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In this issue's featured article, two members of the U.S. National Committee (USNC) contribute updates on conformity assessment schemes currently in use within the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), exploring how these programs are providing value for manufacturers around the world.

IEC Conformity Assessment Schemes: Adding Value for Industry

*with contributions by
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Association and Secretary of the U.S. National Committees of the IECEE and the IECEx*

International standards for electrotechnology provide industry with the tools it needs to be more efficient and reach global markets. IEC's conformity assessment schemes add even more value, reducing trade barriers that are caused by different certification criteria in different countries. Removing the significant delays and costs of multiple tests and approval allows industry to be faster and cheaper to market with its products.

The IEC has three multilateral conformity assessment schemes: the IECEE, the IECQ and the IECEx.

The IECEE system addresses conformity assessment to standards for electrical and electronic equipment, including photovoltaics (PV). It runs two schemes: the CB Scheme for Mutual Recognition of Test Certificates for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components, and the CB-FCS Scheme for Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment Certificates for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components.

The IECQ system is a comprehensive worldwide program that assesses electronic components to quality requirements and certifies their conformity to standards.

Finally, the IECEx system certifies to standards for equipment that is used in explosive atmospheres.

IECEE CB Scheme

The IECEE CB Scheme is an international cooperation between sixty-five national certification bodies with 244 testing laboratories located in fifty participating countries. It is one of two globally recognized schemes based on the principal of mutual recognition of test results for obtaining national safety certification of electrical equipment and related components in the participating countries. While the participating nations may number less than a third of all countries worldwide,

together they generate over 80% of the world's electrical power.

Today, IECEE CB Test Certificates are universally recognized and used for demonstrating electrical product safety in business-to-business trading of electrical

IECEE CB Test Certificates help manufacturers to demonstrate the safety of their products in business-to-business trading of electrical equipment and components.



equipment and components. The scheme covers the full scope of low voltage electrical equipment for which IEC standards exist – typically components, household appliances, lighting, instrumentation, medical equipment, IT and office equipment, photovoltaics, portable tools, electronic toys, and electronics.

The CB Scheme assesses the conformity of product using a sample representative of the entire product's family. Samples are

LATEST FROM THE IEC

Appeals Lodged Against Approval of ISO/IEC DIS 29500

Four national standards body members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) – Brazil, India, South Africa and Venezuela – have submitted appeals against the recent approval of ISO/IEC DIS 29500, *Information technology – Office Open XML formats*, as an ISO/IEC International Standard.



In accordance with the ISO/IEC rules governing the work of their joint technical committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, the appeals are currently being considered by the ISO Secretary-General and the IEC General Secretary who, within a period of 30 days (to the end of June), and following whatever consultations they judge appropriate, are required to submit the appeals, with their comments, to the ISO Technical Management Board and the IEC Standardization Management Board.

The two management boards will then decide whether the appeals should be further processed or not. If they decide in favor of proceeding, the chairmen of the two boards are required to establish a conciliation panel which will attempt to resolve the appeals. The process could take several months.

According to the ISO/IEC rules, a document that is the subject of an appeal cannot be published as an ISO/IEC International Standard while the appeal is going on. Therefore, the decision to publish or not ISO/IEC DIS 29500 as an ISO/IEC International Standard cannot be taken until the outcome of the appeals is known.

Further information

To help stakeholders to learn more about DIS 29500, ISO and IEC have prepared a series of FAQs which can be found at www.iso.org/iso/faqs_isoiec29500 ■

FEATURED ARTICLE (continued)

IEC Conformity Assessment Schemes: Adding Value for Industry, continued

requested by the National Certification Body (NCB) and assessed for conformity through testing by the Certification Body Test Laboratory (CBTL). The Test Report generated by the CBTL is evaluated and a decision is made by the NCB as to whether to issue a CB Test Certificate to each product represented by the sample.

While much of the success of the IEC CB Scheme is its direct association with IEC and its wide acceptance by member countries, another aspect which ensures its continued success is manufacturers' overwhelming reliance on the scheme to simplify the external certification process.

In 1994, there were 4,917 CB Test Certificates issued to manufacturers. By 2007, that number had grown to 50,393. For its first eight years of operation, the IEC CB Scheme had been experiencing double digit growth. However, in the last three years, the growth rate has slowed to single digits. In 2007, the rate of growth was 1.3%,

indicating a maturation of the scheme. What does this mean for manufacturers? On a global scale it means that conformity assessment costs are beginning to be contained, and that participation in international standardization efforts has paid off for industry stakeholders.

