Major Stages

SC22 Reg. Ballot (complete)	Ideally all major features present. Usually few comments.
SC22 CD Ballot (optional, 3 months)	Nearly all major features in near-final form. After ballot, need to allow time for disposition of comments and completion of all major features.
SC22 FCD Ballot * (required, 4 months)	All major features in essentially final form. After ballot, need to allow time for disposition of comments.
JTC1 FDIS Ballot (required, 2 months + publication time)	Final text. **Note:** This is an up-down ballot, and no comments are allowed. The only way for a NB to express displeasure is to vote No on the whole standard.

* JTC1 is planning to replace the FCD stage with the ISO DIS stage. This would extend the ballot period to 5 months, but the change is not expected to happen in time to affect us.

Observations about the optional CD ballot

Doing a CD ballot has the drawback that it will create more work (we have to resolve comments, and there could potentially be duplicate comments arising during the CD and FCD).

Doing a CD ballot has the potential advantages that:

- It gives the world more than just a "one and only chance" to comment on our work. (But NBs might be happy to accept whatever we do, and there is some opportunity for the public to give us feedback through non-ballot channels.)

- It could help reduce the (a) volume and (b) risk of FCD ballot comments by addressing some comments early. (But there would probably still be a net increase of total comment resolution work, as noted above; and there could still be a surprise late objection about some small-but-suddenly-controversial feature as happened in the C++98 endgame, especially given that some national bodies probably won't look at a draft until it is balloted.)

Future Meetings	Strawman Option X	Strawman Option Y
Oct 1-6, 2007 Kona	**Ship CD** *4 months (3 ballot + 1 buffer)*	Complete features
Feb 24-29, 2008 Bellevue	Resolve comments and complete features	Complete features
Jun 8-13, 2008 Sophia Antipolis	Resolve comments and complete features	Complete features **Ship FCD** *5 months (4 ballot + 1 buffer)*
(Sep? Nov?) 2008-C Bay area	Resolve comments and complete features **Ship FCD** *5 months (4 ballot + 1 buffer)*	Resolve comments
(Feb) 2009-A TBD	Resolve comments	Resolve comments
(Apr? May?) 2009-B TBD	Resolve comments	Resolve comments **Ship FDIS** *≥ 6 months (2 ballot + ≥4 publication)*
(Jun? Sep?) 2009-C TBD	Resolve comments **Ship FDIS** *≥ 6 months (2 ballot + ≥4 publication)*	

These strawman options are not the only options, and both are mutable. Their purpose is to illustrate two major paths as a starting point for discussion.

The red shading is to indicate the increasing risk of reaching the goal of achieving a 2009 publication date. The yellow boxes show where additional space would be needed between meetings to allow for ballot periods.

Both options shown are realistically achievable, but aggressive. In particular:

- Three meetings is probably the minimum realistic number for each ballot comment resolution phase. Depending on the comment volume, achieving that pace may require some additional work between meetings.

- For Option X (issuing a CD ballot) to have a chance at a 2009 publication date, the three 2009 meetings must be compressed into the first half of the year (e.g., Feb-Apr-Jun).