vgbe position paper

VGBE position on information management using DCC and/or ICC for energy supply units

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As an international center of excellence for the generation and storage of electricity, heat, hydrogen, and related energy sources, as well as sector coupling, we support our members in particular by providing technical documentation and efficient information management for the planning, construction, retrofitting, operation, and maintenance of energy supply units.

To this end, the Technical Committee “Designation and Documentation” (vgbe TC-DD) within vgbe, which is responsible for plant designation and documentation, developed a series of vgbe guidelines for the provision of technical documentation (VGBE-S-831), which has been successfully applied by numerous companies for many years and has proven itself to be practical. In addition, the vgbe TC-DD developed the vgbe standard VGB-S-832 for efficient, standards-compliant information management based on the previously valid international standard IEC 61355-1 “Classification and designation of documents for installations, systems, and equipment – Part 1: Rules and tables for classification“.

The IEC standard describes a two-part document identifier consisting of an object identifier for the item depicted or described and a document type classification code, as shown here. The vgbe standard VGB-S-832, “Document Designation for Energy Supply Units,” goes beyond the IEC standard to provide practical guidance, examples in the form of fact sheets, and a comprehensive list in which a wide range of established industry terms for energy supply documents are assigned to the document kind classification code (DCC). This vgbe standard has also been used very successfully for many years.

In 2024, IEC/ISO published IEC 81355-1, the revised version of IEC 61355-1, entitled "Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Classification and designation of information – Part 1: Basic rules and classification of information".

The foreword to this new edition lists the changes from IEC 61355-1. These are essentially: replacement of the DCC with the Information Class Code (ICC); classification based on information content rather than document type; a classification scheme based on inherent information content; and a shift in focus from documents to information. Annex D of IEC 81355-1, "From the Document Class Code (DCC) to the Information Class Code (ICC)," outlines the differences and similarities between the DCC and the ICC.

A team from the responsible vgbe TC-DD for designation and documentation is currently analyzing the latest version of the basic standard in terms of added value, the feasibility (including partial adoption) of the new Information Class Code (ICC) as a replacement for the previously introduced DCC, the impact on existing vgbe standards, the effort required for adjustments, and the development of a recommendation for the next steps. The ongoing evaluation of the ICC is being conducted with the clear goal of maintaining continuity and compatibility and making adjustments only where they provide clear technical and practical benefits. Three options are currently being considered:

- VGB-S-832 (DCC) remains unchanged
- Revision of VGB-S-832 based on IEC 81355-1 (transition from DCC to ICC)
- Development of a new VGBE standard, VGBE-S-833 (ICC), based on IEC 81355-1, in addition to the current VGB-S-832 (DCC)

About vgbe energy e.V.

vgbe energy e.V. is the European technical association for electricity and heat generation and storage with head office located in Essen (Germany). Currently vgbe energy has 436 members, comprising operators, manufacturers, and institutions connected with energy engineering. Our members come from 33 countries and represent an installed power generation capacity of 300,000 MW.

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Contacts

Dr.-Ing. Thomas Eck
Head of Power Plant
and Environmental Technologies
+49 201 8128 209
thomas.eck@vgbe.energy

Andreas Böser

Designation and Documentation
+49 201 8128 247
andreas.boeser@vgbe.energy

vgbe energy e.V. | Deilbachtal 173 | 45257 Essen | Germany
Chairman: Dr Georg Stamatelopoulos | Executive General Manager: Dr Oliver Then
Contacts: Andreas Böser
t +49 201 8128–0 | e info@vgbe.energy | w www.vgbe.energy

be connected **www.vgbe.energy**