

# NISO STS (Standards Tag Suite) Technical Working Group Minutes for STS Draft Version 0.9

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For NISO STS Technical Working Group  
February 2017

*February 08, 2017, 10:00 am - 11:00 pm EDT*

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# 1 Introduction

These are the minutes for the Technical Working Group meeting for the NISO activity to create a standard tag set for Standards. Details on this work item are available to the public at:

<http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sts/>

These minutes record decisions made and action items assigned during the NISO STS Technical Working Group call on February 08, 2017.

## 1.1 Attendees for February 08, 2017

- Dreyfuss, Bob (ASTM: observer)
- Galichet, Laurent (ISO)
- Gooskens, Frans (NEN)
- Hollowell, Bob (ASME)
- Imsieke, Gerrit (le-tex Publishing Services)
- Juillerat, Serge (ISO)
- Lapeyre, Debbie (Mulberry Technologies)
- Markantonatos, Nikos (Atypon)
- McRae, Mary (IQ Solutions)
- Rawson, Ken (IEEE)
- Rosenblum, Bruce (Co-chair, Inera)
- Saari, Antti (SFS: invited expert)
- Usdin, Tommie (Mulberry Technologies)
- Wheeler, Robert (Co-chair, ASME)
- Winchell, David (XSB)

## 1.2 Administrative Business for February 8, 2017

- **Minutes Corrections** — for the February 1, 2017 Meeting:
  - “UNSPC codes” should be “UNSPSC codes”.
  - Antti Saari’s affiliation will be corrected to SFS.
  - Minutes of the Feb 01, 2017 meeting will be reposted with these corrections.
- **Next Meeting** — This Working Group will need at least one more phone call. Please hold February 22nd and March 1st available and the Chairs will resolve the dates and notify WG members no later than Monday the 13th

### 1.2.1 New and Continuing Action Items

#### For Bruce Rosenblum

Since Ivan Salcedo was not on today’s call, make sure that he also believes in the resolution of #00673/#00700: *Allow multiple paragraphs inside TBX elements.*

#### For Tommie Usdin

Try to find a URL to add to the Dewey Decimal (DCC) subject code example from the OCLC website listed in 2.1.3 *Subject Group Type Attributes*. If one cannot be found, the DCC example can be used as an example where there is a @vocab attribute but no @vocab-term-identifier.

#### For Robert Wheeler

- Subcommittee Report: See discussion 3.13 Unfinished: #00707-a Standards Authority.
- Subcommittee Report: See discussion 3.13 Unfinished: #00707-b Unrelated Lapeyre Request

## 2 Action Items Resolved during this Meeting

### 2.1 @xml:lang Recommendation

@xml:lang will be allowed only at the <kwd-group> and <subj-group> level and not in individual keywords and subjects.

### 2.2 IPC, UNSPSC, and UNS

- **IPC Codes** — IPC codes will be tagged as subjects with @vocab="ipc".
- **UNSPSC and UNS Codes** — The working Group recommended that the UNSPSC codes (United Nations Standard Products and Services Code) and UNS codes be tagged as subjects and use the @vocab attribute to name the term source, i.e., @vocab="unspsc" and @vocab="uns".

### 2.3 Subject Group Type Attributes Recommended Examples

```
<subj-group id="SG1" originator="ASME"
  vocab="ASME-Taxonomy"
  vocab-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/" xml:lang="en">
  <subj-group id="SG1.1" subj-group-type="Industries"
    vocab-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Industries/">
    <subject id="SG1.1-1"
      vocab-term-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Industries/fossil-power"
      >Fossil Power</subject>
    <subject id="SG1.1-2"
      vocab-term-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Industries/power-plants"
      >Power Plants</subject>
    </subj-group>
  <subj-group id="SG1.2"
    subj-group-type="Materials-Product-Form"
    vocab-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Materials-Product-Form/">
    <subject id="SG1.2-1"
      vocab-term-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Materials-Product-Form/piping"
      >Piping</subject>
    <subject id="SG1.2-2"
      vocab-term-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Materials-Product-Form/pressure-vessels"
      >Pressure Vessels</subject>
    </subj-group>
  </subj-group>
```

