

Lyle Bowman's Facilitator Report to B-10  
Dec. 8, 2008

I've spent about 240 hours on various assignments since the June Meeting. The bulk of my efforts have been the implementation of the ASTM Units Directive, resulting in 12 D-2 Ballot items and 15 Subcommittee B ballot items, which were balloted prior to this meeting.

Of these 27 ballots, there were three negative votes on D02 ballot items and two Subcommittee ballots received negative votes. Three of the negative voters expressed concern about replacing historically acceptable units with 'new' ones. The ASTM editor approved the resolutions of these negatives as being editorial. The other two negatives were simple editorial matters. All five of these voters withdrew their negative votes.

In one case, in D 6750 (1K/1N), an 'SI only units' revision, the concern was in substituting g/MJ for g/kWh as the unit for oil consumption. The voter (Hind M Abi-Akar) pointed out that not only was kWh historically important, it also was an accepted SI unit. After corresponding with her and pointing out that the SI 10 standard states that kWh is a deprecated unit and should be replaced with MJ, she agreed that showing g/kWh, followed by and an explanation that g/MJ is the preferred SI unit in the future would resolve her negative.

Another negative vote (by Donald Bartlett) was concerned that in an 'inch-pounds only units' standard, Btu/h (an inch-pound unit) had been inserted in front of the SI unit W (which was placed in parentheses), but W was considered by the voter to be the historically important unit. In corresponding with the voter, he agreed that deleting Btu/h and showing W as the standard unit for 'heat flow rate', plus adding an exception statement in the Scope units section, would resolve his negative.

The third negative vote (by John Graham) was concerned that in an 'SI only units' standard, N (an SI unit) had replaced kgf (a deprecated unit). It was agreed to show both units in the following configuration, 'N (kgf)', and point out the exception in the Scope units section. This action resolved his negative.

The other two negatives were: (1) pointing out an arithmetic error in converting units, and (2) the voter was concerned that the limits of a standard, referenced in the test method being balloted, had been revised. The voter didn't recognize that this revision was properly stated in the balloted test method. A further clarification resolved that negative.

All five corrected ballot items should go on to the next ballot level.

The additional ballot item editorial comments were mainly observations of missed units conversions, which have been corrected. There was one 'Affirmative with Comment' that was more substantive.

Hind Abi-Akar noted that in the D 6837 (VIB) units revision ballot item, that the kg/kWh units for BSFC had not been upgraded to kg/MJ as they were in the 1K/1N ballot item for BSOC. I pointed out to her that the BSFC measurements were required as an important part of the VIB test method, while in the 1K/1N method, BSOC was listed as a 'non-critical parameter'; my argument being that it seemed premature to change the VIB units, but given the circumstances, upgrading the 1K/1N units seemed reasonable. Needless to say, she didn't 'buy' my reasoning and suggested that a statement be placed in the VIB, similar to that in the 1K/1N, explaining why the kg/kWh units were being retained. Thus, I'm recommending inserting a note (the same note as in the 1K/1N to resolve the negative – discussed above) at the appropriate place in the VIB as follows:

Note 5 – The kWh unit is deprecated. The preferred SI unit is the joule (J); 1 kWh = 3.6 MJ.

There will be four more Sub. B ballot items that will be balloted early in 2009. There are also two more completed revisions that are being reviewed by the appropriate surveillance panels; these are intended for concurrent D02/D02.B0 ballots early in 2009.

Also, in-depth reviews were made of the new ROBO and Solubility/Compatibility test methods, and the Elastomer (gasoline engine types) test method annex, along with reviews of several Editor's proofs and proposed Information Letters.

The section's approval of this report, including the noted action items, is requested.