

Agenda Item: 10

Source: Drafting group (NTT DoCoMo, Alcatel, Ericsson, Nokia, Nortel Networks)

Title: Recommendations applying to corrections of Release 99 specifications

Document for: Decision

1 Proposal

It is proposed that the following guidelines are adopted by TSG RAN, and be applied in RAN WGs:

1. Working Groups should work on release 99 corrections with the objective of maximising the backwards compatibility with previous versions of the specifications.
2. Backwards compatible corrections should be investigated for all corrections of release 99. Different techniques may be applied, such as usage of extensions mechanisms when the correction relates to an ASN.1 message. The possibility to find an acceptable backwards compatible solution will be analysed on a case by case basis. Message extension overhead aspects should be considered.
3. Each CR to a specification should have an analysis of its backwards compatibility aspects. When a CR is not backwards compatible, detailed analysis should be provided to TSG RAN.
4. The WGs of TSG RAN shall ensure that the CRs are done in such a way that they only affect the functionality it is intended to correct. In case the CR is correcting an ASN.1 message it may be required to use the extension mechanism in order not to affect other functionality.
5. As an exception to the previous recommendation, it may happen that a correction of one functionality of release 99 affects other functionalities of release 4. This is in particular the case when an extension is introduced for a correction of release 99, and therefore release 4 extensions are shifted in an ASN.1 message. RAN WG2 should investigate whether improvements to the extension mechanism would allow corrective extensions in one release that would not affect extensions for the following releases.
6. TSG RAN may also decide that corrections of a specific function will not be done in release 99. Corrections of this function may then be done in a later release. The function may also be removed from release 99 if it is not essential.
7. When an inconsistency exists between the ASN.1 and tabular descriptions, the necessary corrections should follow the rules described above. Since the ASN.1 description of messages is the normative part of the specifications, a correction on the Tabular section is the preferred one. This shall be analysed on a case by case basis.