



IAI INTERNATIONAL

International Alliance for Interoperability

From: Christopher Groome
International Business Manager

5 The Business Exchange
Rockingham Road
Kettering Northants
NN16 8JX UK

Tel: +44 1536 536429
Fax: +44 1536 526430
Mobile: +44 7973 638742
Email: brt-groome@dial.pipex.com

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	IFC 2x3 Certification: Agreed Procedure		22/02/06	Final Issued

IFC 2x3 CERTIFICATION: AGREED PROCEDURE FOR TWO STAGE APPROACH

1 ORIGIN AND AUTHORITY

1.1 Certification of Facilitated Approval for products using IFC 2x will be carried out by the Implementer Support Group and Model Support Group of IAI International under the authority of IAI's International Council. It is a practical two-stage approach to certification taking into account IAI's limited resources and budget.

2 SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 For Certification of Facilitated Approval, an implementer has to demonstrate the ability to implement a high quality IFC 2x interface based on an agreed subset. However, it is still and remains always the responsibility of the implementer to ensure the quality of the IFC interface. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the end users to determine how they use the IFC interface.

3 DISCLAIMER

3.1 IAI and its representatives are providing the services for the certification and are facilitating the approval, but are not responsible for the quality of the implementation of the IFC interface or how it is used.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The certification is a two stage development of the methodology used for IFC1.5.1 and IFC2.0, which was based on a demonstration of successful IFC data exchange during a single certification workshop.

International Council Chair
Patrick MacLeamy
HOK inc,71 Stevenson Street, Suite
2200, San Francisco, California
94105, USA
Tel: +1 415 356 8500
Fax: +1 415 356 8777
E-mail: patrick.macleamy@hok.com

Technical Management Chair
Arto Kiviniemi
VTT Building Technology
PO Box 1801
02044 VTT, Finland
Tel: +358 9 456 6251
E.francois. Arto.Kiviniemi@vtt.fi

Business Manager
Christopher Groome
5 The Business Exchange
Rockingham Road
Kettering NN16 8JX UK
Tel: +44 1536 526429
Fax: +44 1536 526430
Email: brt-groome@dial.pipex.com

R3.0 Project Manager
Juha Hyvarinen
VTT Building Technology
PO Box 1801
FIN-02044 VTT, Finland
Tel: +358 9 456 4579
Fax: +358 9 456 6251
E-mail: juha.hyvarinen@vtt.fi

Stage 1

4.2 Stage 1 is a technical certification workshop, similar to the earlier arrangements. In this event, implementers have to show that their applications work with the available test-files within specific view-definitions. The test file library will be improved compared with those for the earlier releases. When applications have passed this workshop successfully, the “1st Step” logo will be awarded.

Stage 2

4.3 Stage 2 is a practical certification by pilot end-users and at a second workshop, after it has been used for six months or so in practice. During this period, Stage 2 implementers have the opportunity to resolve any bugs which emerge in the meantime and to provide improved releases to those pilot end-users. When end-users have said that they can use the software and especially the IFC2x interface in daily practice, the “final logo” will be awarded.

Open Workshops

4.4 The intention to hold a workshop should be announced at least six weeks in advance and the precise date at least two weeks in advance.

4.5 The invitation will be done via e-mail over the exploders of the International Council (IC), the International Technical Management Committee (ITM), the Implementers Support Group (ISG) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Chapters are encouraged to send the invitation to a wider audience by e-mails, letters and fax to their members.

4.6 The demonstration of certification will be public to IAI members.

4.7 At least some IAI officials are expected to visit certification workshops, such as members of IC, Executive Committee (ExCom), ITM, the Project Managers and the Group Leaders.

Test Files and Views

4.8 A set of appropriate test files has to be generated, for use during the certification. The contents of the test files are to be based on a ‘view’ (subset) of IFCs, which are agreed by those types of applications, which are seeking certification. The content of the test files shall be based upon a subset (so called ‘view’) of IFCs for which certification is being sought.

