Get involved in IEC/USNC activities and reap the strategic rewards

USNC IEC Standards Work

www.ansi.org/usnc
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that publishes consensus-based International Standards and manages conformity assessment systems for electric and electronic products, systems, and services, collectively known as electrotechnology.

The United States National Committee (USNC) is the official U.S. member to the IEC and related regional standardization bodies. It represents the interests of the U.S. electrotechnical industry before its international counterparts in the standardization arena.

The USNC/IEC is a committee of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Furthermore, the USNC serves as the U.S. point of contact for industry, government, consumers, academia, and other stakeholders in the electrotechnical industry.

The USNC and IEC help to improve the quality of products and services covered by their standards. Organizations that get involved in IEC standardization activities gain the advantage of representing their interests at the tables where technological developments are shaped.

Active participation in international and regional standards-setting activities provides U.S. electrotechnical industry experts with . . .

- The opportunity to influence domestic and international policy
- The chance to benefit from unique networking opportunities and learn from international colleagues
- A forum for the presentation of U.S., corporate, or, in some cases, personal positions
- The opportunity to comment upon proposals submitted by others

READ ON to find out how your organization can gain influence in global markets

READ ON to hear first-hand accounts from business leaders whose companies are reaping the powerful advantages of USNC participation
The USNC and its members participate in approximately 90% of the IEC’s 177 Technical Committees and Subcommittees. If your technology is electrotechnology, it is somewhere within the IEC.

Every year, hundreds of U.S. delegates representing numerous private and public organizations participate in USNC and IEC activities, directly affecting the development of international standards.

A broad range of activities are represented, from mature technologies like light and lighting, to the newest, such as wind and wave, and many more including:

- A/V and multimedia
- Alternative energies
- Assembly technology
- Capacitors and resistors
- Connectors
- E-Mobility
- Electric cables
- Electroacoustics
- Fibre optics
- Industrial process automation
- Information technology
- Nanotechnology
- Power systems management
- Railway equipment and systems
- Safety of household appliances
- Smart Grid
- Solid electrical insulating materials
- Renewables

“The USNC serves as the U.S. point of contact for industry, government, consumers, and academia in the international electrotechnical industry. We also represent U.S. interest before the IEC by being members of the IEC Counsel Board, IEC Standardization Board, and IEC Conformity Assessment Board. As a result of those memberships, we are extremely well positioned to represent the interest of U.S. industry.”

– Phil Piqueira,
  President of the USNC;
  Global Standards Leader,
  General Electric

“We have sales offices in 87 countries, over 50 manufacturing locations, 10 development centers, and 5 R&D centers around the world. That tells you why the USNC/IEC is important to our company. We really do want to have a single standard along with a single compliance system that we can build our products to, that is acceptable in all the major markets of the world.”

– Alec McMillan,
  Director of Global Standards and Trade,
  Rockwell Automation
Participation in the standards work is akin to working in the film industry. You can choose to go to the theatre and enjoy seeing the finished product; but if you can get involved in the making of the film, then it becomes yours.

The same goes for standards and certification: If you’re there to see the pieces that are debated during the process, you gain valuable technical insight. And helping to implement the finished standard gets you much more efficient access than just reading it after publication.

Being involved in the development of standards is a win for your employee, and a win for your company. It provides tremendously valuable information in return for the investment.

Remember, if you’re not sitting at the table . . .

- Someone else will speak for you
- You may have to live by someone else’s rules
- Government might step in with regulation
- For better or worse, you will suffer the consequences

There are a number of ways you and your organization can get involved in international electrotechnical standardization and the activities of the USNC/IEC:

- Individual Technical Advisory Group (TAG) participation (currently $295 a year – ANSI membership is not required)
- ANSI members (companies, organizations, and government agencies) can become USNC Sponsoring Members for an annual fee of $6,450
- Individual TAG participation fees are waived for any employee of that company, organization, or agency
- Buy from ANSI: When you purchase IEC standards from ANSI, you are making a commitment to bolstering U.S. leadership at the IEC table

“We recognize that participating in IEC standards activities allows us to be a part of the process that determines the product testing and performance requirements. As Eaton continues to grow internationally, IEC standards continue to be more and more important to our business. We are proud to be a member of the USNC.”

– Kevin Lippert, Manager of Codes and Standards, Eaton Corporation

for more information, visit www.ansi.org/usnc
“I can tell you by past experience, if you follow a reactive strategy you’ll end up putting in 10 times the effort. You’ll just be following things as they go down the river, and you won’t know where you’re going.

By choosing active participation you can influence domestic and international policy, gain valuable networking opportunities, and learn from international colleagues about what kinds of things are coming, long before they show up in the documents themselves. That’s the strategy I would strongly advocate.”

–Jim Matthews, Director of Technical Standards and Standards Policy, Corning Incorporated

MORE INFORMATION

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