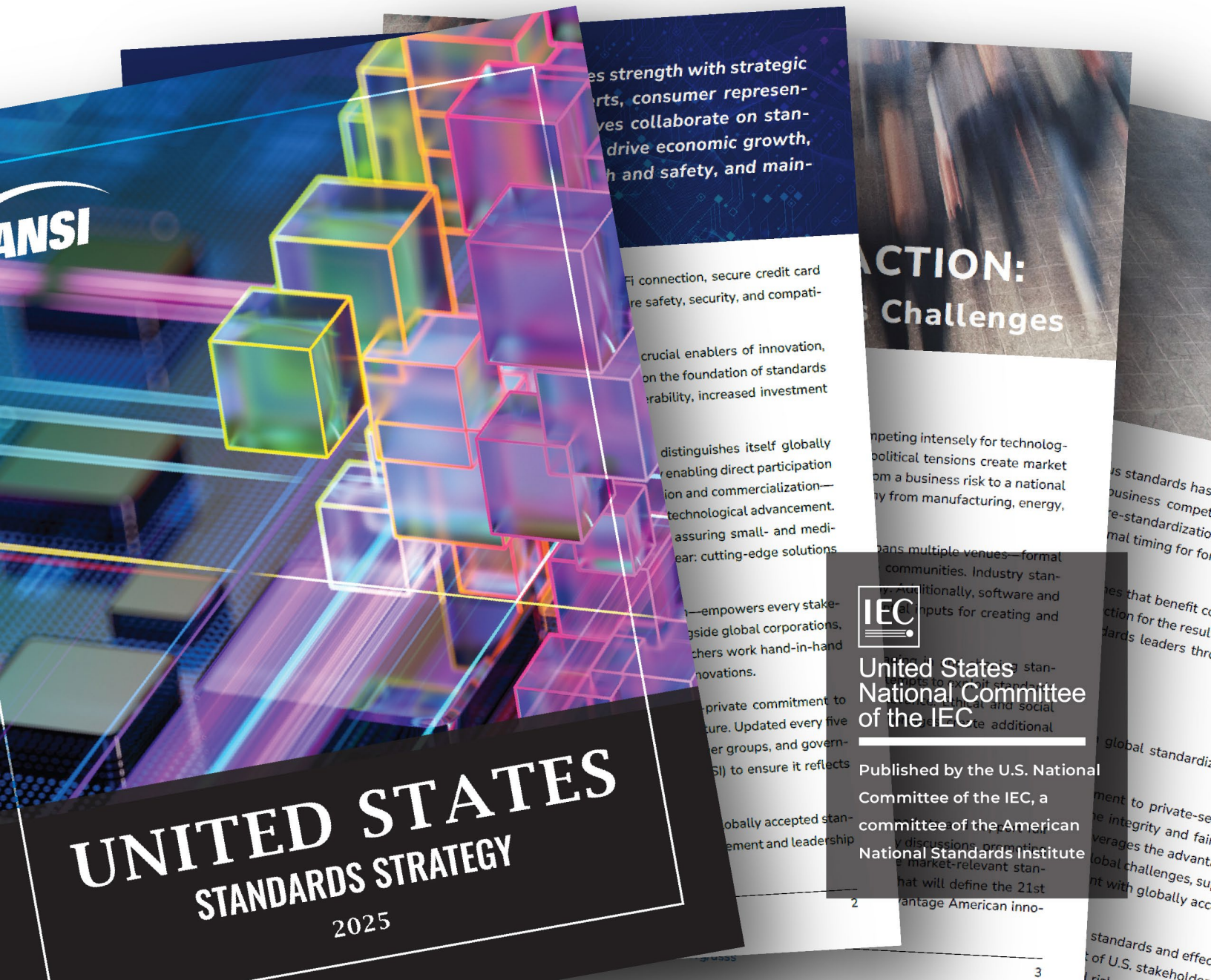


USNC CURRENT

Vol. 21, No. 1 – Spring 2026



U.S. STANDARDS STRATEGY



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National Committee
of the IEC

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**UNITED STATES
STANDARDS STRATEGY**
2025



U.S. STANDARDS STRATEGY

FEATURED STORIES

3



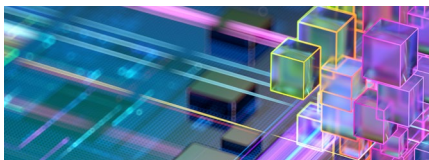
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USNC TAG ACTIVE PARTICIPATION: NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN U.S. AND IEC REQUIREMENTS

Michelle Andersen, IEC TC 61 USNC TAG Technical Advisor



For industry professionals, participation in a USNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is more than standards awareness — it is a strategic opportunity to influence the international requirements that shape product design, compliance strategies, and global market access.

