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**Memo CP-D/444**

**Date:** 28 October 2005  
**To:** Distribution  
**From:** O. Schwerer  
**Subject** Date field of conference proceedings  
(Reply to memo CP-E/080)

The rule from the "old" CINDA manual, referred to in CP-E/080, is correct. It is also true that it is not given in the EXFOR manual, the reason possibly being, that traditionally, reference codes would appear first in CINDA anyway (which is no longer the case). Therefore it should be added to the manual. I summarize it below:

- A conference code (ref-type C) actually refers to the conference itself (and may be used even when no proceedings were ever published), therefore does not necessarily refer to published proceedings. In particular, CINDA entries can be made already from the book of abstracts issued for the participants before the conference starts. Therefore, for ref-type C, the actual conference date must be used.
- If the proceedings are published as a book, the publisher and publication date may be added as free text to the entry in dictionary 7. In the EXFOR/CINDA entries, the ref-date will continue to be the date of the conference.
- If the proceedings are published within a journal or report series, entries are coded like all other journal or report articles, i.e. with the publication date. This is the information the user needs to find the reference.
- There is no need to wait for the final publication of the proceedings. In the past, there were many cases where a conference code was assigned at an early stage to make CINDA entries (or EXFOR entries with preliminary data), and when the proceedings were published later in a journal, the conference code was made obsolete (or deleted), after updating the affected entries.

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