



## In This Issue

- Featured Article:  
The Consumer Perspective: Adding Value to the Standardization Process
- Latest from the IEC
- Conformity Assessment
- USNC News
- General Interest
- Save the Dates

**C**onsumers buy and use a large number of electrotechnical products and services that impact their lives each day. Along with this consumption come many consumer concerns on a variety of issues from safety to standardization. A consumer voice on USNC technical committees can provide a different perspective on an issue and offer valuable suggestions for improving products and services.



## The Consumer Perspective — Adding Value to the Standardization Process

by JoAnn Emmel  
Associate Professor of Housing  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

### Incorporating the Consumer Perspective

What can consumer representation contribute to electrotechnical standards?

Every day, consumers buy and utilize a large number of electrical products and related services. A consumer voice on USNC technical committees can provide a different perspective on issues like safety and standardization, and can also offer valuable suggestions for improving products and services.

Consumer participation is not new to the standards development process; many SDOs already have consumer representatives seated on their committees. At the international level, the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) is a good model. But how the IEC will incorporate consumer representation remains to be seen. Various avenues for interaction have been explored, and this discussion will continue.

### Background

In January 2006, a consumer seat was established on the USNC Council and the Council adopted a strategic objective to

build strong consumer involvement and active participation at the management and technical levels of the IEC and the USNC.

I applaud the USNC for recognizing the importance of consumer involvement in the standards process. Many steps have been taken to integrate this representation, but this is only a beginning.

Support for consumer involvement has been growing within the IEC. An important first step was the inclusion of an objective in the IEC Masterplan that reinforces the importance of consumer representation and participation at the National Committee (NC) level wherever appropriate. In addition to the USNC, at least one other National Committee, Canada's CNC, has established a consumer representative seat on their council. Hopefully this initiative will expand to other NCs around the globe.

The IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) Standardization Strategy has also incorporated the goal of recognizing the views of all stakeholders – including consumers – and furthering their participation in IEC work. Recommendations for consumer involvement in standards development by national groups is also a component of the ISO/IEC Statement on Consumer Participation in Standardization Work. For example, ISO COPOLCO has been participating in the international standards

**Currently there is no defined role for consumers at the policy, management, or advisory level of IEC. The USNC, however, is working to change this.**



development process since 1979 by initiating and providing feedback on standards that impact the lives of consumers around the world.

As stated by USNC president Jim Matthews in his Fall 2006 address to the Consumer Interest Forum (CIF) of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), COPOLCO is

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## IEC 1906 Award: NCs and TC Chairs to Submit Nominations

At the beginning of each year, all International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) National Committees (NC) and chairmen of all Technical Committees (TC) are asked to submit their nominations for the IEC 1906 Award.



Created in 2004 by the IEC Executive Committee (ExCo), the 1906 Award was established to commemorate the year that the IEC was founded.

It honors those IEC technical experts around the world who have made “major contributions to furthering the interests of electrotechnology, standardization, and related activities.”

The award also recognizes exceptional and recent achievement – a project or other specific contribution – that relates to the activities of the IEC and which contributes in a significant way to advancing the work of the Commission.

It is the responsibility of chairmen and secretaries of each TC to set relevant criteria which form the basis on which they select Awardees. A maximum of five awards can be made each year per TC, including the Subcommittees.

After the nomination and selection process is complete, the president of each NC presents the award at the next suitable national level occasion. This year, Jim Matthews, president of the U.S. National Committee (USNC), will honor the award recipients at a USNC Council meeting.

The 2007 IEC 1906 Award was given to 155 experts from industry, government and academia from 46 TCs and 18 NCs. Twenty-nine U.S. experts were honored at last year’s USNC Council meeting in October 2007.

### Further information

To learn more about the IEC 1906 Award, visit [www.iec.ch/about/awards](http://www.iec.ch/about/awards). ■

FEATURED ARTICLE (continued)

## JoAnn Emmel: The Consumer Perspective – Adding Value to the Standardization Process, continued

not responsible for IEC work and is not an IEC body. Currently there is no defined role for consumers at the management, policy or advisory level of IEC. The USNC, however, is working to change this by requesting that COPOLCO’s work be more visible in IEC. The IEC now has a liaison in COPOLCO, creating closer ties between the two groups.

COPOLCO and its participatory consumer groups have worked on several standards issues of interest to IEC, including:

- Compatibility between battery chargers and consumer goods
- Permissible exterior surface temperatures of toasters
- Presence of exclusion clauses in domestic household appliances for such populations as children, elderly and disabled users
- Promotion of ISO/IEC Guides having a consumer dimension
- Development of guidelines for second hand goods including household appliances
- Inclusion of safety rationales in consumer product safety standards
- New work item proposals on consumer product safety and recalls

### USNC Support for Consumer Involvement

With the establishment of a consumer seat on the USNC Council came a number of information exchanges to help further the understanding of the consumer role among Council stakeholders.

When Jim Matthews addressed the ANSI CIF in Fall 2006, he concluded by voicing his interest in striving for growing consumer

**In January 2007, USNC Council approved a fee waiver provision for consumers on U.S. TAGs, making it easier than ever for consumers to participate.**

involvement at the technical and policy levels of the USNC Council and expressing his desire for participation from the CIF.

