Canada Health Infoway

HL7 Affiliate | Canada

HL7 Canada

Process for HL7 International Balloting

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Introduction

- HL7 International Standards Specifications are created by a sponsoring HL7 Intl Working Group
  - Often with assistance of one or more collaborating Working Groups who are part of the process, or have an interest in the specification
- Projects are formed to develop the specification, and their project scope statement must be approved by the HL7 Intl Technical Steering Committee

Sign up for Consensus Groups

- Each standard specification to be balloted has a “consensus group” formed
- Sign up for Consensus Groups
- Opens one month before official HL7 International balloting period begins
- HL7 Canada has designated voters based on the number of HL7 Canada official members
- Using the HL7 Ballot Desktop, each designated voter must sign up for all consensus groups before the official HL7 Ballot period opens
- If they do not, they will not be permitted to vote

Opening of the Balloting Period

- One month before the next HL7 International Working Group Meeting
- The HL7 Chair assembles a “Ballot Package” for distribution to the HL7 Canada InfoCentral Community
  - This includes an Index spreadsheet with hyperlinks for accessing ballot content and comment spreadsheets
- Comments and Votes are due to HL7 Canada Council 3 business days before HL7 Intl Ballot Period Closes

Ballot Review and Commenting

- Interested persons / parties use the Ballot backage to review the HL7 Standards specification and provide comments using a ballot comment spreadsheet
- Voting
  - Abstain
  - Affirmative - types of affirmatives - with or without comments
  - Negative - types of negatives – all requiring comments and source (in our case “HL7 Canada”)
- Ballot comment spreadsheets provided to HL7 Canada voters

HL7 Canada Designated Voters Review

- Ballot comment spreadsheets are consolidated by ballot item
- Comments are reviewed for “reasonability” and duplication of comments
- A consensus is developed by the HL7 Canada Designated Voters on the votes for each ballot
- Methodology:
  - No comments – HL7 Canada voters Abstain
  - If there is even one Negative vote, with reasonable comments, we vote Negative for the whole ballot and provide all comments and comment source in the consolidated comments spreadsheet in our master ballot voting spreadsheet
  - If no negatives, all Affirmative comments are consolidated, and voters vote affirmative

How Ballot Votes and Comments are Consolidated by HL7 Intl

- A batch process is used by HL7 International import votes and comments into the HL7 JIRA-based balloting system
- Individual HL7 International members enter their comments in the JIRA

HL7 International Ballot Reconciliation

- Sponsoring working groups consolidates comments and votes
- Votes and comments reviewed to determine if they are relevant and persuasive
- WG may request clarification from the voter
  - For the purpose of the GSSO ballot, commenters are anonymous on the vote
  - Kelly is holding actual submitter identity in confidence so that he may ask the original source for clarification, and then an anonymous response is provided
- Outcomes:
  - Vote / comments deemed non-persuasive – no change
  - Vote / comments deemed persuasive – specification changed, notification to the voter with request to withdraw their negative