characters in this coded character set will remain unchanged in all future editions and amendments of this standard.