In the July 2007 issue of this newsletter, he again emphasized the USNC Council position, stating, “Our number one priority,

however, remains unchanged: the USNC will represent United States industry, association, government and consumer interests across all aspects of the IEC. We will continue to reach out to a broad base of stakeholders to ensure that all voices are represented.”

In January 2007, Linda Golodner, chair of the CIF, addressed the USNC Council. At that same meeting, the Council approved a fee waiver provision for consumers on U.S. TAGs, making it easier than ever for consumers to participate. Dr. Joyce Rasdall was the initial consumer representative to the USNC Council; I stepped into the role in January of 2008.

### USNC Consumer Task Force

As consumer representative, my charge is to lead the USNC Consumer Task Force, which includes Jim Matthews; Bob Williams, USNC vice president, technical; Al Brazauski, IEC/TC 61 Secretariat; Trudie Williams of the Department of Defense; Linda Golodner of the National Consumers League; and members of the ANSI staff, including Charlie Zegers, Rafael Lourenço, and Jim McCabe.

Established to develop an action plan to implement the USNC strategy on consumer participation, the task force has been meeting since January via conference call to refine and update the strategy. The main points of the strategy include:

- *Interface with Consumers* – In addition to my role as USNC Council consumer representative, IEC has identified Gert Bukkjaer as the industry representative to

## FEATURED ARTICLE (continued)

## JoAnn Emmel: The Consumer Perspective — Adding Value to the Standardization Process, continued

COPOLCO. I am planning to attend the 2008 COPOLCO meeting in Seoul, Korea; reports on COPOLCO activities will be distributed to USNC Council members.

- *ANSI CIF* – The first part of the plan called for an exchange of presentations between USNC and CIF which has been completed. As liaison between the two groups, I will provide periodic reports.
- *USNC Council* – The action plan calls for articles on consumer participation, like this one, to be placed in the USNC newsletter. Next, we are looking at possible use of the COPOLCO distance learning module for training consumer representatives in IEC. Lastly, although a fee waiver is in place for consumer representatives on TAGs, their voting participation on USNC governance bodies remains a key goal.
- *USNC TAGs* – TAGs have been identified and prioritized for consumer representation. TC 59 and TC 61 were selected for the initial effort and both now include consumer representation. Other representatives will be sought through eletrotechnology-related professional associations.
- *Outreach* – In addition to the USNC brochure, *Engaging Consumers in Global Standardization*, an ongoing dialogue with other National Committees will help to build best practices in relating to IEC.

### Furthering Consumer Involvement

With strategy point nine on building strong consumer participation at the management and technical levels of IEC and the USNC, the USNC has a good foundation to move forward on important initiatives. Some of the key goals to be accomplished include:

- *Recruitment* – Additional consumer representatives must be recruited for USNC

TAGs and we must work to establish continuity within these positions.

- *Consumer Vote* – Currently the consumer representative position on the USNC Council is a non-voting position. Establishing a consumer vote on the Council will give a true voice to the consumer, as will representation within the IEC.
- *Training* – Education and training must be implemented for consumer representatives, especially those that have not been involved with the standards development process.
- *Funding* – The TAG participation fee waiver is a good first step to help ensure consumer involvement, but consumers should not be expected to use personal funds for meeting travel. Funding will help to ensure effective face-to-face interaction and create a more diverse constituency.

As stated by Jim Matthews in his address to ANSI's CIF, "We will have to learn to work together." I believe it can work and I look forward to the challenge. ■

JoAnn Emmel began her tenure as consumer representative on the USNC Council in January 2008. Currently an associate professor of housing at Virginia Tech, Dr. Emmel's USNC position is representing the Association of Home Equipment Educators. She is active in the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, as well as the Housing Education and Research Association. Dr. Emmel is also engaged in a number of standardization activities, including the ANSI CIF, CSA's Z21/83 gas appliance committee, UL's Technical Panel for waste disposers, and review panels for a number of AHAM appliance testing procedures.

The author extends her thanks to Jim McCabe, ANSI director of consumer relations and IDSP, for much of the background information.

## LATEST FROM THE IEC

## New IEC Member: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya



Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been approved by the IEC membership as the 69th member of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

Commenting on the news, General Secretary and CEO, Ronnie Amit said: "Africa is becoming an increasingly active region in electrotechnical standardization. Libya is undergoing great development and I am convinced that its involvement in the IEC standards and conformity assessment activities will bring great benefits to both Libya and the IEC family."

The president of the Libyan National Electrotechnical Committee (LNEC) is Professor Abdalla Fadel from the Alfateh University in Tripoli.

LNEC's secretary is Hussein Alsaghir, who works with the Libyan National Center for Standards and Metrology.

Libya measures 1.76 million square kilometers, and has a population of just over six million. Its estimated electricity production of 21.15 billion kWh (based on 2005 estimates).

Libya's principal export is oil, of which the country produces some 1.72 million barrels each day.

Other significant industries include iron and steel production, textiles, handicrafts, and cement.

### Contact information

Libyan National Electrotechnical Committee  
Libyan National Centre for Standardization and Metrology (LNCSM) Building  
AlFernage, P.O. Box 5178  
LY - Tripoli  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

### Further information

[www.lncsm.org.ly](http://www.lncsm.org.ly) ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## El Salvador Joins IEC Affiliate Country Programme

The Central American country El Salvador is the latest participant in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme.



El Salvador brings the total number of Affiliates to 78, and pushes the IEC family, which combines members and affiliates, to 147 countries.

