



Document Code	Title	Organisation/Author	Date	Status
IC 07/002	IFC 2x Certification: Agreed Procedure	BRT: Christopher Groome	09/02/07	Current

IFC 2x CERTIFICATION: AGREED PROCEDURE

1 Origin and Authority

1.1 Certification of Facilitated Approval for products using IFC 2x and future releases will be carried out by the Implementer Support Group (ISG) and Model Support Group (MSG) of IAI International under the authority of IAI's International Council (IC). It is a practical two-step approach to certification taking into account IAI's available resources.

2 Scope and Responsibility

2.1 For Certification of Facilitated Approval, an implementer has to demonstrate the ability to implement a high quality IFC2x and above interface based on an agreed subset. The subset has to be defined in a View Definition accepted by the relevant Groups of IAI. 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 will be provided per software application and not for all the products of a software implementer.

4.2 The announcement of the participation of a software implementer has to be sent at least 4 weeks in advance of a certification workshop to the ISG Co-ordinator. The announcement should include the type of certification (eg import and/or export) which is sought by the implementer and should state any limitations arising from the nature of the application. The format of the announcement will be provided by the facilitator.

Step 1

4.3 Step 1 consists of one or more technical certification workshops. In these workshops, implementers have to show that their applications work with the available test-files within specific view-definitions. The test file library itself is subject to

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improvement. When applications have passed one of these workshops successfully, the '1st Step' logo will be awarded. It may take more than one workshop to achieve the required quality.

Step 2

4.4 Step 2 is a practical certification by pilot end-users after they have used it for six months or so in practice. During this period, Step 2 implementers have the opportunity to resolve any bugs which emerge and to provide improved releases to the pilot end-users. Step 2 consists of one or more technical certification workshops. In these workshops, implementers have to show that their applications work with the provided end user project data. When applications have passed one of these workshops successfully, the 'Final' logo will be awarded. It may take more than one workshop to achieve the required quality.

4.5 Each participating software implementer is expected to name at least two end-users who are willing to contribute to the certification. Expected contributions are:

- data coming out of a real project meeting established criteria on size and complexity
- a statement that the achieved quality of the IFC interface of an application they are using has reached a mature level.

Open Workshops

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

4.7 The demonstration of certification will be public to IAI members. The invitation will be done via e-mail over the exploders of the 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 drawn from their membership.

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

Test Files and Views

4.9 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, as agreed by developers of those types of applications seeking certification.

4.10 The certification is only given for the part of the IFC model, which is specified in the 'view'.

4.11 A description of this certification procedure and the 'view' will be published on IAI's website.

Conduct of Open Workshop

4.12 The audience at 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 random spot-checking has been chosen as the test of all cases takes too long.

4.13 Implementers who seek certification have to prepare for the open 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 for testing during the open workshop. The facilitated approval procedure may include preparation workshops to facilitate the test run through all available test cases.

Conditions for Certification

4.14 The results of self testing have to be documented by the participants in an agreed format provided by the facilitator.

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

4.16 Under the two step certification process, the certification logo will only be supplied when the software has passed successfully through both steps.

4.17 If a problem should occur during either workshop, it will be documented. Any certification given will specify the 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

4.18 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 as and when they release new updates.

Model Support Group (MSG) Role

4.19 MSG will facilitate the certification by:

- defining the contents and necessary number of test files so that the test files cover the 'view'
- attending meetings of implementers who seek certification in order to help them to define the 'views' properly
- verifying that the agreed 'view' is consistent to the IFC specification for which the certification is organized (Note: the definition of the view content is open, but has to be endorsed by the IAI before becoming a valid baseline for certification.)
- discussing the 'view' with the participating implementers and facilitating the definition of further implementer agreements
- making the 'views' publicly available through ISG, so that all implementers are aware of them.

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

5 Preparation for Certification Workshops

Announcement

5.1 Announcement of a workshop shall be made as set out in 4.6 to 4.8 above.

Test Files

5.2 Exported test files for Step 1 have to be provided at least 4 weeks in advance of the workshop.

5.3 Participants are expected to test their applications by themselves prior to a workshop. The documented results of the self-testing have to be provided at least two weeks in advance of the workshop.

5.4 The format of the testing documentation will be provided by the facilitator.

6 Payment

6.1 Applicants for a certification shall pay the following costs:

- tools for checking test files
- setting up and provision of test files
- specification of 'views'
- attendance at meetings by MSG
- documentation of test results by MSG
- arbitration by MSG when implementation conflicts arise.

6.2 Each implementer contributes USD5,000, of which USD2,000 is for the test files, USD1,500 for the first step certification workshop and USD1,500 for the second step certification workshop. For this they will get the specified support.

6.3 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.

6.4 The monies collected are held on trust within an IAI International US Dollar account and used solely to fund efforts for current and future certification.

7 Additional Certifications

7.1 An implementer who has already passed an IFC 2x 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.

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

8 Logos

8.1 Successful implementers will be entitled to display logos 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™ 2x3 - 29 June 2006

Personnel:

ISG Lead: Prof Rasso Steinmann
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