

Accredited Standards Committee\*  
**X3, Information Processing Systems**

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**Project:**

**Ref. Doc.:** SD-2

**Reply to:** Mr. John Lohmeyer  
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Mr. Jean-Paul Emard  
Director, X3 Secretariat  
1250 Eye St. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005-3922

Dear Jean-Paul,

At last week's X3T10 meeting, I was given an action item to express X3T10's opinion on one aspect of the SD-2. Section 4.4.2 establishes special voting rules for X3 Subgroups and the third paragraph prohibits abstentions on technical issues and document forwardings. There are many cases where abstentions *should* be permitted on technical issues. Examples cited were:


- 1) Technical issues for which the representative has expertise, but has no concern about the outcome. For example, a protocol expert may not care which polarity is used for a signal.
- 2) Technical issues for which the representative has no expertise. X3T10 consists of representatives from a wide range of organizations including connector vendors, cable vendors, protocol chip vendors, system vendors, etc. Furthermore, some representatives have expertise in limited disciplines such as analog signaling, digital hardware design, software driver design, etc.

Forcing people to vote on issues that do not affect them only serves to dilute the votes of those who are experts on the subject. We recommend that the third paragraph of 4.4.2 be altered as follows:

Abstention votes shall not be permitted in TCs and TGs ~~on any technical issues or~~ on the decision to forward a document. When abstention votes are permitted, the votes should include the reason for not taking a position.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

  
John Lohmeyer, Chair X3T10