Affiliate Leader, Carlos Rodriguez, played a major role in helping to convince El Salvador's CONACYT – the National Council for Science and Technology – to sign up for the Programme. As a result, the new Affiliate has already received five IEC International Standards for use in its national adoption process. Two nominated experts have been given access to the selected IEC Technical Committee 1, *Terminology*, as well as access to all documents available on the IEC's general server.

Hydropower, geothermal power and petroleum are some of El Salvador's natural resources. El Salvador treats protection of the environment as a top priority and has signed several international agreements on environmental protection.

With a population of approximately 7 million, the country's electricity consumption is 5.319 billion kWh (2006 estimate) for a production of 5.316 billion kWh.

### Contact information

Dr. Carlos Roberto Ochoa  
Executive Director  
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Colonia Médica  
Ave. Dr. E. Alvarez y Pasaje  
Dr. Guillermo Rodríguez Pacas no. 51  
SV-San Salvador  
Tel: +503.2226.2800  
Fax: +503.2225.6255

### Further information

[www.conacyt.gob.sv](http://www.conacyt.gob.sv) ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Standardization Management Board Examines Ways to Improve Efficiency of IEC Standard Setting

The IEC Council Board has charged the Standardization Management Board (SMB) with reducing the time for voting on IEC documents.

While both Technical Committees (TCs) and Subcommittees (SCs) as well as the Central Office have made considerable efforts over the last few years to reduce the time that it takes to develop an IEC publication, the commenting and voting periods on documents have remained as they were.

Since the present voting/commenting periods were agreed to in 1992 when the IEC was still distributing documents in paper form, the current electronic system of document distribution and balloting should reduce the time needed to prepare and submit the relevant comments and votes.

An ad hoc group has been established by the SMB to examine possible solutions.

### Project Management Process

The SMB currently spends considerable time reviewing the work programmes of TC/SCs, particularly those work items that have overrun certain fixed limits that are laid down in the SMB and ISO/IEC Directives. Examples include work items that are in excess of four years of total development time, target dates that have overrun by more than four months, and CDVs (Committee Draft for Voting) that are not available within two years of initiation.

According to the SMB, this task would be much better managed by the Central Office Technical Officers and TC/SC officers, who should be empowered and instructed to take over this work.

Over the coming months, Central Office plans to provide tools and appropriate information – such as automatic warnings in the work programmes of the TC/SCs – that would permit TC/SC officers to make decisions accordingly.

In addition, the SMB plans to focus its attention on other strategic TC/SC issues including new areas of work and resourcing.

In the meantime, TC/SCs are asked to continue to follow existing guidelines; additional instructions and guidance will be provided as the new tools become available and are approved by the SMB.

Central Office will present a number of proposals to the SMB on tools that can be provided to TC/SCs to help them manage their work.

While giving TCs the responsibility to manage their work, the SMB would like TC management to maintain and take on overall standards development time. The SMB will continue to monitor overall TC/SC performance.

### Re-engineering of TCs

In addition, the SMB has been examining ways to reduce, integrate and restructure TCs to create a more efficient committee structure.

In response to the Council Board's request for the SMB to explore and investigate the nature of industry participation in IEC technical work, the SMB is establishing a small working group with participation from multi-national companies from a number of different industries.

Smaller and medium size enterprises, concerned at a local level, but operating worldwide, are also asked to participate. ■



**IEC TCs, SCs, and Central Office have made considerable efforts in recent years to reduce the time it takes to develop an IEC publication. An IEC SMB ad hoc group is currently examining ways to similarly optimize voting procedures.**

## LATEST FROM THE IEC

## ISO/IEC/ITU International Workshop Accelerates Discussion of Vehicular ICT Standards

For the third time, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) came together last month to host The Fully Networked Car, a workshop held at the Geneva International Motor Show.

Focused on a discussion of information and communication technologies (ICT) for motor vehicles, this year's event was held on March 5-7, 2008, and also addressed the special theme of climate change.

In his keynote address, Max Mosley, president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), discussed the leading edge technology currently being used in the development of F1 racing cars.

Workshop attendees were able to learn more about F1 technology first hand at the Honda Racing F1 Team's exhibition. Their new vehicle "earthdreams" emphasizes environmental features and points toward ICT and green automotive technologies that could make their way into future consumer vehicles.

Participants agreed that proprietary technologies are a major concern and that the vehicle manufacturing and ICT industries need to come together to develop products that are driven by globally relevant standards.

Some of the priorities identified for future standardization efforts included a common set of standards for the full range of nomadic devices; standards for software-defined radios; and standards to cope with the gap between the short lifecycle of mobile phones compared to the relatively long lifecycle of cars.

Participants also stressed the need for the ICT and vehicle manufacturing industries to come to a common understanding about consumer privacy concerns in the collection and retention of data.

Next year's workshop is planned for March 4-6, 2009. Details will be available at [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).



The Honda Racing F1 Team exhibited their new vehicle – earthdreams – at the ISO/IEC/ITU Fully Networked Car event earlier this month.

