

James McKenzie, Fort Worth District, (817) 978-8725

1. After reviewing the latest version of the Standards I would like to make a suggestion. To help MicroStation users and MGE / Geographics and others that use color to assist them in viewing the different types of items in a MicroStation file. I would like to propose that a standard conversion table be provided in the standard. Instead of limiting MicroStation (Mstn) users to making the colors equal to a line weight. I /we are more interested in the element type than what line thickness of an element is. Choosing a specific color for each different element type helps considerably in this. If the column MicroStation Color# in Table 4 Chap 4 were replaced with a Line Weight Mstn users could continue to use color to define different element types in their .dgn files.

Translation between AutoCAD and MicroStation could and can be set up to translate colors to line weights. A routine could be set up in EDG or MDL to change elements on a certain level to the correct color if they had been translated from AutoCAD.

I am sure you have had this complaint /suggestion before, but it is a very valid issue for MicroStation users.

Response: This is one of those cases where the standard has to limit the performance of one of the software packages. AutoCAD users assign colors to objects, then use pen tables to assign line weights/thickness to colors. Therefore, each color has to be assigned a specific weight (red = 0.25mm, yellow = 0.35mm, etc.). In order to achieve the same visual results when exchanging drawing files, the Center had to make these assignments. If just a line weight was given for MicroStation users, any color in the MicroStation color palette could possibly be used. This would create CADD files with colors totally at the MicroStation user's discretion. The Center regrets having to limit the MicroStation users, but until AutoCAD allows the assignment of line weights to graphics, this practice will continue to be presented in the standard.

2. Another recommendation is to add another large or block type font to list of fonts. Font 43 is not adequate for all the bold applications that are needed. (It is too thin on a lot of cases) Please add a bold.shx to the list of usable fonts. bold could be inserted to the font.rsc font library.

Response: The Center is looking into Windows fonts that are available. These fonts are readily available to all Windows users and can be easily imported into the font tables. The Center will look and see if a bolder block type font is available. If you have a recommendation for a bold.shx font, please submit it.