Include the sample below (as corrected from the sample in the Agenda) in the Tag Library. In the paragraph that precedes the example, explain that “Engineering of railroads, roads” is *not* free text, it is a DCC classification term.

```
<subj-group id="DDC-ex1"
  vocab="DDC"
  vocab-identifier="DDC23" xml:lang="en">
  <subject id="DDC-625"
    vocab="Engineering of railroads, roads">
    Ingénierie des chemins de fer, routes</subject>
  </subj-group>
```

### 2.4 Vocabulary/taxonomy Attributes Recommended Example

```
<kwd-group id="KG1" originator="ASME"
  vocab="Inspec"
  vocab-identifier="http://www.theiet.org/resources/inspec/about/records/thesaurus.cfm"
  xml:lang="en">
  <compound-kwd id="KG1.1">
    <compound-kwd-part content-type="code">A7865P</compound-kwd-part>
    <compound-kwd-part content-type="text">Optical properties of other
    inorganic semiconductors and insulators (thin films/low dimensional
    structures)</compound-kwd-part>
  </compound-kwd>
  <compound-kwd id="KG1.2">
    <compound-kwd-part content-type="code">A7865T</compound-kwd-part>
    <compound-kwd-part content-type="text">Optical properties of organic
    compounds and polymers (thin films/low dimensional
    structures)</compound-kwd-part>
  </compound-kwd>
</kwd-group>
```

## 2.5 Meta Note Attributes Recommendation

The following attributes are sufficient for <meta-note>s.

- @content-type (Type of Content)
- @specific-use (Special purpose or usage)
- @id (Document Internal Identifier)
- @originator (Originating standards organization)
- @xml:base (Base)

## 2.6 Request #00703 — ASME blurbs Recommendation

ASME blurbs can be tagged accurately as <meta-note>s. ASME feels that the use of <meta-note> vs. the more complex Section (<sec>) limits what can be included in such a blurb, but they do not see that as a problem.

## 3 Comments Requiring Technical Recommendations

Many of the Comments submitted through the NISO website comment form, were trivial changes or typos and could be fixed without discussion. Some Comments could be resolved by the editor (Mulberry) or by the editor in consultation with the original requestor. Other Comments require discussion by the NISO STS Technical Working Group plus invited experts. Those Comments requiring technical discussion are described in this section.

Comments as shown in the following section may have been combined, divided into multiple sub-comments, rearranged, and/or edited to facilitate discussion and voting. Background material and recommendations have been added to some Comments.

### 3.1 Resolved: ASTM-15: <elocation-id>

See prior minutes.

### 3.2 Resolved: ASTM-26: Expanding where <proj-id> may be used

See prior minutes.

### 3.3 Resolved: #00667: Footnote type values

See prior minutes.

### 3.4 Resolved: #00669/#00685: Citation to a Standard (<std>)

See prior minutes.

### 3.5 Resolved: #00668/#00685/ASTM-19: <glyph-data>/<private-char>

See prior minutes.

### 3.6 Resolved: From #00685: Amend model of <std-ref>

See prior minutes.

### 3.7 Resolved: #00682: <adoption> with no interior document

See prior minutes.

## 3.8 Resolved: #00689: Rationalize Table of Contents models

See prior minutes.

## 3.9 Resolved: #00690: Keywords and Subjects

### 3.9.1 Resolved: Keywords and subjects defined

- NISO STS will take both the keywords elements (<kwd-group>) and the subject elements (<subj-group>) unchanged from JATS.
- Keywords will be defined as specific terms or concepts found within the text of a standards document, or implied (broader, narrower, etc.) from terms found within this text. Even though keywords may be found in the text of the standards document, the source of the keywords could be a taxonomy, a thesaurus (<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:25964:-1:ed-1:v1:en:term:2.62>), a controlled vocabulary (<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:25964:-1:ed-1:v1:en:term:2.12>), or an uncontrolled vocabulary.