### IEC TC Involvement in Vehicular ICT

#### TC 21, *Secondary Cells*

- Battery Council International is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### TC 22, *Power electronic systems and equipment*

- The National Electrical Manufacturers Association is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### TC 69, *Electric Road Vehicles and Electric Industrial Trucks*

- Underwriters Laboratories Inc. is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### TC 79, *Alarm Systems*

- The National Fire Protection Association is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### TC 100, *Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment*

- Chaired by Mark Hyman (U.S.)
- The Consumer Electronics Association is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### TC 105, *Fuel Cell Technologies*

- CSA America Inc. is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

#### CISPR/SC D

- Chaired by Poul Andersen (U.S.)
- SAE International is the USNC approved U.S. TAG Administrator

### Further information

To learn more about this year's event, visit [www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/ict-auto/200803](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/ict-auto/200803). ■

## LATEST FROM THE IEC

## IEC PACT Makes Way for Market Strategy Board

The IEC President's Advisory

Committee on Technology (PACT) held its 14th meeting in

Qingdao, China

on November 20, 2007. Chaired by outgoing IEC president, Renzo Tani, the meeting concentrated on the creation of the IEC's new Market Strategy Board (MSB) which will be taking over the work of PACT, albeit with a much broader mandate.

The new Market Strategy Board will, for the first time, permit direct input from industry on such issues as technology watch, technology road-mapping, and market priorities for work within the IEC.

Now an IEC vice-president, Enno Liess, formerly the German National Committee secretary, heads the MSB activity.

Following a number of presentations on energy efficiency and the environment, the ensuing discussion emphasized the need for the IEC to take the lead in developing reference and measurement standards in this area so that they are available for regulators and governments when needed.

Meeting participants identified a clear definition of the term "efficiency" as a significant issue to be addressed by the MSB. Once the terminology is addressed, the IEC will have a clearer view of needs in this area.

PACT members also underlined the need for cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The meeting was hosted by Haier Corporation and included a technical visit the following day, which gave participants the opportunity to view Haier Corporation's corporate testing laboratories and some of its latest products, including detergent-free washing machines. ■



PACT members Mathias Fünfschilling and Enno Liess in China

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Brazilian National Committee Welcomes New Secretary

A familiar face in the IEC Family, Martin Crnugelj, the Secretary of the Brazilian National Committee, started his well-earned retirement in March after 50 years of professional activity.

Crnugelj had been Secretary of COBEI, the Electrical, Electronics, Illumination and Telecommunications Brazilian Committee, since 2002. He coordinated Brazil's electrotechnical standardization activity on the CB3 Committee of the Brazilian Technical Standards Association (ABNT).

On his last day in the office on March 7, 2008, Crnugelj had the duty of informing Chris Agius, Executive Secretary of the IECQ conformity assessment scheme dealing with the electronic components, that Brazil would be seeking membership in the scheme.

Crnugelj's replacement in both the NC Secretary and the CB3 is José Sebastião Viel, who sits as the Brazilian representative on the IEC's Standardization Management Board (SMB).

Viel is from the electrotechnical industry, having worked for Schneider Electric and Gould Renomax Brazil. He was the technology director of the Brazilian Electrical and Electronics Industry Association (ABINEE) and chairman of UCIEE (União Certificadora) from 1998 until 2005. He has been serving on the IEC SMB management body since 2005.

The Brazilian NC has been an active participant in IEC technical committees under the management of Mr. Crnugelj. The NC also hosts the IEC's Latin America Regional Centre in its São Paulo offices. ■



(L-R) José Sebastião Viel and Martin Crnugelj

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Ballot Resolution Meeting Addresses Comments on Draft ISO/IEC 29500 Standard

National delegations from thirty-three countries participated in the ballot resolution meeting (BRM) in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25-29 February 2008 on the draft international standard ISO/IEC DIS 29500, *Information technology - Office Open XML file formats*.

The purpose of the BRM was to resolve comments submitted by the national member bodies of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on the draft and to reach agreement on proposed modifications arising from these comments with a view to making the document acceptable for publication as an international standard according to IEC/ISO criteria.

No decision or vote on the document as a whole or any part of it was taken at the meeting, but only on proposed changes to it. A ballot on the draft standard last September produced comments from the 87 national member bodies of IEC and ISO that voted.

At the beginning of the meeting, each national body was invited to raise the issues they considered to be their priority so that these could be discussed during the BRM.

When it was apparent that it would not be possible for all comments to be reviewed individually, the meeting discussed and agreed on a voting procedure to decide on the remaining proposed modifications. A total of 43 resolutions, involving dispositions or groups of dispositions, were accepted, most of them unanimously, some by consensus and only four by simple majority; four were refused.

Following the BRM, all 87 national member bodies who voted in the original fast-

track ballot had thirty days – until midnight CET on 29 March 2008 – to examine the actions taken in response to the comments and to reconsider their vote if they wish. If the modifications proposed are such that national bodies then wish to withdraw their negative votes, or turn abstentions into positive votes, and the acceptance criteria are then met, the standard may proceed to publication. Otherwise, the proposal will have failed and this fast-track procedure will be terminated. This would not preclude subsequent re-submission under the normal IEC and ISO standards development rules.

The BRM was organized by subcommittee

SC 34, *Document description and processing languages*, of the joint ISO/IEC technical committee, JTC 1, *Information technology*. JTC 1 is one of the most experienced and productive of ISO and IEC technical committees, having developed some 2,150 globally used standards and related documents.

The BRM was a

technical meeting open to delegates that were duly nominated by the ISO and IEC national member bodies and registered for the meeting. The BRM was not intended to be a public event but followed the orderly and inclusive process of ISO and IEC. With the BRM review completed, it is now up to national bodies to determine whether approval of ISO/IEC DIS 29500 is warranted.

