
Accredited Standards Committee International Committee of Information Technology Standards
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
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Project: Radio Frequency Identification Technology
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INCITS T6 Annual Report

Annual Report for: INCITS Executive Board

Covering the Period from: July 2006 through June 2007

Title of INCITS Subgroup: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology Technical Committee -- T6

Web Page: INCITS T6 maintains an active website for committee use at
http://www.autoid.org/INCITS/incits_t6.htm

Informal Description of Work:

T6 was established in March 1991 to develop RFID protocol standards for electronic transponders and interrogators for business and military logistics applications. Application areas effected by the standards are; transportation, warehousing, maintenance, energy, and industrial production.

There are two primary uses of the technology:

- Asset identification and tracking; e.g., locating items in warehouses, containers in open storage areas and items moving through business processes; and
- Storage and retrieval of data; e.g., notice of delivery, invoice lists, warehousing receipts, storage of maintenance records, and related transactions.

Executive Summary:

The American National Institute (ANSI) approved ANS NCITS 256:1999 on October 18, 1999 and the ANSI BSR approved the first revision, INCITS 256:2001, on 8 June 2001. An INCITS RD5 was filed in May 2005 to conduct a periodic review of INCITS 256:2001 to update pertinent sections and consider retirement of those sections not in use. That revision has completed public comment and is awaiting publication. The Executive Board approved the INCITS T6 request for conversion to maintenance status.

Significant accomplishments:

T6 completed editorial review with ANSI of INCITS 256 during 2006/2007. The revised document retires those sections of 256 which are no longer supported by a mode sponsor and updates the active 433 MHz (Part 4) to reflect changes made since the original publication.

INCITS 256 continues to be used as a technical reference document for ANS MH10.8.4 (Radio-frequency Identification for Returnable Containers) within ANSI MH 10/SC 8. This reference is expected to be removed with the next iteration of ANSI MH10/8/4. INCITS 256 has been dropped as a reference for ISO work in favor

of ISO/IEC 18000-3, 18000-4, 18000-6, and 18000-7 that is based upon the INCITS 256 work. For marking tires the automotive industry has migrated from the use of INCITS 256 to using ISO 18000-6C.

Committee members continue to work with JTC 1/SC 31/WG 4 in the development of the international standard through the US TAG (AIM ADC 1/TG 4).

Significant Challenges

None.

Expected Challenges

The international standards for RFID air interface (ISO/IEC 18000 series) have been published by ISO. This series of ISO/IEC standards duplicates the coverage previously provided by INCITS 256:2001. The US TAG to SC31 (AIM ADC1) has published these standards in the United States.

The EPCglobal RFID air interfaces were submitted to ISO as a voluntary contribution and served as the basis for a new part, ISO/IEC 18000-6c which was recently approved by ISO.

Committee Activities

a. Previous Year's Meetings: None

b. Next Year's Planned Meetings:

None

6. Liaison Activities

None

7. Membership and Officers

As the committee is in maintenance status there are no active members of the committee.

a. Officers:

The Chair notes with pleasure that Mike Guillory has rejoined the committee and continues as the Vice Chair. The Chair also notes that the current Secretary, Mark Buckner, is no longer the representative from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and that the Secretary position will require a new appointment.

| Position | Name and organization represented (and training date) |
|------------------------------|---|
| Chair | Dan Kimball, DOD Logistics AIT Office Dec 2003 |
| Vice Chair | Vacant |
| Secretary | Vacant |
| International Representative | N/A |
| Vocabulary Representative | N/A |

b. Membership:

None awaiting activation of the committee. See [membership list](#) provided by the Secretariat.

8. Future Trends and Related Technical Activities

The future of RFID is brighter today than ever before. The standards effort however has moved from a national focus to an international one with the ISO and EPCglobal organizations taking the lead. The need to standardize the protocols and data structures has never been greater than today. The need to reduce the number of published and competing standards remains. The intent of the T6 committee is to maintain INCITS

256 as a legacy standard supporting existing implementations with a recommendation that new RFID applications reference the ISO/IEC 18000 series.

The RFID industry will continue to see increased activity and interest. RFID at the individual shipment (case and pallet) level has become a reality this year with the WalMart, Target and DOD implementations. The need to designate the future international and EPCglobal standards as ANSI standards will be done through the US TAG (AIM ADC1) beginning the phase out of the INCITS 256 standard.

9. Other Administrative Information

None

Attachment 1
INCITS T6
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

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Voting