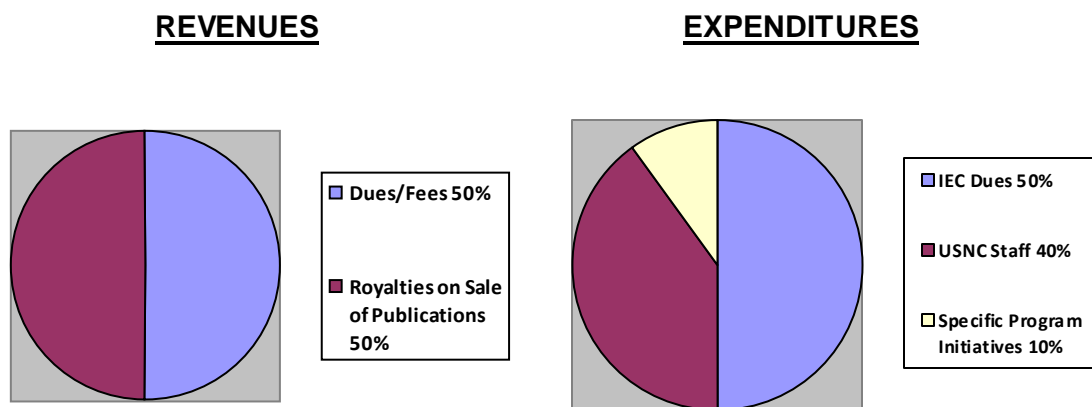


# USNC White Paper

## *Why the USNC Charges Fees*

The question regarding why the US National Committee of the IEC charges fees is one that comes up quite often, especially in lieu of the fact that we are one of the few National Committees of the IEC that does so. In recognition of this, the following brief points will hopefully help to inform those interested of the reasons why participation and membership fees are charged and why, in the US, this economic model is appropriate.

### **1. Where does the USNC's Revenue come from and where does it go?**



While the USNC's revenue is evenly split between what the various members pay and royalties on publication sales, costs are divided up into a few areas. IEC dues consume the vast majority of spending at 884,000 Swiss francs (approximately US\$1.15 million). The remaining expenditures go to funding USNC staff, communications, training, awards programs and other incidentals that are a part of the daily administration of US National Committee.

### **2. No Outright Government Subsidy unlike many other IEC National Committees**

The US National Committee receives no outright grants or financial support from the U.S. government except in the form of membership fees. The USNC continues to distinguish itself as a preeminent, industry-driven National Standards Body of the IEC. Our members include representatives of industry, academia, consumer interests, government agencies, professional societies, testing organizations, and trade

associations among others, but unlike many other IEC National Committees, the USNC receives no outright government subsidies to cover its expenses.

### **3. A Little History**

In 1998, the USNC was tasked with becoming a self-supporting entity by the ANSI Board of Directors; prior to this time support for both ISO and IEC came out of the general ANSI budget. Numerous funding options were considered and a “Pay to Play” philosophy was ultimately adopted by the USNC Council. This was determined to be the fairest, most equitable and least onerous payment mechanism. Therefore, we have modest, across-the-board fees for all individual participants on Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) - mirror committees to the IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees - (currently \$310 annual fee; \$620 for TAGs serving two or more TC/SCs).

- ANSI membership is not required
- Exemptions/waivers for hardships and consumer participants are considered on a case-by-case basis

However, it is important to note that if an organization wishes to be a TAG Administrator or International TC/SC Secretariat, they will be charged International Activities Fees and have to either be an ANSI Member or pay the equivalent fee. ANSI members (companies, organizations and government agencies) can become full voting USNC Members for an annual fee of \$6,600. This results in waiving individual TAG participation fees for any employees of that company, organization or agency.

### **4. Supporting the Standards Development Process**

The broad-based USNC/IEC constituency represents the stakeholders in the U.S. electrotechnical community and they elect the USNC Officers who serve as principal representatives of the USNC. The USNC General Secretary and staff provide direct support to the USNC Officers and for the domestic and international technical development activities of our individual members and member organizations. Being a paying member of the USNC provides an opportunity to influence technical and policy developments via direct access to national and international standards, conformance,

trade, and regulatory bodies. Membership and participation fees go directly to supporting:

- Policy and technical position development and governance via the USNC Council, Technical Management Committee (TMC) and Conformity Assessment Policy Coordinating Committee (CAPCC) which meet three times a year in various cities all over the U.S.
- USNC TAGs which operate to develop technical positions (responses and proposals) for submittal to the IEC.
- Key strategic international outreach (including Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas) for the purpose of encouraging and enhancing strategic relationships with standards organizations, including the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas (FINCA), European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), to better position our members and their interests.
- The level of USNC participation in the management activities of both IEC and ANSI including active involvement in the IEC Council, Executive Committee, Council Board, Conformity Assessment Board, Standardization Management Board, Directives Maintenance Teams, Strategic Groups, etc.
- The voluntary work contributed by the over 2,200 strong USNC constituency to the IEC standardization and conformity assessment effort including assistance for our US TC/SC Chairs, Secretaries, Conveners, Experts, etc.
- Targeted, up-to-date information critical to standards-related business delivered quarterly via the USNC's electronic newsletter, *News and Notes*
- Professional development and training courses and workshops

With the USNC operations center in New York City and the ANSI Headquarters in Washington, DC, the USNC provides a neutral and effective forum for collaboration between the private and public sectors. Keep in mind that THE WORLD RUNS ON STANDARDS but they are NOT FREE and their development is a necessary but expensive operation that requires both human and financial support.

## **5. Our Pledge for the Future**

The USNC leadership and staff will continue to focus on cost containment and efficiency-enhancing measures that support our delivery of high-quality, value-added services to our members. We are consistently taking steps to seek out and grow membership and participation across all areas while working very closely with our constituents in an open and transparent dialogue. It is through strong leadership, active participation and generous support that we have become the voice of the U.S. electrotechnical standardization system.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact:

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