Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

(contribution number)

TIA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TR-42
User-Premises Telecommunications Infrastructure

Title: **Call for Interest – Health Care Standard**

Source:

Henry Franc RCDD
Bell Canada
21 Canniff Street, F3S
Toronto, ON
M5V 3G1
T 416.981.0817
F 877.232.0822
E henry.franc@bell.ca

Mark Maloney RCDD
Ehvert Technology Services
200 Adelaide Street W, Suite 201
Toronto, ON
M5H 1W7
416.868.4772
416.868.6001
mmaloney@ehvert.com

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Abstract: This document contains a call for interest in the development of a Health Care Standard to address the unique environmental and performance requirements of health care facilities.

Recommendation: For Discussion

Fellow Committee Members;

As users of standards, as well as participants in the development of telecommunications cabling standards we have noticed an increasing trend in the construction of new health care facilities. (A recent Bell study found over 30% of current construction projects in Canada were health care related.)

We have also noticed a lack of specific guidance within available standards as to the use of structured cabling for the various types of systems and applications typically encountered in a health care facility. Furthermore there seems to be a lack of information on to the environmental considerations that must be made to accommodate the structured cabling system to the unique environmental conditions.

Health care facilities could include: Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Research Labs, etc. Applications go beyond traditional voice, data and wireless, to nurse call, patient monitoring, diagnostic imaging, TV, master clock etc. The institutional environments encountered can include aspects from typical commercial buildings, to residential, industrial and even outside plant.

If TIA TR-42 were to provide additional guidance in the health care sector we feel it would be of immense use to the user community as well as those who provide services within them. We feel that this standard could primarily be environmental in nature and build on the fundamentals contained in the other TR-42 standards, adding application specific information.

Assuming there is sufficient interest within TR-42 the following is a preliminary scope description for review.

Health Care Telecommunications Infrastructure Standard

The Health Care Telecommunications Infrastructure Standard addresses the requirements for telecommunications infrastructure in health care buildings, structures and campuses and other facilities that are beyond the scope of the Commercial Building Standards. Health Care Telecommunications Infrastructure includes:

- cabling system topology
- pathways and spaces
- cable and associated connecting hardware
- grounding and bonding
- power system coordination
- installation

Health Care buildings, structures campuses and other facilities can range from historical, to the most modern structures. They can be dirty and/or clean, moderate

and/or corrosive, small or large, be single buildings or campuses or an amalgamation of many phases/wings. This standard addresses both clinical and non-clinical applications, as well as public and enterprise networks. The systems that can be accommodated using structured cabling can include but are not limited to:

Voice and Data
Video (CCTV, Security & Broadcast)
Mobile Applications
Nurse Call
Patient Monitoring/Tracking
Diagnostic Imaging
Master Clock
BAS, Life Safety, Lighting Control
Public Networks

The telecommunications cabling specified is intended as an open system designed to support a wide variety of telecommunications other low voltage, power limited applications. The standard addresses special needs for design, materials, processes and installation practices.

Sincerely,

Mark Maloney RCDD Ehvert Technology Services
Henry Franc RCDD Bell Canada