IECQ Quality Assessment System

The IECQ is the IEC Quality Assessment System for electronic components and associated materials and processes.

The system provides documentable evidence and independent verification that electronic components and related materials and processes comply with industrial and regulatory standards, specifications, or other requirements. IECQ products include:

- the Electronic Component Management Program (ECMP),
- the IECQ Hazardous Substance Process Management Certification System (IECQ HSPM),
- the IECQ Independent Test Laboratory Approval (IECQ ITL), and
- the IECQ Component Qualification Approval (IECQ QA).

While the demand for each of these programs is growing, industry's need to demonstrate its commitment to environmentally friendly electrical and electronic products has made the Hazardous Substance Process Management system perhaps the fastest

While the demand for all of the IECQ programs is growing, industry's need to demonstrate its commitment to environmentally friendly electrical and electronic products has made the Hazardous Substance Process Management system perhaps the fastest growing conformity assessment issue ever addressed on an international level.

growing conformity assessment issue ever addressed on an international level.

Manufacturers have responded to consumer pressure by creating "greener" products for many years, but these efforts intensified significantly on July 1, 2006, when the European Union's Directive on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (the RoHS Directive) took effect.

Launched in 2005, the IECQ HSPM effectively demonstrates



FEATURED ARTICLE (continued)

IEC Conformity Assessment Schemes: Adding Value for Industry, continued

a company's compliance with all hazardous substance requirements, whether regulatory, like the RoHS Directive, or initiated by the electronic component industry or a component supplier's customer.

The IECQ HSPM Certification Program is proving to be extremely successful – in April 2008, it issued its 1,000th certificate.

To reach such a milestone in only three years is a solid indication that high demand for this certification will continue.

Manufacturers attest that achieving IECQ HSPM certification sends strong signals of their commitment to the preservation of the environment, allows compliance with the strictest legislation in that field and opens new business opportunities worldwide.

IECEX for Equipment in Explosive Environments

The IECEX was created to ensure the safety and foster international trade of equipment and services utilized in explosive (Ex) atmospheres.

From grain silos and hospitals to petrochemical installations and gas stations, an Ex environment refers to any situation where combustible or flammable substances are used or stored. With new equipment for Ex environments valued at tens of billions of U.S. dollars each year, the IECEX certification scheme helps to differentiate manufacturers and facilitate commerce in a heavily regulated marketplace.

Historically, obtaining all of the necessary national safety certifications for electrical products used in explosive environments has been a difficult, time-consuming, and expensive task; the IECEX was created to meet this market need. Twenty-seven countries are currently members of the IECEX – a sign of the system's global significance and reach.

The advantages of participating in the IECEX are palpable. Through its two global certification programs (Equipments and Facilities), IECEX accredits Accepted Certification Bodies to test and certify the conformity of electrical equipment and issue Ex test certificates and test reports.

As a result, the need for double testing is

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significantly reduced, saving time and money and minimizing technical barriers to trade among the member countries.

Some of the main benefits of participation in the IECEX are the reduced testing and certification costs to manufacturers; reduced

time to bring a product to the marketplace; international confidence in the product assessment process; and the establishment of one international database listing, among many others.

All three of the schemes outlined in this article are overseen by the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), which sets compliance-related policies and manages all of the Commission's conformity assessment (CA) activities.

The CAB is a decision-making body that is comprised of a Chairman, twelve voting members elected by Council, one representative from each IEC conformity assessment system, the IEC Treasurer, and the IEC General Secretary. The CAB meets at least once a year, and is the single point of contact for negotiations with other international and regional CA organizations.

No matter the area, the goal of all IEC CA activities is the same: to provide globally accepted conformity assessment-related programs that facilitate market access in the fields of electrotechnical products, electronics, electricity, and related technologies. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

New Training Opportunities Open to IEC TC and SC Officers



The IEC Central Office in Geneva is offering new training opportunities for Technical Committee and Subcommittee Officers. The training session, which will be

held in Geneva on September 18-19 and October 2-3, 2008, will give attendees an opportunity to learn more about the Commission's latest projects.

Making best use of the IEC's state-of-the-art IT tools will feature highly on the workshop agenda, as will the following topics for discussion:

- New PAS (Publicly Available Specification) procedure
- Maintenance procedure
- SBP (Strategic Business Plan which replaces the present SPS)
- TISS (Technical Information Support and Services) new collaboration tools
- Standards in database format
- Horizontal Standards
- Conformity Assessment
- Overview of the ISO/IEC Directives
- General editing work
- Vocabulary
- Other (open to your suggestions)

Past experience has shown that these training sessions on specific topics were much appreciated by attendees, as was the opportunity to exchange information and network with other participants.