Although similar in content to index terms, tagged keywords are part of the metadata (inside a \*-meta element), not scattered throughout the prose of the standards documents.

- Subjects will be defined as overarching categories, classifications, topics, or themes of a standards document, as a higher-level descriptor of the content. In JATS, subjects are used to organize articles in a Table of Contents or similar. In standards documents, subjects have been used to organize standards into series. The source of the subjects can be a classification scheme (<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:25964:-1:ed-1:v1:en:term:2.6>), such as a taxonomy.

#### *Documentation Recommendation*

In describing keywords above, Gerrit Imsieke (and the NISO STS description of <kwd-group> which quoted Gerrit's suggestion) referenced two URLs:

<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:25964:-1:ed-1:v1:en:term:2.62> and  
<https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:25964:-1:ed-1:v1:en:term:2.12> .

However, while the URLs do mention “edition 1”, they do not mention a year. Since any particular URL could go away with a future edition (edition one might be modified many times before it becomes edition 2), it might be better to cite the year in the text of the <kwd-group> element description ( “ISO 25964-1:ed-1:2011”) in addition to the URL shown above for the @vocab and @vocab-identifier attributes.

### 3.9.2 Resolved: #00690-b: Keywords and subjects attributes

See previous minutes.

### 3.9.3 Resolved: #00690-c: Keywords and subjects Best Practice examples

- The INSPEC keyword examples from IEEE and ASME will be added to the documentation.
- The following example of a controlled vocabulary will be used in the documentation.  
`<kwd-group vocab="VWL">`
- The keywords and subject group examples from the Action Items this week will be added to the documentation.

### 3.9.4 Resolved: #00690-d: Additional keywords and subjects attributes

- **@xml:lang** — Allow @xml:lang only at the group level, not on individual subjects and keywords.
- **@vocab-version** — We will follow the JATS Standing Committee and not add a @vocab-version attribute for this version of NISO STS.

#### 3.9.4.1 Resolved: IPC Codes and UNSPSC Codes

IPC, UNSPSC codes, and UNS codes be tagged as subjects (<subj-group>). The following example will be used in the documentation:

```
<subj-group @vocab="ipc">
  <compound-subj>
    <compound-subj-part content-type="code">B82B1/00</compound-subj-part>
    <compound-subj-part content-type="value">Nano structures
  </compound-subj-part>
</compound-subj>

  <compound-subj>
    <compound-subj-part content-type="code">H01L21/02</compound-subj-part>
    <compound-subj-part content-type="value">Manufacture or treatment of
      semiconductor devices or of parts thereof</compound-subj-part>
  </compound-subj>
</subj-group>
```

#### 3.9.4.2 Documentation Recommendation

- Stress that subject terms are classifications and that keywords are terms similar to index terms that are not broad classifications.
- Although it is called @vocab, the attribute @vocab will be defined as the name of a controlled (formally defined) or generic (subject area informally defined) vocabulary, taxonomy, ontology, database, term list, etc. that is the source of the term (for example, “CRediT” (a controlled taxonomy), “inspec”, or “structural engineering”).
- **Best Practice:** If the subject terms in <subj-group> comes from a controlled vocabulary, taxonomy, ontology, database, term list, or similar *formally* defined term source, the @vocab attribute (and if possible, the @vocab-identifier attribute) should be used on the <subj-group> level. If there is a subject-specific identifier in this source of terms, then also use the @vocab-term and @vocab-term-identifier on the subject term (<subject>) if possible.

```
<subj-group
  vocab="ASME Taxonomy"
  vocab-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/">
```

- **Best Practice:** If the subject terms come from, or are specific to, a field of study that can be named (particularly where different fields might define the same term differently) name the field of study in the @subj-group-type attribute (“structural engineering”, “mechanical engineering”, “bird watching”). Such terms are typically, but not always, *informally* defined.

```
<subj-group
  subj-group-type="mechanical engineering">
```