USNC TAG members play a direct role in developing IEC standards, providing early visibility into upcoming changes and a practical pathway to align international requirements with U.S. technologies, regulatory frameworks, and business needs. Active engagement turns standards development from a compliance obligation into a competitive advantage.

Active engagement in a USNC TAG delivers clear value to organizations and individual experts, including the following benefits:

- » Early insight into regulatory and standards trends that may impact product design, testing, and certification

- » Direct influence over IEC requirements, helping ensure they are technically sound, practical, and globally relevant
- » Reduced divergence between U.S. and IEC standards, lowering redesign, retesting, and compliance costs
- » Improved global market access for products designed to meet U.S. requirements
- » Professional credibility and visibility as a recognized technical expert among U.S. and international peers

Participation also helps companies ensure that emerging technologies, novel constructions, and real-world use cases are appropriately addressed in international standards.

Industry professionals can participate at multiple levels, depending on technical focus and available resources. Common forms of engagement include the following:



- » Participating in USNC TAG meetings to discuss technical positions and national priorities
- » Reviewing and commenting on IEC working documents to help shape U.S. National Committee positions
- » Submitting technical proposals and supporting them throughout the IEC development process
- » Serving as an appointed U.S. expert on maintenance teams, working groups, project teams, or other technical subgroups
- » Attending subgroup meetings (virtually or in person) to collaborate directly with international experts

These activities allow industry experts to engage early—when requirements are still flexible and technical direction is being set.

Appointed U.S. experts serving on IEC subgroups represent their own professional judgment and, where applicable, their employer's technical and business interests. This structure enables experts to advocate for requirements that align with product architectures, manufacturing practices, supply chains, and safety philosophies already established in the U.S. market.

Subgroup participation is particularly valuable because it allows proposals to be discussed, refined, and technically optimized before they are circulated for national committee voting. Comments received from national committees are then resolved within the subgroup, providing further opportunity for experts to defend technically justified positions and influence the final outcome.

Industry professionals may also pursue leadership roles within IEC subgroups, such as convenor,

DECISION

DEPOT

NOW BOARDING

DECISION DEPOT

This column provides a list of recent decisions that have been made regarding IEC and USNC policies and procedures that directly affect our members. Please [log in to your IEC account](#) to access the decisions:

IB/579/DL: Confirmed IB decisions taken at the March 2026 IB meeting

IB/545/DL: Confirmed IB decisions taken at IB meetings or by correspondence in 2025

IB/541/DL: Confirmed IB decision taken at the December 2025 IB extraordinary meeting

GA/339/DL: List of Decisions taken by the General Assembly in 2025

SMB/8660/DL: Decisions and report from SMB meeting 185 held on 2026-02-25 in Torre Canne di Fasano (IT)

BAC/305/DL: Confirmed BAC decisions from the BAC 11/12 March 2026 meeting

BAC/280/DL: Confirmed BAC decisions from the BAC 18 and 19 November 2025 meeting



secretary, project leader, or task group leader. These roles are approved by subgroup experts or the technical committee and are widely viewed as positions of technical authority.

While leaders are expected to guide discussions toward consensus and consider diverse viewpoints, they often help establish the technical starting point for new work—giving them significant influence over scope, structure, and technical direction. For organizations, these roles provide visibility and credibility at the international level.

Industry engagement through USNC TAGs has delivered measurable results. Within IEC TC 61 for safety of household and similar electrical appliances, U.S. experts have successfully influenced IEC requirements to better align with UL standards and the U.S. National Electrical Code.

As IEC standards are adopted for use in the U.S., UL Standards & Engagement technical harmonization committees often perform gap analyses between IEC requirements and legacy UL standards. These analyses have been used to develop proposals submitted through TC 61 to update IEC standards—reducing or eliminating U.S. national differences in future editions.


This strategy has enabled the removal of national differences in subsequent UL revisions, directly

supporting global market access for products designed to U.S. requirements. Successful examples include updates to the following standards:

- » IEC 60335-2-2, for vacuum cleaners and water-suction cleaning appliances
- » IEC 60335-2-8, for shavers and hair clippers
- » IEC SC 61J standards for commercial motor-operated cleaning appliances

Another notable success involved maintaining provisions for Class 0 appliances in IEC 60335-1. While common in the U.S. and other regions with lower supply voltages, Class 0 appliances were proposed for removal during revisions. Through coordinated advocacy and technical justification, the USNC TAG worked with other national committees to demonstrate the importance of global relevance. Support from multiple countries ultimately led to retention of the Class 0 requirements, reinforcing the principle that IEC standards must remain globally relevant — not regionally biased.