Further information

To sign up for either of these sessions, visit www.iec.ch/restricted/training.html (password required).

The IEC Regional Centre for North America is planning to hold a similar event in Worcester, Massachusetts. To learn more, contact Tim Rotti at tro@iec.ch. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

IEC Provides Quality Mark for the Photovoltaic Industry

A cost-effective and earth-friendly

alternative to more conventional energy sources, photovoltaic energy systems have exhibited a steady growth rate over the past 20 years.



Demonstrating its support of and commitment to renewable energies, the IEC is now the sole provider of a quality mark for the expanding global photovoltaic industry.

Termed the PV GAP Mark, the symbol signifies that solar equipment and components are manufactured in accordance with IEC International Standards.

IEC's official use of the mark comes after an agreement between the IEC System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) and the Global Approval Program for Photovoltaics (PV GAP), in which IECEE will be the exclusive provider of the PV GAP Mark through its National Certification Bodies (NCBs).

According to the terms of the agreement, PV GAP will retain overall responsibility of the PV GAP Mark until ownership is transferred to the IEC-IECEE and the IEC's NCBs by the end of 2008.

Previously, the mark was also issued by European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) in Europe, and Power Mark in the United States.

The PV GAP Mark is applicable to products falling under the scope of IEC Technical Committee (TC) 82: *Solar photovoltaic systems*. The U.S. holds the secretariat for TC 82, with Sunset Technology acting as the Administrator of the USNC-approved U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

Further information

For more information on the PV GAP Mark, [click here](#) to view the IEC news release. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

IEC Announces Revision of Global Relevance Policy

In an effort to ensure the Commission's continuing suitability for present-day needs and in evolving market conditions, the IEC has developed a Global Relevance Policy consistent with that of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The adoption of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) places an obligation on IEC to ensure that the International

Standards it develops, adopts, and publishes are globally relevant. The TBT further stipulates that in order to facilitate international trade and prevent unnecessary trade barriers, International Standards need to be relevant and effectively respond to regulatory and market needs, as well as scientific and technological developments in various countries worldwide.

International Standards should not distort the global market, have adverse effects on fair competition, or stifle innovation and technological development. In addition, they should not give preference to the characteristics or requirements of specific countries or regions when different needs or interests exist in other countries or regions. Whenever possible, International Standards should be performance-based rather than based on design or descriptive characteristics.

The development and adoption of an IEC standard that fails to meet these requirements is open to being challenged as creating a barrier to free trade. As a result the IEC Council Board developed IEC's Global Relevance Policy and related implementation guidance to assist technical committees and subcommittees (TC/SCs) in their work. The IEC will also take further steps to be more market-responsive, including encouraging

the participation of developing countries in standardization work for the sake of a broader implementation of the results.

According to the policy, an International Standard shall, to the extent possible, represent a unique international solution. In cases where unique international solutions are not possible due to legitimate market and essential differences, International Standards may present a number of approaches in order to

Projecting one solution that accommodates one market – but not others – as the International Standard will not force markets to evolve and coalesce. Instead, the markets and their related industries will look elsewhere for standards that better accommodate their needs, and IEC will lose its relevance in those markets and industries.

accommodate those differences where justified. Projecting one solution that accommodates one market (but not others) as the International Standard will not force markets to evolve and coalesce. Instead, the markets and their related industries will look elsewhere for standards that better accommodate their needs, and IEC will lose its relevance in those markets and industries.

A National Committee (NC) requesting that an essential difference be incorporated in an IEC standard must justify its request. NCs have the right to appeal to the SMB if a TC/SC refuses justified requests prior to and including the committee draft for vote (CDV) stage.

Implementation of the IEC Global Relevance Policy shall be monitored by the Standardization Management Board (SMB) and periodic progress reports shall be communicated to the Council Board. TC/SC officers and NC Secretariats may consult the respective IEC Central Office technical officers for any guidance or clarifications regarding the IEC Policy or its implementation.

Further information

The Global Relevance Policy is available for review [here](#). To view the TC/SC global relevance toolbox, [click here](#). ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

IEC Co-organizing Landmark Conference on e-Business Standards

Recognizing that partnership between the public and private sectors has been instrumental in developing standards for electronics businesses across administrations and industries, seven organizations have come together to host a landmark conference on the key role of e-business standards.

