

UK concerns on the resolution 12B given in SC22 N3684.

The UK is concerned about resolution 12B agreed by JTC/1 to be implemented in Edition 5 of the Directives which introduces a threshold for a ballot to be considered valid.

Resolution 12B: Threshold for a ballot to be considered valid.

JTC 1 resolves that all ballots (at all levels) must have at least 50% of P members responding (which includes abstentions) in order for the ballot to be valid.

The UK is concerned that this may lead to significant delays in the work as votes turn out to be invalid.

In order to illustrate our concerns we give the following example:

On SC22 N3686 concerning the 'Free Standards Group request for Category A Liaison with SC22' only 13 of the 25 P members voted. If the UK had failed to vote instead of opposing the resolution, the ballot would have been invalid instead of succeeding.

The Directives only give an obligation to vote on DIS/FDIS documents, hence work could be delayed unnecessarily because of countries not voting. In order to prevent this situation occurring, the UK would like to see countries reminded that they can, under 9.1.2 of the Directives, legitimately abstain if they do not have the appropriate expertise in the area but in all cases they should return a vote.

The UK would also like the effects of this new resolution monitored and would encourage JTC1 to request its subcommittees to report on the effects of this in their areas so as to be in a position to review its operation at the next Plenary.