ISO/IEC JTC1 is a joint technical committee of IEC and ISO. IEC has some 6,000 international standards and related products, covering electrical, electronic, and related technologies, together with three global conformity assessment systems. ISO has more

**Following the BRM, all 87 national member bodies who voted in the original fast-track ballot had until midnight CET on 29 March 2008 to examine the actions taken in response to the comments and to reconsider their vote if they wish.**

**With the BRM review completed, it is now up to national bodies to determine whether approval of ISO/IEC DIS 29500 is warranted.**

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Ballot Resolution Meeting Addresses Comments on Draft ISO/IEC 29500 Standard, continued

than 17,000 international standards and related documents in its current portfolio and publishes around 100 new or revised standards per month.

### Background on ISO/IEC DIS 29500

ISO/IEC DIS 29500 is a proposed standard for word-processing documents, presentations and spreadsheets that is intended to be implemented by multiple applications on multiple platforms. According to the submitters of the document, one of its objectives is to ensure the long-term preservation of documents created over the last two decades using programmes that are becoming incompatible with continuing advances in the field of information technology.

ISO/IEC DIS 29500 was originally developed as the Office Open XML Specification by Microsoft Corporation which submitted it to Ecma International for transposing into an ECMA standard.

Following a process in which other IT industry players participated, Ecma International subsequently published the document as ECMA standard 376.

Ecma International then submitted the standard in December 2006 to ISO/IEC JTC 1, with whom it has category "A" liaison status,



for adoption as an international standard under the JTC 1 "fast track" procedure. This allows a standard developed within the IT industry to be presented to JTC 1 as a draft international standard (DIS) that can be adopted after a process consisting of a one-month review by the national bodies of JTC 1 and then a five-month ballot open to all voting national bodies of ISO and IEC.

The five-month ballot process which ended on 2 September 2007 was open to the IEC and ISO national member bodies from 104 countries, including 41 that are participating members of ISO/IEC JTC 1.

Approval requires at least two-thirds (i.e. 66.66 %) of the votes cast by national bodies participating in ISO/IEC JTC 1 to be positive; and no more than one-fourth (i.e. 25 %) of the total number of national body votes cast to be negative. Neither of these

criteria were achieved in the DIS vote; 53% of votes cast by national bodies participating in ISO/IEC JTC 1 were positive and 26% of national votes cast were negative. ■

*Reprinted from a joint ISO/IEC press release*

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Now Available: WSC Transit Security Standardization Report

A new report issued by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)



addresses the strategic role for international standards and conformity assessment programs in ensuring the safety and security of urban, suburban, and regional commuter transportation.

The report is a product from the October 2007 World Standards Cooperation Workshop on Transit Security, an event organized and convened by ANSI in partnership with the IEC, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

According to the report, participants found that international cooperation in the standardization arena has a strong impact on transit security, leading to enhanced interoperability, shared situational awareness, and strong public-private partnerships in the interest of crisis management and overall security. Stakeholders in the transit environment are encouraged to use the report as a resource on standards and conformity assessment-based solutions to their security-related challenges.

Although many standards exist to address the safety of public transportation systems, Workshop participants identified a number of gap areas for security including risk assessment, video surveillance, and explosive detection equipment, among others.

In January 2008, the ISO/IEC/ITU Strategic Advisory Group on Security resolved to examine the report for specific action items that could be addressed by ISO/IEC/ITU technical committees. Other standards developing organizations are also asked to review these gap areas and consider working closely with the transit security community to develop relevant standards.

Interested parties are invited to [click here](#) to view the report. ■

### ISO/IEC Guide Builds Consumer Trust

A new guide from the IEC and ISO demonstrates how key consumer principles relate to the standards development process, providing benefits to standards developing organizations (SDOs) and service providers alike.

ISO/IEC Guide 76:2008, *Development of service standards – Recommendations for addressing consumer issues*, explores how safety,



information, choice, the right to be heard, access, fairness, quality, environmental issues, and compliance affect consumer choice.

The guide is relevant to all types of services from large and small organizations alike, whether services are rendered under a contract, for a fee, as an act of charity, or for the public good.

To learn more or view a preview version of the document, visit [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch). ■

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## IEC Launches Mark of Conformity for Explosive Environments

Equipment used in explosive (Ex) environments – from grain silos and hospitals to petrochemical installations and gas stations – now has a dedicated mark of conformity: the Ex Mark.



The new safety mark was developed by IECEX, the Commission's Scheme for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres.

The Ex Mark will be granted by approved IECEX certification bodies (ExCBs) for use on equipment that is covered by an IECEX Certificate of Conformity and has been tested and manufactured under systems that are under ongoing surveillance by ExCBs. The mark will help to assure governments, safety regulators, and industry that the equipment meets the world's most respected and vigorous safety standards for use in explosive environments.

With equipment for Ex environments valued at tens of billions of U.S. dollars each year, the Ex Mark will help to differentiate manufacturers and facilitate commerce in a heavily regulated market place.

According to IECEX Executive Secretary Chris Agius, the Ex Mark will build on the strong reputation of the IEC and IECEX.