Electronic business (e-business) may be defined as the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of all the activities of business, enabling companies to link their internal and external data processing systems more efficiently and flexibly, to work more closely with suppliers and partners, and to better satisfy the needs and expectations of their customers.

The invitation-only conference will be held on September 18-19, 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. It is designed to provide a unique opportunity for high-level representatives of the major players involved in e-business standardization – including industry leaders and associations, administrations, regulators, and standards developing organizations from all regions of the world – to review the present situation, identify the main trends for the future, and provide input on their needs and expectations.

Existing public-private partnerships that advance the standards, technical specifications and recommendations associated with e-business are motivated by many specific goals both within and across national borders. Recent developments demonstrate that there are

many new opportunities for improving service to the public and private sectors as well as for enhancing their multifaceted interactions.

The conference aims to foster a better understanding of the partnerships through which stakeholders collaborate to develop e-business standards. It aims further to identify steps that might be taken to significantly enhance the benefits of recent achievements and works in progress, as well as to address emerging new requirements.

Key priority areas to be addressed during the September conference will include:

- increasing national competitiveness,
- reducing the costs of doing business,
- increasing the effectiveness of regulatory controls,
- reducing trade barriers,
- fostering market entry by small and medium enterprises, and
- facilitating growth in developing and transitional economies.

Participants will include government and industry users of standards as well as leading players from the standards community, including the ISO-IEC-ITU Memorandum of Understanding Management Group and officers of key IEC and ISO Technical Committees.

Further information

To learn more about the conference, [click here](#) for a recent news item from IEC E-TECH. ■



Co-sponsoring organizations for the September e-business conference include:

- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T)
- Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Universal Postal Union (UPU)

LATEST FROM THE IEC

New Languages for IEC Electropedia

Electropedia, the IEC's dedicated website for electrotechnical terminology, has been expanded to include several additional languages. The website was originally launched in April 2007.



The online database, which already included terms and definitions in English and French, as well as equivalent terms in German and Spanish, now allows searches for terms in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, and Swedish. Terms in other languages may be included later.

Electropedia's database is divided into seventy-eight main subject areas and contains the complete set of the original International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) series of standards, which numbers over 20,000 entries.

Having the complete IEV in database format also makes updating much simpler. New terms may be added as technical language evolves and additional sections may be incorporated as technology broadens out into new areas.

Although industry is the biggest user of the IEV, governments, academia and test labs are also major beneficiaries.

While Electropedia's structure and content are copyright IEC, the Commission encourages the use, referencing or citation of Electropedia for the purpose of identifying or clarifying the meaning of electrotechnical concepts, terms and symbols and their use in manuals, diagrams and equipment, as long as IEC is referenced as the source.

The world's experts in electrotechnical terminology work to produce Electropedia under the responsibility of IEC Technical Committee (TC) 1, *Terminology*.

Further information

To learn more, visit www.electropedia.org. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

Czech Republic School Submits First care4it Entry

At the beginning of April, the **wattwatt** team received its first entry to the **care4it** competition from a group of five 16- and 17-year-old pupils at Chomutov Public Secondary School in the Czech Republic.

The **care4it** competition was launched at the beginning of 2008 and is a global competition open to all students up to the age of 18 in schools throughout the world. It is organized by the **wattwatt.com** global community and supported by the IEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA)

Under the title “big idea 4a big problem” it challenges tomorrow’s leaders to suggest ways to improve the use of electrical energy, whether it be by increasing efficiency, using existing resources better, or diminishing our needs.

Wattwatt.com’s **care4it** competition invites young people to express their ideas in a creative manner. It might take the form of an awareness campaign to encourage people to look differently at electricity. It could be a widget – a tool that people could run on their home computer that might measure consumption or point to new ways of using energy differently. Alternatively, a team could submit plans for an apparatus that would help to enhance our perception of electricity and its use in the world.

The prize for the winning school is \$10,000 plus a trip to Geneva for the winning students. The competition is open until the end of 2008.

Further information

Visit wattwatt.com/care4it to learn more. ■



LATEST FROM THE IEC

Electrical Energy Efficiency Work Advances Rapidly in the IEC

The IEC is rapidly advancing its efforts to analyze its portfolio of standards that relate to energy efficiency and renewable energy and identify the priority areas for future work efforts.

In 2007, the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) established Strategy Group (SG) 1, which has already submitted its first series of recommendations. SG 1 has identified eleven high-priority areas where significant efficiency gains can be expected, including commercial and domestic lighting as well as industrial heating and cooling.

