

Title: Report on the discussion of TC46 character additions (N2446)
Source: Randall K. Barry (ISO TC46/SC4/WG1 convener)
Michael Everson (JTC1/SC2 liaison to ISO TC46/SC4)
Status: Status report
Distribution: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2, ISO TC46/SC4, ISO TC46/SC4/WG1 and liaison organizations

Discussion of the list of possible character additions to ISO/IEC 10646 to accommodate the needs of ISO TC46 to map other ISO standards to UCS results in a further reduction in the number of unmappable characters that have been identified by TC46. From a most recent count of 103 unmappable characters, the number was reduced to 50 characters, found in three ISO character set standards. The following dispositions of the unmappable characters were suggested.

ISO 6630 characters: Additional characters are not needed in ISO/IEC 10646 to cover any of the bibliographic control characters from ISO 6630. The current definitions of C0 and C1 characters sets in 10646 is adequate for TC46 to map ISO 6630 to ISO/IEC 10646, referencing the registered escape sequence ESC 2/2 4/2. Code positions U+0000 to U+001F and U+0080 to U+009F are reserved for control characters governed by higher level protocols.

ISO 5426-2 characters: More study is needed for the members of the small repertoire of Latin contraction marks in ISO 5426-2. These do not appear to meet the principle of “conventional use as a character” which is a requirement for assignment of a character code position in ISO/IEC 10646. JTC1/SC2/WG2 recommends that a new proposal be drafted that includes information about the use of these marks, including their common characteristics and appearance. The proposal should also consider alternatives for dealing with entities such as these that have been assigned character code positions in other ISO standards. Further consultation with the British Library, the source of these characters, is indicated.

ISO 8957 characters: JTC1/SC2/WG2 recommends the development of a new proposal dealing with the Hebrew character repertoire. The proposal will suggest characters to which characters in ISO 8957 might be mapped. “Best mappings” to existing characters for Hebrew script marks should be considered.

ISO 10754 characters: JTC1/SC2/WG2 recommends the development of a detailed proposal dealing with the addition of the 10 pairs of graphic characters to the extended Cyrillic repertoire. The proposal should divide these 20 characters into the special groupings a) ligated digraphs, b) Latin-like Cyrillic script letters, and c) special Cyrillic letters that might be treated as variants of other Cyrillic letters. The proposal would benefit from the inclusion of samples of use of these characters from publications in the former Soviet Union and Russia, where these characters would be of particular use. Ireland and the U.S. have volunteered to draft the proposal.