- **Best Practice:** If the keyword terms are uncontrolled, either omit the @vocab attribute on <kwd-group> or use the value “uncontrolled”. Although subjects may also be from an uncontrolled vocabulary, this is less likely, since subject groups such as IPC, UNSPSC, etc. codes are controlled by defined vocabularies.

```
<kwd-group kwd-group-type="working-group" vocab="uncontrolled">
```

```
<kwd-group id="KG1" originator="ASME"
vocab="Inspec"
vocab-identifier="http://www.theiet.org/resources/inspec/about/records/thesaurus.cfm"
xml:lang="en">
```

- Since @subj-group-type and @vocab can be used together, Debbie Lapeyre to clarify the Tag Library documentation to explain why both might be used in a single example:

```
<subj-group id="KG1.1" subj-group-type="industries"
vocab="ASME Taxonomy"
vocab-identifier="http://www.asme.org/ASME-Taxonomy/Industries/">
```

### 3.9.5 Resolved: ICS Codes

- Retain the current <ics> #PCDATA-model element.
- Do not rename the current <ics> element.

#### *Approach Going Forward*

- Going forward, the Tag Set will incorporate a bifurcated approach, where the element <ics> that holds only ICS codes (numbers only) will be retained only for backwards compatibility. Documentation will encourage the use of <subj-group> to tag ICS codes:

- ISO-related only:

```
<ics>42.42.42</ics>
```

All Others:

```
<subj-group vocab="ics">
<subject>42.42.42</subject>
</subj-group>
```

or

```
<subj-group @vocab="ics">
<compound-subj>
<compound-subj-part content-type="code">42.42.42</compound-subj-part>
<compound-subj-part content-type="value">Poodles</compound-subj-part>
</compound-subj>
</subj-group>
```

(And similar for hierarchically nested subject groups.)

- The element <ics> will be only allowed inside <iso-meta>, <reg-meta>, and <std-meta> and not inside the new <std-meta> or <std-doc-meta>.
- Best Practice will recommend the use of subject groups to encode ICS codes. In later versions of NISO STS, the <ics> element will be first dis-recommended, then deprecated, and finally phased out, and only subject groups will remain. This current change is technically backward compatible with ISO STS, although the intended road forward is not.

The largest downside of this approach remains integration, as there will be two XPath locations and two tag names that may be used for ICS code numbers.

#### *Roads Not Taken*

During the call, there was a long discussion concerning the possibility of creating a new container element for ICS codes that would allow for ICS codes and text, as well as for hierarchical ICS codes, but that would be completely backwards compatible with current ISO STS practice.



The current <ics> element would be untouched (with a model of #PCDATA and a definition that says ICS Code-only) and a new container element would be created, also specific to ICS codes, with a name such as <ics-wrap>, that used the <ics> element, with a model such as:

```
ics-wrap      (ics, ics-desc?)
```

Then, wherever <ics> could be used now, we would allow the grouping

```
(ics | ics-wrap)*
```

The OR choice above would have been allowed inside all the \*-meta elements.

If <ics-wrap> (maybe with a better name?) needs to be recursive, in order to build a hierarchy of codes, the model could have been expanded (similar to subject groups) to:

```
ics-wrap      ((ics, ics-desc?), ics-wrap)
or
ics-wrap      ((ics, ics-desc?), ics-wrap*)
```

The Working Group decided not to create a new element (<ics-wrap>) because <subj-group> is already available to handle the ICS information.

### 3.10 Denied: #00694 : Grouping lists

See prior minutes.

### 3.11 Withdrawn: #00698 : Super sections

See prior minutes.

### 3.12 Resolved: #00708 : Front matter notes

See prior minutes.

#### 3.12.1 Denied: #00708-a Rename <normative-note>

See prior minutes.

#### 3.12.2 Resolved: #00708-b Allow notes in metadata elements

See prior minutes.