The new Ex Mark is the latest of the range of International Conformity Assessment Services that IEC offers under the IECEX Scheme which now include:

- IECEX Certified Equipment Program:
  - IECEX Certificates of Conformity
  - IECEX Test and Assessment Reports
  - IECEX Quality Assessment Reports
- IECEX Certified Services Program:
  - Covering Ex Repair and Overhaul Workshops
- IECEX Conformity Mark System

### Further information

Visit [www.iecex.com](http://www.iecex.com) to learn more. ■

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## IECEE Announces Record Figures for 2007

The IECEE, the worldwide system for conformity testing and certification of electrotechnical equipment and components, has announced record figures for 2007.



This comes as confirmation of the growing demand for visible proof that systems and devices have been tested and found to be safe and reliable to use.

The ever-increasing use of electrotechnical equipment and components in our daily lives has underscored the challenge of ensuring that products have been correctly designed and manufactured. Certain products are so complex that the only means of ensuring their safety is through assessment by independent third parties.

The IECEE Conformity Assessment scheme uses independent third-party testing labs (CBTLs) and certification bodies (NCBs) who are in no way related to the source of manufactured goods, ensuring that their assessments are fair, accurate, and definitively demonstrate conformance to IEC standards.

These specialists test and certify products against internationally recognized and approved standards, and show the results of their assessment by issuing test certificates and reports that bear a certification mark of conformity.

### International Confidence

2006 saw a 20% increase in the number of Certification Body (CB) test certificates

issued to over fifty thousand. In 2007, the number of requests received from current members of the IECEE to update the scope of their activity to include new products or later versions of IEC Standards increased by 173% compared to the previous year.

This substantial increase demonstrates the ever-growing international confidence in IECEE Conformity Assessment schemes and their popularity in the worldwide marketplace.

### IECEE Membership and Scope

Today, the IECEE includes 50 member countries, including the United States. Last year the number of IECEE member testing

laboratories increased from 216 to 234. The CB scheme now covers several different product categories which include a diverse range of devices, such as:

- batteries
- cables and cords
- capacitors
- components for appliances
- electromagnetic compatibility (EMC)
- electronic toys
- household equipment
- installation accessories and connection devices
- information technology and office equipment
- lighting units and other luminaires

**Today's electrotechnical products and components are extremely complex.**

**Testing and certification by independent, third-party laboratories and specialists helps to demonstrate safety and conformance with standards that are internationally recognized and acknowledged.**





## CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## IECEE Announces Record Figures for 2007, continued

- measuring instruments
- electrical equipment for medical and healthcare use
- low voltage and high power switching
- installation protective equipment
- photovoltaics
- safety transformers
- portable tools such as electric drills
- electronic entertainment systems devices and services pertaining to hazardous substances.

**Recent and Upcoming IECEE Events**

The IECEE annual Certification Management Committee (CMC) meeting is scheduled to take place on June 11-12, 2008, on Korea's Jeju Island.

Following IECEE's recent expansion into the Gulf Region, an IECEE international conference is scheduled to take place in Bahrain at the end of 2008. This meeting will continue to sensitize participating Gulf countries to the growing importance of the participation in the international standardization process, as well as the benefits using the IEC's conformity assessment schemes.

**Further information**

To learn more about IECEE, its membership, and upcoming meetings, visit [www.iecee.org](http://www.iecee.org). ■

## CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## Demand for IECQ HSPM Certification Growing Fast

At year end 2007, SGS – a leading testing, inspection, verification, and certification company – issued its 318th IECQ Hazardous Substance Process Management (HSPM) certificate. This marks the first time that such a high number of HSPM certificates have been issued in single year by a single certification body under the IEC Quality assessment system for electronic components (IECQ).



IECQ provides visibility and independent verification that electronic components and related materials are compliant to appropriate standards, specifications or other documents.

Demand for the HSPM program is growing fast. It is part of a global trend towards environmentally friendly products, and towards a higher level of responsibility on environmental protection. Reducing or eliminating hazardous substances from products is a major part of that effort.

IECQ HSPM is based on the IECQ publication QC 080000, *Electrical and Electronic Components and Products Hazardous Substance Process Management System Requirements* (HSPM). The standard was developed jointly by the U.S.-based Electronic Industries Association and the Electronic Component Certification Board, and was adopted by the IECQ for global use.

Today, QC 080000 is used by more than 800 manufacturers worldwide to demonstrate their compliance with the European RoHS (Restrictions of the use of hazardous substances) directive and customer-driven green process manufacturing systems.

For a manufacturer, achieving IECQ HSPM certification enables compliance with the strictest legislation in the field, opens new business opportunities, and demonstrates commitment to environmental preservation.

**Further information**

To learn more, visit [www.iecq.org](http://www.iecq.org). ■

## Conformity Assessment-Based Solutions to Toy Safety Concerns

The U.S. Toy Industry Association (TIA), in conjunction with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and a working group of safety experts and industry, government, and consumer leaders, have just completed a public comment and review period for the proposed Toy Safety Coordination Initiative (TSCI).



Developed in response to toy safety concerns raised during the summer of 2007, the TSCI describes procedures and audit mechanisms for design hazard analysis, manufacturing process controls, and in-plant testing.

"We are developing a system that will help to assure that products entering the U.S. market meet this nation's rigorous toy safety requirements – whether those requirements are defined in standards or regulations," explained Carter Keithley, TIA president.

