

**LITHUANIAN STUDIES SOCIETY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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13 December, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**RE: Inclusion of the current accented Lithuanian alphabet letters
in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE**

All Lithuanian texts used in the teaching of the Lithuanian language at this University are fully "accented", that is, they contain the standard marks for the grave stress, the acute intonation and the circumflex intonation (tilde). This marking is essential, because it is not enough to know where to stress a given Lithuanian word; the manner in which we pronounce the stressed syllable can vary in three different ways.

Modern technology has facilitated the printing and distribution of teaching texts, grammar books and reference sources. However, none of these aids can fulfill their purpose unless they are complete and easily copied.

We have in the past used computers and word processors that could not produce a completely "accented" Lithuanian text in one motion. This necessitated a second run to add the intonation symbols; or the symbols were inserted by hand. The latter alternative meant, of course, that the final product was fixed and inflexible. As a result, it was limited in its application: it could not be electronically corrected, updated or e-mailed.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

signed (Dr.) Algimantas P. Taškūnas, OAM, Ph.D., C.D.,
Honorary Research Professor,
School of Government, University of Tasmania (Australia).



International Organisation for Standardization

24/11/2011, Our ref.: 01-6-421

Re: STRESSED LETTERS OF THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

The Institute of the Lithuanian Language supports the efforts to include Lithuanian stressed letters into the international standard ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE. Stressed letters of the Lithuanian language is an inseparable and necessary element of the Lithuanian language, one of the official European Union languages.

Stress and intonation perform a distinctive function in the Lithuanian language and serve to differentiate words and word forms, hence using stress and intonation symbols is a precondition for the official usage of the Lithuanian language and the dissemination of lituanistic resources around the globe. Stress symbols have to be used both in dictionaries, directories and in terminology and the official names of places that can be found in the legislation, among other things. There are several original Lithuanian fonts to address these needs, which are just not enough when it comes to more complex or specific applications. Besides, designing original fonts demands a lot of funding, and one needs to remember that modern publishing business requires having both standard and transitional fonts. Technological advancement spawns publishing automation tools of an increasing degree of complexity and intelligence that are used to facilitate and accelerate the process of publishing, however their application also involves a certain amount of inconvenience pertaining to the usage of stressed letters.

The absence of stressed letters in the international standard and UNICODE makes it impossible to design web pages in a reliable way so that every browser will display stressed letters properly. The Institute of the Lithuanian Language is not in a position to freely publish dictionaries, databases and other linguistic resources that are required by linguists all over the world on the Internet, because a lot of these resources consist of stressed text. Customising it so that it is supported by different web browsers is a highly time- and money-consuming process.

Jolanta Zabarskaitė

Director

D. Vaišnienė, 263 73 41



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
RYŠIŲ REGULIAVIMO TARNYBA**
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

06.12.2011 Our ref: (35.1) 1B-4765

**INCLUSION THE CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED
LETTERS IN THE ISO/IEC 10646 AND UNICODE**

The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania, being concerned in ensuring a variety of technologically progressive, top quality, safe and affordable information and communications technologies as well as in creating favorable conditions for information and communication technologies' development, in this way promoting information and knowledge society progress, strongly supports and endorses the initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Feliksas Dobrovolskis
Director

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