#### 3.12.3 Resolved: #00708-c Attributes for <meta-note>

Add the following attributes (currently used on the elements <normative-note> and <non-normative-note>) to the element <meta-note>:

- @content-type (Type of Content)
- @specific-use (Special purpose, usage, or audience)
- @id (Document *Internal* Identifier)
- @originator (Originating standards organization)
- @xml:base (Base)

#### 3.12.4 Resolved: Request #00708-d/#00703 <meta-note>@content-type

Document the following description and suggested values for the @content-type attribute of the <meta-note> element:

Names/describes any distinct semantics of the associated <meta-note>. The @content-type attribute may be used to preserve the semantic intent of the note, such as a superseding note. Although there are no set values, and the @content-type attribute may contain any string, formal note types may include:

- adoption
- cautionary (Anwendungswarnvermerk)
- objection (Einspruchsvermerk)
- preliminary (Vorbemerkungen)
- publication (Veröffentlichungsvermerk) Note: extremely rare
- status (Statusvermerk)
- superseding (Ersatzvermerk)
- validity (Beginn der Gültigkeit)
- code-info (information of regulatory agency adoption)
- committee-contact-info (info about committee pages)
- errata-info (where to look for and find errata online)
- issuance-info (text regarding date of issuance)
- next-scheduled-issuance-info (info on next scheduled edition/issuance/updates)

## 4 Better Exposition in Tag Library

## 5 Request Has Policy Implications

## 6 Comments Resolved by Doodle Poll

## 7 Doodle Poll Comments Requiring Technical Discussion

## 8 TBX Requests

For this round of NISO STS, the documentation for TBX terms will remain a separate document in the care of ISO. That documentation will be changed to reflect any of the items in this section that are recommended by the Working Group. The NISO STS Tag Library will point to the ISO STS documentation.

### 8.1 Resolved: #00683: Allow Index terms in <tbx:term>

#### *Recommendation*

Add <index-term> to the model of <tbx:term> and give Mulberry flexibility as to the mechanism.

### 8.2 Denied: #00673/#00700: Multiple paragraphs inside TBX elements

#### *Recommendation*

- **<tbx:term>** — The Request to add paragraphs (<p>) to <tbx:term> is denied. Terms are a substantially different sort of information from definitions and notes, and that terms should not contain or be divided into paragraphs.
- **Definitions and Notes** — The Request to add paragraphs (<p>) to TBX definitions and notes is request is denied because there is no backwards compatible way to model this that does not lead to the possibility of very bad data.

While there is a clear need to divide definitions and notes into paragraphs, we suggest postponing this model change until backwards-incompatible changes can be made. At **that** time, we suggest changing the models of both <tbx:definition> and <tbx:note> to <p>+.

That is, have no loose character data inside these structures, make them one or more paragraphs. Those with only a few words can easily enclose them in <p> tag.

```
<tbx:definition><p>Poodles taller than 27 inches</p></tbx:definition>
```

- If we postpone remodeling <tbx:definition> and <tbx:note>, it will be quite straightforward to convert existing content into paragraph-based markup: the entire content of the element can be wrapped into a <p> unless there are any <break> elements, in which case these breaks will indicate where paragraphs begin and end.
- If we mix <p> into the existing model there is no clean path forward; it will take reading and judgment to sort out content that is legal but messy (see below) and make it into coherent paragraphs. Mixing <p> throughout would allow documents to contain content such as:
  - a few words, followed by
  - a paragraph, followed by
  - some more words, followed by
  - a paragraph, followed by
  - yet more words.

### *Documentation Recommendation*

- **Document interim state** — Explain in the Tag Library: the conundrum just described, that we understand the need for multiple paragraphs within TBX definitions and notes and realize this is a problem, and say that current Best Practice, until this can be fixed properly, is to use two <break/> elements to make paragraph distinctions.
  - Acknowledge that some ISO STS users are using return characters to accomplish a paragraph-look now, and encourage the use of <break/> for this purpose going forward.
-