According to the SG 1 chair and secretary of the German National Committee, Bernhard Thies, “IEC’s work is well advanced. While we await the decision of the SMB on our recommendations, ‘champions’ have already been assigned to look into how the respective IEC Technical Committees are handling work related to the high-priority areas. Those experts are also looking at the present IEC Standards that relate to those areas and the new work that could be initiated.”

Thies expressed hope that SG 1 will have completed its mandate by the end of 2008.

“We believe [electrical energy] efficiency gains are being made in the current work of the IEC, and we think our recommendations will help improve further on those [gains].”

The IEC has also completed its analysis of the standards portfolio based on input from various IEC Technical Committees (TC). This analysis document was circulated to National Committees and TCs for their information in early April of this year.

While the document offers no major surprises in finding that the IEC is serving the market well in areas related to electrical energy efficiency, it does offer several



suggestions for refinement of existing standards and for future work areas.

“We now have a clear understanding of the coverage of IEC Standards as they relate to electrical energy efficiency and renewable energies,” said Jack Sheldon, IEC Standardization Strategy Manager, who coordinated the collection of input for

the analysis document. “As a result, IEC Members have an invaluable tool to help them prioritize and guide the technical work as they see fit.”

The portfolio analysis covers more than 90 subject areas. For example, in the area of lighting equipment and the measurement and performance standards produced by sub-committee (SC) 34A, *Lamps*, the document summarizes the IEC’s work in progress on setting criteria and labeling requirements for energy efficiency of compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent ballasts, as well as performance standards for light emitting diode (LED) light sources.

In the domain of TC 2, *Rotating machinery*, the document discusses the challenge presented by the lack of harmonization of efficiency classes and the progress of the TC 2 Working Group assigned to address this issue.

On the renewable energies front, TC 88, *Wind turbines*, is very well placed with a complete series of publications covering all aspects of the technology.

The SMB has reviewed the group’s recommendations and the subsequent action plan was discussed at the Board’s next meeting in June in Geneva. The IEC’s work in this area is being coordinated closely with its sister organization, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ISO has decided to establish a similar strategic group and is currently appointing members. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

Standardization in the Americas: IEC Officers Address COPANT Assembly

Representatives of standards communities from North, Central, and South America gathered in Buenos Aires last month for the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) Assembly 2008.

Held on May 5-8, 2008, the Assembly was hosted by the Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación (IRAM), Argentina's national standards body.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) president and CEO S. Joe Bhatia led the 21-member U.S. delegation, which included representatives from the USNC, ANSI member organizations including industry, standards and code developing organizations, and the U.S. government.

The successful meetings provided a forum to advance standardization activities in the Americas, and offered opportunities for U.S. interests to share information and network with regional standards and conformance bodies.

Several key agenda items were covered during the four-day Assembly, such as greater inclusion for developing countries into the COPANT governance; making bilingual fire safety codes available to COPANT members at no cost; and the creation of a COPANT mirror group to the Committee on Consumer Policy of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO COPOLCO).

During this meeting of the regional standardization body of the Americas, IEC President Jacques Régis, IEC General Secretary Aharon Amit, and IEC Latin America Regional Centre Manager Amaury Santos met with delegates and discussed some of the key issues faced by the Americas.

In his address to COPANT members, Amit reported on IEC global and regional activities and providing the relevant IEC figures. In addition to talking about the Affiliate Country Programme and the IEC Regional Centres in Brazil, the U.S., and Singapore, he underlined the IEC's success at reducing the time to produce an International Standard to 36 months.



Heads of the United States ANSI Delegation to COPANT Assembly 2008

(L-R) Gary Kushnier, ANSI vice president of international policy, Joe Bhatia, ANSI president and CEO, and James Matthews III, ANSI Board Member and president of the USNC to the IEC.

During an afternoon session on "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies," Régis gave a presentation to the nearly 500 attendees on "Action on E3 and Renewable Energies." Based on the issues of increased demand for electricity and evidence of climate change from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he underlined the important role the IEC has to play in using Technical Standards, coupled with legislation, to improve electrical energy efficiency.

Régis paid particular attention to the recent survey of the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) to identify all the IEC Technical Committees to be included in future recommendations on energy efficiency. He called on COPANT members to assist in working with their own regional subgroups to spread the use of International Standards and accelerate electrotechnological developments.

Elections for the COPANT Board of Directors for 2008-2010 were also held during the Assembly; ANSI (North America), CONYACT (Central America and the Caribbean), IRAM, and the Instituto Boliviano de Normalización y Calidad (IBNORCA) (South America) were elected to the Board.

