

# MUMPS Development Committee Audit

Several *M Computing* readers have asked for some more information about the audit of the MUMPS Development Committee's (MDC) activities by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI routinely conducts an audit of a standards developer's activities every five years. This is a summary of some of the information in ANSI's audit report. The complete report is available from the MDC Secretariat, MTA, 1738 Elton Road #205, Silver Spring MD 20903.

**Report of the Audit of the  
MUMPS Development Committee  
by the American National Standards Institute  
February 6 and 7, 1997**

## Background

The MDC has been an accredited canvass developer since October 5, 1984. The MDC is an informal and voluntary organization of interested individuals, supported by their institutions, who contribute their resources to the end of developing a computer language, based upon dialects of the MUMPS language, which meets the requirements of a wide range of applications. The MDC establishes subcommittees to accomplish specific tasks related to development of an MDC standard.

MDC standards are developed in accordance with MUMPS Standard Proposal Rules. When a proposal has been approved as an MDC standard, it is then submitted to a canvass ballot and public review for approval as an American National Standard.

## Scope of the audit

The audit involved a review of the operations of the MDC as they relate to standards development and associated activities, including continuity of administra-

tive oversight and support of the standards activities. Since the MDC has five American National Standards, the scope calls for all five standards to be selected by the auditor for review.

## Audit objectives

The following audit objectives formed the basis of the audit:

1. Based on the evidence reviewed, confirm adherence by the MDC to the criteria for accreditation.
2. Based on the evidence reviewed, confirm that the MDC's procedures and practices continue to be consistent with their approved procedures and with current ANSI requirements.
3. Recommend changes in procedure when, in the opinion of the auditor, such changes would result in more efficient or effective operations.

## Development of Audit Findings

The auditor developed the following findings:

1. The auditor determined, based on the evidence reviewed, that the MDC is operating in accordance with its accredited procedures, thus meeting ANSI's requirements for due process, consensus and other ANSI criteria.
2. In the opinion of the auditor, the canvass lists are not dominated by any one interest category.
3. The auditor found that the canvass process is open and accepts comments. All outstanding objections from both the canvass ballot and public review are recirculated to the canvass list.

4. The Secretariat (M Technology Association) staff is competent and knowledgeable concerning the standards development process and ANSI requirements. The auditor found that the processing of the MDC standards was done in a professional and timely manner taking into account delays incurred because of appeals that were filed.

5. The MDC uses the World Wide Web to announce information that appears in MDC publications and other important information for those who are interested and have access to the Web. The use of electronic media may broaden the base of interested and active participants.

6. The MDC has established liaison/coordination relationships with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC22 and the national standards organizations of Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The auditor would like to express his appreciation for the cooperation extended by the MDC officers and staff, which helped significantly in expediting the audit process, enabled the audit to be effective, and provided an opportunity for discussions benefiting ANSI as well as the MDC.

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