The initiative was launched immediately following an August 28, 2007, vote by the TIA Board of Directors to endorse a three-point plan that would reinforce toy testing and inspection systems. TIA commissioned ANSI, coordinator of U.S. voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment activities, to chair the effort.

"This is an aggressive program and many companies are already implementing the safety assurance measures contained therein," added Carter Keithley, TIA president. "What we are proposing is an industry-wide initiative that would ensure that these measures are adopted for all toy products to be sold in the U.S. market, and to restore the confidence of American consumers in the safety of toys."

Toy manufacturers, retailers, safety experts, consumer advocates, and government authorities have been involved in the program's development.

"The TSCI is a robust system that provides solid, practical assurances of safety in a multi-faceted and complex industry," added Lane Hallenbeck, ANSI vice president of accreditation services and chair of the working group. "From producer to government regulator to retailer to parent – everyone will have a role to play." ■

USNC NEWS

## USNC to Send Delegation to COPANT Meeting in Argentina

**B**uenos Aires, Argentina will play host to the 2008 General Assembly of COPANT, the Pan American Standards



Commission. To ensure representation from the U.S. electrotechnical sector, the USNC will be sending a delegation to the meeting, which will take place on May 5-8, 2008.

The U.S. delegation will be composed of the USNC president, Jim Matthews; USNC vice president, finance, Alec McMillan; USNC TMC member, Sonya Bird; general secretary, Charlie Zegers; and deputy general secretary, Rafael Lourenço.

This year's General Assembly agenda will feature a presentation on effective ways to participate in the IEC and the work of the Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas, which is composed of the five full IEC members in the region: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

In conjunction with COPANT's General Assembly, an educational workshop will be held on several aspects of the IEC.

Sponsored by the National Committees of the five full members of the IEC National Committees of the Americas, the workshop will address topics such as:

- how to establish a national committee;
- how to leverage the resources of the IEC Latin America Regional Center (IEC-LARC);
- the advantages of participating in the IEC's Affiliate Country Program; and
- the interactions of the IEC and COPANT with other standards organizations in the region such as MERCOSUR and CANENA.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, May 8, and will be open to all General Assembly participants. ■

USNC NEWS

## USNC Launches New Online Tools for Members and TAG Administrators

**D**uring the second TAG Administrator Workshop in August 2007, USNC leadership heard several recommendations for tools and services that would help Committee members work faster and more efficiently.

In response, the USNC is pleased to announce the launch of two new resources: the online Toolbox and TAG Administrator discussion board.

### USNC Online Toolbox: All the Documents and Forms You Need in One Spot

Now available on the Committee's website, the Toolbox is a one-stop location where USNC members can find the main documents and forms necessary to do their work.

In the Toolbox, members will find such documents as the Operating Procedures for USNC TAGs, the USNC Policy on Adoption of IEC standards, survival kits for IEC TC



Secretaries and Chairman, among many others.

All USNC members are encouraged to [visit the site](#) and use this new resource. Suggestions regarding documents to be included in the Toolbox

should be directed to Rafael Lourenço, USNC deputy general secretary ([rlourenco@ansi.org](mailto:rlourenco@ansi.org)).

### Online Discussion Board for TAG Administrators

A new online discussion board accessible through the USNC website facilitates real-time, peer-to-peer communication among U.S. TAG Administrators.

Administrators are encouraged to sign in at [www.ansi.org/usnc](http://www.ansi.org/usnc) to create new discussion threads or add their opinions to existing topics.

Questions and comments about the online discussion board should be directed to Kevin Sullivan, USNC supervisor ([ksulliva@ansi.org](mailto:ksulliva@ansi.org)). ■

## USNC Constituent Survey Now Complete

**B**etween December 2007 and January 2008, the USNC made available an online survey to address the needs of its constituency.

This year's survey was a follow up to the one taken in 2004, which resulted in the creation of new education and training initiative that included six self-taught training modules and an Instructor-Led Course, improvements to the USNC website, the *News and Notes* newsletter, membership cards, and the "MyANSI" account management system.

Over 200 individuals responded to this year's survey and expressed their opinions about the services the USNC provides, what is working well and what could use improvement.

The USNC Communications and Continuing Education Committee will analyze the results of the survey; as in 2004, the answers from this year's survey will be taken into consideration to improve the services provided to the USNC constituency.

The USNC extends its appreciation to all survey participants for making the voice of the constituency heard and for helping the Committee to evaluate its work. ■



## ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

## Industrial Automation Systems: USNC Vice President Alec McMillan Talks to IEC e-tech

excerpted from an IEC e-tech article  
by Jeanne Erdmann



Alec McMillan – USNC vice president, finance and Rockwell Automation director of global standards and trade – recently talked to IEC e-tech about the evolution of industrial automation systems.

Not long ago, companies specializing in industrial automation systems would either manufacture or supply automation components and the client would take it from there.

Today, manufacturing and automation are packaged with data integration and linked together into a global system. These changes have sparked a new industrial age in which automation companies provide systems and services more than component delivery.

Rockwell Automation's core business lies in diversified batch and discrete manufacturing in industrial automation. The company services Fortune 500 or major accounts worldwide, but the way automation companies service local markets is changing. Rockwell is setting up shop in many different countries. Building a smaller plant and making it operate efficiently within a country can satisfy local demands and save on shipping and handling costs.