The 2009 COPANT Assembly will be held during the week of May 4-8, 2009, hosted by the Dirección General de Normas y Sistemas de Calidad (DIGENOR) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

Algeria and Qatar Join IEC as Full Members

Algeria and Qatar are the latest countries to join the IEC. Both countries join as full members, which grants them the ability to participate in all IEC's standardization and conformity assessment activities, including voting rights. These additions bring the IEC Family to 153 countries, including members and affiliates.

Algeria

Algeria produces approximately 31.91 billion kWh of electricity each year.

The President of the Algerian National Committee of the IEC is Brahim Mansour, from the Ministère de la Poste et des Technologies de l'Information et de Communication, and the Secretary is Mohamed Chaieb Aissaoui, from IANOR, the Algerian Standardization Institute.

Contact information for Algeria

Institut Algérien de Normalisation
5 et 7 rue Abou Hammou Moussa
BP 104 RP Algiers, Algeria
Tel: 011.213.216.42.075
www.ianor.org

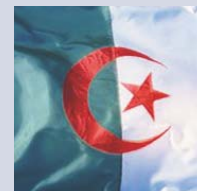
Qatar

Qatar has an estimated annual electricity production of 13.54 billion kWh. The Chairman of the Qatari

National Committee of the IEC is Eng. Nasser Mohamed Moubarak, from Qatar Petroleum, and the Secretary is Dr. Eng. Bahaeldin Mahjoub Hassan, from the Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology.

Contact information for Qatar

Qatar Standards
P.O. Box 23277, Doha, Qatar
Tel: 011.974.413.9437
standard@qatar.net.qa ■



LATEST FROM THE IEC

An Overview of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme

Launched in 2001, the IEC Affiliate Country Programme is aimed at



developing and newly-industrializing countries around the world. The Programme offers these nations a form of participation in the IEC without the financial burden of actual membership, making full use of the Commission's 100% electronic environment.

The Affiliate Country Programme has three principal aims:

- to encourage greater awareness and use of IEC standards in developing countries;
- to help those countries understand and participate in the work of the IEC; and
- to facilitate the national adoption of IEC International Standards.

The Programme enables a country to participate in the IEC and benefit from that affiliation in a variety of ways. Affiliates can use relevant IEC International Standards and learn how to monitor relevant technical work in the technical committees, thereby taking a step-by-step approach to establishing an IEC National Electrotechnical Committee. Affiliates are also introduced to IEC's Conformity Assessment schemes and how these programs can help manufacturers save money and reduce barriers to trade.

As mentioned above, the IEC conducts all of its day-to-day business electronically, making use of the latest technologies available to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Participants in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme will learn how to use all of the IT tools developed for the IEC members and experts.

Further information

To learn more about the Programme, visit www.iec.ch/affiliates. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

IEC Welcomes Three New Countries to the Affiliate Programme: Central African Republic, Chad, and Republic of the Congo

Congo, Chad, and the Central African Republic have joined the IEC Affiliate Country Programme, which brings developing countries into the work of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

For all three countries, the IEC Affiliate Country Programme is a first step towards international standardization.

The Central African Republic made a commitment to participate in IEC activities in April 2008. Both Chad and the Republic of the Congo made formal commitments to join the Affiliate Programme in June 2008.

Republic of the Congo

The Republic of the Congo, also called Congo Brazzaville, is located in Western Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and Gabon, two countries already affiliated with the IEC.



Congo's natural resources include timber, petroleum, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, and hydropower. With a population estimated at more than 3.9 million, the electricity consumption was 5.272 billion kWh in 2005 for a production of 7,341 billion kWh. The country exports electricity and oil.

Contact information for Congo

Association Congolaise de Normalisation
BP 665
3 Boulevard du Général de Gaulle
Pointe Noire, Congo
Tel: 011.242.666.3674

Chad

Located in central Africa, Chad's natural resources include petroleum, uranium, natron (a mineral form of hydrated sodium



salts) and kaolin, a sort of fine soft white clay used for making porcelain.

The total oil reserves have been estimated to be 1.5 billion barrels. Oil production started in late 2003 and Chad began to export oil in 2004. With an electricity consumption of 88.35 million kWh (2005) for a production of 95 million kWh (2005) and a population estimated at more than 10 million, Chad is self-sufficient.

Contact information for Chad

Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat
Direction de la Concurrence et du Contrôle des Prix
BP 424, N'Djamina, Chad

Central African Republic (CAR)

The Central African Republic is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and also of the International



Telecommunication Union. The CAR's natural resources include diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil, and hydropower.