4.9 The certification is only given for the part of the IFC model, which is specified in the ‘view’.

4.10 A description of this certification procedure and the ‘view’ will be published on IAI’s website.

Conduct of Workshop

4.11 The audience of the certification workshop will choose randomly from the set of test files and ask the demonstrator of the implementation to show that it works properly. This procedure of spot-checking has been chosen, as the test of all cases takes too long.

4.12 The implementers who seek certification have to prepare for the workshop and have to test their applications thoroughly as they do not know in advance which files out of the set of test cases will be chosen during the workshop.

Conditions for Certification

4.13 The demonstration during the workshop will last until such time as the audience is convinced that the implementations are working properly.

4.14 Under the new two stage certification process, the certification logo will only be supplied when the software has passed successfully through both stages.

4.15 If a problem should occur during either workshop, it will be documented. Any certification given will specify limitations attributable to the problem. As soon as the implementer is able to demonstrate, for example in a future workshop, that the problem is solved, full certification will be given.

Further Development

4.16 If all implementers who achieve certification based on a specific 'view' agree, test cases may be added to the official set of test files after the certification workshop, but only if they have been proved by all implementers so far certified. The reason for this is that the quality of the test cases can be improved from experience in daily practice. The set of test files is not only very valuable for the actual certification, but also for the ongoing quality assurance process of each implementer and when they release new updates.

Model Support Group (MSG) Role

4.16 MSG will facilitate the certification by:

- setting up the test files based on a specific 'view' to be used as test cases during the certification workshop
- defining the contents and necessary number of test files so that the test files cover the 'view'
- checking the test files with tools in order to ensure that the structure and syntax conform with the specification
- attending meetings of vendors who seek certification in order to help them to define the 'views' properly
- specifying the agreed 'views' by discussing them with defined groups of implementers, given that
 - 'views' cannot be specified for a single implementer, but only for a group of implementers (more than two)
 - 'views' have to be officially launched in ISG, so that any implementer is aware of it
- attending quality assurance workshops in order to assist vendors/organisations who are seeking certification, to debug their implementations, such QA workshops being voluntary but highly recommended
- documenting all test cases and the results from each application, as it produces the test cases.

4.17 MSG is facilitating the certification but does not represent the certification agency.

5 PAYMENT

5.1 Applicants for certification shall pay the following costs:

- tools for checking test files
- setting up test files
- specification of 'views'

- attendance at meetings by MSG.

6 ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

6.1 An implementer, who has already passed an IFC 2x3 certification for one view definition and wants the same application to be certified for more view definitions, can do so on payment of an extra fee.

6.2 An implementer who has successfully passed a two stage certification with his application, and wants to get certification for more view definitions with the same application, just needs to pass the first stage for the additional certifications in order to get final approval.

7 NEXT STEPS

7.1 The agreed way to handle future requests for certification is that each implementer contributes US\$3,000, of which US\$2,000 is payable before the first stage certification workshop and US\$1,000 before the second stage certification workshop. For this they will get the specified support. IAI will organise the first workshop where the interested implementers can prove the quality of their interface and the second workshop, preferably in combination with an IAI event, where users are able to provide their assessment. The monies collected will be held on trust in an IAI UK US Dollar account and used solely to fund efforts for current and future certification.

7.2 Any interested implementer should send a request for test files and/or certification via e-mail to the ISG and MSG leads, with a copy to the Business Manager of IAI International, who will invoice him for the appropriate sum of money. As soon as the money is deposited in the trust account (details below), the Business Manager will inform the ISG and MSG leads so that they can initiate the process of certification.

7.3 The IAI logos, which successful implementers will be entitled to display, will be based on those shown below.

Bank Details:

Bank of Scotland
West End Office
14-16 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5BL
United Kingdom

Name: International Alliance
for Interoperability



IFC™2x 1st Step
IMPLEMENTATION

Certified in accordance with official IAI
facilitated approval procedures for
IFC™2x - 24 October 2002

Personnel:

ISG Lead: Prof. Rasso Steinmann
E-mail: rs@nemetschek.de

MSG Lead: Dr Thomas Liebich
E-mail: liebich@uumail.de

Business Manager:
See first page



IFC™2x
IMPLEMENTATION

Certified in accordance with official IAI
facilitated approval procedures for
IFC™2x - 31 May 2003