DR 17-0029 — SML: Quoting of Worksheet Names Containing Periods

Status: Open

Subject: SML: Quoting of Worksheet Names Containing Periods

Qualifier: Request for clarification

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Submitter’s Defect Number: None

Supporting Document(s): None

Date Circulated by Secretariat: 2017-10-13

Deadline for Response from Editor: 2017-12-13

IS 29500 Reference(s): 29500:2016, Part 1, §18.17.2.3, “Cell References”, pp. 2049–2053

Related DR(s): None

Nature of the Defect:

Should worksheet names with periods be quoted in cell references?

I recently come across problems relating to the quoting from sheet names.

According to the specification these need quoting in cell references if they contain the following special characters:

**§18.17.2.3 Cell References**

sheet-name-special=

sheet-name-start-character-special,

[ [sheet-name-characters-special], sheet-name-end-character-special] ; sheet-name-start-character-special=

character (apostrophe | "\*" | "[" | "]" | "\" | ":" | "/"

| "?") ;

(\* any character, including operator, except ', \*, [, ], \, :, /, or ? \*) sheet-name-end-character-special= sheet-name-start-character-special ; sheet-name-characters-special= sheet-name-character-special, {sheet-name-character-special} ; sheet-name-character-special= apostrophe, apostrophe | character (apostrophe | "\*" | "[" | "]" | "\" | ":" | "/"

| "?") ;

(\* any character, including operator, except \*, [, ], \, :, /, or ? \*)

However, it seems that Excel at least also quotes sheet names with periods in them: Sheet.1!$A$1 becomes 'Sheet.1'!$A$1.

Does this mean that the specification should be updated to include "." as sheet-name-character-special?

Furthermore, it looks like Excel struggles with some sheet titles, for example you cannot add charts to sheets named "an12.103.1". Is this documented anywhere?

Solution Proposed by the Submitter:

None

Schema Change(s) Needed:

No

**Editor’s Response:**

None

Changes to Part 1: N Part 2: N Part 3: N Part 4: N