As its official name implies, the country is almost exactly in the center of Africa: its bordering countries are Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Sudan. With an annual electricity production of 109 million kWh (2005) and consumption of 101.4 million kWh (2005), the country is self sufficient.

Contact information for CAR

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Direction de la Concurrence et Consommation
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USNC NEWS

Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas Holds Workshop in Conjunction with COPANT Meeting

The Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas, composed of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the U.S., hosted a workshop on various aspects of the IEC in Argentina on May 8, 2008.



The event took place in Buenos Aires, in conjunction with the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) meeting and was attended by a number of IEC Affiliate Member Countries in the region.

The workshop featured the President of IEC, Jaques Régis; IEC's Latin America Regional Manager, Amaury Santos; and the leader of IEC's Affiliate Country Program, Carlos Rodriguez.

Presidents, Vice Presidents and National Secretaries of the National Committees of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the U.S. were also in attendance.

The USNC was represented by its President Jim Matthews, who addressed the steps needed in order to establish a National Committee. USNC Vice President of Finance, Alec McMillan, was also

in attendance; his presentation addressed the adoption of IEC standards throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Over the course of the afternoon-long meeting, workshop participants explored a number of additional topics, including:

- 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 Forum's next meeting will be hosted by the U.S. in Atlanta, Georgia on October 6-7, 2008.

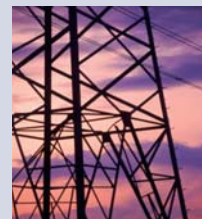
Further information

For more information or to view the agenda and proceedings of the May 8 meeting of the Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas, visit www.iram.org.ar/Eventos/TallerIEC/indexingles.htm. ■

USNC NEWS

USNC Holds Ultra High Voltage Standardization Workshop

On June 10, 2008, the USNC held a workshop at the headquarters of the National Electrical Manufacturers



Association (NEMA) to discuss the proposal of the Chinese National Committee (NC) for the establishment of a new Technical Committee (TC) on High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC).

In late 2006, the Chinese NC asked IEC Sector Board 1 (SB 1) to consider an urgent request for standards to address the Ultra High Voltage (UHV) transmission systems that were being considered for installation in several Asian countries.

In March 2008, the Chinese NC proposed a new TC with a scope of work that would encompass general standards, design, technical requirements in the field of HVDC equipment, construction and commissioning for acceptance, operation and maintenance, system control and protection.

The objective of the workshop was to develop the United States position on the Chinese proposal (SMB/3713/DV).

Based on the discussions held at the workshop and subsequent comments by U.S. stakeholders, the USNC voted affirmatively on the proposal and made several comments and suggestions on issues that should be addressed.

A number of key U.S. stakeholders on electric power generation and distribution attended the workshop including the Electric Power Research Institute; USNC; the International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRÉ); American Electric Power; IEEE; NEMA; and FCI USA, Inc.

Further information

To read the Chinese NC's proposal, which was submitted to the IEC in March 2008, [click here](#). ■

USNC Reaches Out to Central American Neighbors

The USNC has joined forces with the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) to develop educational work related to standards and conformity assessment in Central America.



The goal of NEMA's Central America outreach program is to visit three countries per year for three years and promote workshops, conferences and other educational events where

the U.S. standardization system can be explained and possibilities for cooperation discussed with key Central American stakeholders.

The first event with USNC involvement took place on April 8, 2008, in El Salvador. USNC Deputy General Secretary, Rafael Lourenço, participated in a workshop with members of the National Council of Science and Technology of El Salvador (CONACYT). Mr. Lourenço gave a presentation on the IEC and discussed possible ways for cooperation between the U.S. and El Salvador on IEC-related matters. Approximately seventy people, mostly industry technical personnel, attended the event.

The next country visits scheduled for this year are Guatemala and Panama. ■

USNC NEWS

Third USNC TAG Administrator Workshop Coming Soon

After two successful events in 2006 and 2007, the USNC has established its TAG Administrator Workshop as an



annual event. All interested participants are reminded that the third workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008.

This year's event will be taking place at the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) headquarters in Arlington, Virginia and will deal with a number of topics related to the work of the TAG Administrators. The event will also be open to Technical Advisors.

The agenda and further details on the 2008 USNC TAG Administrator Workshop will be circulated soon.

Further information

For further information please contact Rafael Lourenço at rlourenco@ansi.org.

As mentioned in the previous issue of *USNC News and Notes*, a number of significant resource improvements came out of last year's USNC TAG Administrator Workshop, including the online Toolbox and TAG Administrator discussion board.