### Global systems, local markets

Selling in emerging economies brings the newest challenges to industrial automation. In an ideal world, companies would build one product to an international standard that is accepted in every jurisdiction and suitable for any market worldwide. This requires, though, that all governments have identical legal requirements.

"To sell low-voltage products in China, they are now requiring that we have to test in China and get local approval in China," explained McMillan.

"While they use the same international standards we still have to go through the process of applying and retesting, which costs time and money."

For Rockwell, participation in the standards development process is part of the cost of doing business. McMillan, for instance, has served the IEC in many capacities over the years and was key in helping craft the IEC's new fieldbus standards, which support robust digital communication networks in the industrial environment.

"If you don't participate as an industrial person then you are just saying, 'I will wait for somebody else to do all of the work. I will just copy.' That naturally forces you to be a follower and not a leader in the industry... If you don't participate you're not going to be first to market," he said.

"[At Rockwell], we work with the IEC because we're international and we do business in over 80 countries. If we're going to build to a standard, we want to build to an IEC Standard that's adopted and used in as many of those countries as possible," commented McMillan.

While it is expensive to send representatives to standards meetings, conformity assessment and compliance activities generate the largest cost to industry.

"The cost of certification and testing and compliance is a larger cost than writing standards in first place. Even if you are a follower and don't spend the money upfront, you've still got to spend money on compliance. I would argue that it probably costs you more money to do the compliance if you didn't

help write the standard because you [wouldn't] have as much knowledge as someone who did [participate]," noted McMillan.

### Global data integration

Data integration is becoming more and more important to manufacturers, especially in the life sciences and pharmaceuticals industries where the ability to track specific batches of drugs or food can be a matter of public health and safety.

"We can now – with integration of all data – tell whether a product has even started to be manufactured; whether it's in station 1 or station 20 of a 30-step process, and give an up-to-minute forecast of when it's leaving the warehouse for a UPS truck," he explained.

But moving into an integrated system service environment will pose a new set of challenges for the IEC in terms of how committees are organized and perhaps even the structure of the IEC itself.

"It [used to be] easy to say that the work on programmable logic control goes to one committee and the limit switch goes to another. Currently, we have different component standards but we also have system standards that have to be written and developed. The

development of system and service standards is going to be a challenge for IEC because [a change in] infrastructure requires a new way of working together," noted McMillan.

"The IEC is valued because it has been industry driven and has responded to the needs of industry," he said. "Now, our industry is changing to be more system and solution oriented, and let's hope the IEC continues to respond to that change." ■

**If you don't participate [in the standards development process], you're not going to be first to market.**



ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

## UL and NEMA Organize Webinar on UL 60947

To help introduce new IEC-based harmonized

North American Standards – UL 60947-1 and UL 60947-4-1A – to the marketplace, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) recently organized a web-based educational workshop.

The new harmonized standards, which deal with low-voltage switchgear and control gear, were developed through the Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas (CANENA).

The webinar gave a general overview of the standard and included the history of the UL 60947 harmonization efforts as well as the national differences between Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

“Once it has been determined that a harmonized standard is required by U.S., Canadian and Mexican interests, a project is initiated, a draft document is created, and a period of review/revision ensues depending on the number of national differences being considered,” explained NEMA’s Bill Buckson.

According to Buckson, these differences are minimal and largely stem from respective national electrical and or building codes. Buckson also noted “significant progress with harmonizing industrial control system products in North America when the development involves IEC Standards.” ■



SAVE THE DATES

## Save the Dates for Upcoming Events of Interest

### APRIL 2008

**USNC Technical Management Committee**  
Tuesday, April 29  
Consumer Electronics Assoc. – Arlington, VA

### USNC Council

Wednesday, April 30  
Consumer Electronics Assoc. – Arlington, VA



### MAY 2008

**COPANT General Assembly**  
Monday–Thursday, May 5–8  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

### NOVEMBER 2008

**72nd IEC General Meeting**  
Monday–Friday, November 17–21  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

### OCTOBER 2008

**World Standards Week**  
Monday–Thursday, October 20–23  
Bethesda, MD

### 2009

**73rd IEC General Meeting**  
Sunday–Friday, October 18–23  
Tel Aviv, Israel

### World Standards Day

Thursday, October 23  
Washington, DC

### 2010

**74th IEC General Meeting**  
Wednesday–Friday, October 6–15  
Seattle, WA

### USNC Technical Management Committee

Tuesday, October 28  
Washington, DC

### USNC Council

Wednesday, October 29  
Washington, DC

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for **IEC 2010** – the 74th General Meeting of the IEC – to be held in Seattle. To learn more, visit [www.ansi.org/usnc](http://www.ansi.org/usnc).



For a complete schedule of upcoming meetings, or for more information on the events listed above, visit [www.ansi.org/calendar](http://www.ansi.org/calendar).

Enter either “USNC” or “IEC” in the key word search field to narrow the list of results.



Published in the  
**New York City Operations Office**  
25 West 43rd Street — Fourth floor  
New York, NY 10036

[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The USNC *News and Notes* newsletter is distributed to the constituency of the United States National Committee (USNC) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Its purpose is to provide news, information and updates on TC/SC activities among other items that may be of interest to members of the electrotechnical community.

### HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Submit proposed news items to **Rafael Lourenço**, program manager, international policy at the American National Standards Institute and deputy general secretary of the USNC/IEC (Tel: 212.642.4892; [rlourenco@ansi.org](mailto:rlourenco@ansi.org)).