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 also find the Operating Procedures for USNC TAGs, the USNC Policy on Adoption of IEC standards, survival kits for IEC TC Secretaries and Chairmen, and many other documents.

Accessible through the USNC website, the TAG Administrator Discussion Board facilitates real-time communication among U.S. TAG Administrators.

Administrators are encouraged to sign in at www.ansi.org/usnc to initiate new discussion threads or add their opinions to existing topics. ■

USNC NEWS

Seventeen USNC Experts Receive the 2008 IEC 1906 Award

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the IEC, the "1906 Award" is presented annually to individuals who have made "major contributions to furthering the interests of electrotechnology, standardization and related activities."

The seventeen U.S. experts identified below were named as award recipients in 2008. The USNC/IEC congratulates these individuals and extends its appreciation to each of them for their valuable and ongoing contributions:

Clark Artaud

Thermo Gamma-Metrics
IEC TC 45

John Hadley

Spectrum Brands, Inc.
IEC TC 35

Chris Peterson

IEC TC 104

Denis Carpenter

Rayovac Corporation
IEC TC 35

Kelvin Hecht

UTC Power
IEC TC 105

James J. Refi

Chromis Fiberoptics
IEC TC 86

Robert Conte

CommScoppe
IEC TC 86

Wilhelm H. Kapp

IEC TC 37

H. Melvin Smith

Siemens Power Transmission
IEC TC 17

Al Engler

Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
IEC TC 31

Thomas J. Lieb

L*A*I International
IEC TC 76

Glen Stone

Sony Electronics, Inc.
IEC TC 100

Robert Friedman

Siemens USA
IEC TC 111

Nicholas P. Ludlam

FM Approvals
IEC TC 31

Clark Vitek

Aruba Networks, Inc.
IEC CISPR

Donald A. Gillies

Gillies & Associates
IEC TC 78



James Wolbert

Chip Supply, Inc.
IEC TC 47

Nominations Deadline Nears for 2008 ANSI Awards Program

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) wishes to remind all interested parties that the Call for Nominations for its 2008 Leadership and Service Awards ends July 11.

The six standards leadership medals, Journalism, Next Generation and Meritorious



Service Awards, as well as the Chairman's Award, will be presented during an October 22, 2008, ceremony that will be held in conjunction with the World Standards Week celebration.

Representatives of industry, government, academia, consumer organizations, and the U.S. voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment community, with the exception of current officers of the Institute's Board of Directors, are considered eligible for an award.

Visit www.ansi.org/awards to learn more and to access the nomination forms. ■

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Dates for Upcoming Events of Interest

SEPTEMBER 2008

ANSI Hosts European Standards

Organizations

Tuesday–Wednesday, September 23–24
Washington, DC

OCTOBER 2008

Forum of IEC National Committees of the Americas Meeting

(Participating National Committees include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.)

Monday–Tuesday, October 6–7
Atlanta, GA

World Standards Week

Monday–Thursday, October 20–23
Bethesda, MD

U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day

Thursday, October 23
Washington, DC

USNC Technical Management Committee

Tuesday, October 28
Washington, DC

USNC Council

Wednesday, October 29
Washington, DC



NOVEMBER 2008

72nd IEC General Meeting

Monday–Friday, November 17–21
Sao Paulo, Brazil

2009

73rd IEC General Meeting

Sunday–Friday, October 18–23
Tel Aviv, Israel

2010

74th IEC General Meeting

Wednesday–Friday, October 6–15
Seattle, WA

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.



ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

USTDA/ANSI Vietnam Standards Training Program

On March 10–18, 2008, ANSI joined more than 120 participants for the first face-to-face session of the Vietnam



Standards Training Program (VSTP) in Hanoi. Carried out in cooperation with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Vietnamese Directorate for Standards and Quality (STAMEQ), the VSTP is an intensive, year-long educational program that is focused on advancing U.S. – Vietnamese trade and promoting cooperation in the field of standards and conformity assessment.

The March training session included a case study discussion on positive trade implications of participation in the IEC conformity assessment schemes. Through this discussion, it was discovered that Vietnamese stakeholders had misunderstood the participation requirements in the IECEE/CB Scheme. With these questions addressed, Vietnam has now indicated that it will pursue membership in the IECEE/CB Scheme.

ANSI staff will return to Hanoi in October 2008 to gain an indication of how the program is progressing in the long-term. Future initiatives will be discussed, including sector specific workshops to build upon the base knowledge gained from this program. To learn more about the program or to express interest in participating, please contact vstp@ansi.org. ■

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

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

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).



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