For industry professionals seeking to influence international requirements, reduce compliance friction, and support global product strategies, participation in a USNC TAG offers a direct and effective path.

To learn more about joining or increasing your involvement in IEC standards development, please contact usnc@ansi.org. 



LOOKING FOR STANDARDS?

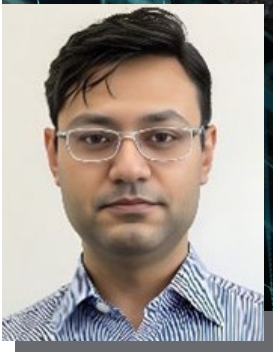
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THE U.S. STANDARDS STRATEGY: A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE FOR INDUSTRY

Muhammad Ali CSP, Sr. Standards Strategy and Policy Leader and Chair of ANSI Committee on Education, HP Inc.
Member of USNC Technical Management Committee



Standards are not merely technical tools; they are a critical component of overall business strategy. When developed and applied strategically, standards reduce technical barriers to trade, enable interoperability, accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies, expand market access, and promote safety, quality, and consumer trust. They also lower the overall cost of doing business by creating predictability and scale across global markets. Strategic Standardization can be used for planning the development and use of standards to achieve specific objectives. It is about creating a robust standards strategy in alignment with the current standards ecosystem and implementing it to meet both technical and business goals. The *United States Standards Strategy 2025 (USSS)*, published in January 2026, makes this point in plain terms: U.S. standards leadership is a lever for economic competitiveness, national security, and quality of life in the 21st century.

We are witnessing unprecedented technological change at extraordinary speed, driven by the emergence and acceleration of technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and brain-computer interfaces. Standards provide the foundation upon which these technologies scale, interoperate, and reach global markets. At the same time, shifting trade policies, geopolitical tensions, and regulatory developments are placing renewed emphasis on voluntary, consensus-based standards as instruments of stability and trust. In the world of standards development, we are going through a digital transformation to essentially go from paper to machine interpretable standards in terms of consumption and, increasingly exploring the use of AI to improve development efficiency and standards consumption. Therefore, it is even more important for companies to be involved in the development of standards that matter to their technologies and markets. The *USSS* calls for stronger U.S. participation in international standards development and for the defense of open, fair, and consensus-based



processes—recognizing that strategic engagement in standards is essential to shaping global outcomes rather than reacting to them.

For industry, the strategic advantage is clear: standards engagement can accelerate innovation adoption, de-risk market access, and shape the technical foundation of global commerce. The strategy sharpens focus into four strategic objectives. The following provides a brief description of each pillar along with the three key takeaways for industry under each pillar.

1) STRENGTHEN U.S. COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

This pillar of the strategy emphasizes the importance of international standards and sound governance, the value of collaboration among all stakeholders in the standards ecosystem, and the need to resist the politicization of standards development—preserving a healthy, globally recognized system in which technical merit determines accepted standards.

Industry takeaway:

- » Companies should prioritize engagement in strategic standardization and not treat it as a discretionary activity. It needs to be a component of their overall business strategy. When standards are used as geopolitical tools, companies face fragmented markets, higher compliance costs, and reduced ability to scale innovations globally. Therefore, companies need to ensure that standards governance is robust, ensuring consistent application of internationally recognized principles.
- » Standardization is led by the private sector with participation by government in a public-private partnership. This engagement should be a continuous conversation between industry entities of all sizes, standards development organizations, government, and other relevant stakeholders to address standardization initiatives.
- » Companies need to make an intentional effort to foster collaboration between participants in traditional standards development organizations

and those active in consortia, forums, and open-source communities. Such collaboration helps align early innovation with formal standardization, reduces fragmentation and duplication, and ensures that widely adopted technologies can transition smoothly into globally recognized, consensus-based standards.

2) DEMONSTRATE THE BROAD VALUE OF STANDARDS

The strategy focuses on the fact that standards sometimes serve as an invisible glue that makes everything work together but does not get noticed until something goes wrong, which is why it is important to keep communicating the value of standards and the importance of participation in standards development.

Industry takeaway:

- » The standards message must be continuously reinforced to enable sustained and effective engagement. Companies should leverage external resources, partnerships, and success stories to communicate internally with relevant stakeholders about the business value of standards and the benefits of active participation in standards development.
- » Although the return on investment from standards participation is not always easy to measure, a strategic approach enables companies to articulate business benefits, assess the impact of inaction, and define clear intended outcomes.
- » It is also important for companies to enable communication among their standard experts participating in different organizations to help with alignment, stronger position building, and connecting standards outcomes to business outcomes.

3) MAKE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT MORE EFFICIENT

The strategy emphasizes that standards processes must evolve with technology through flexible, iterative approaches that maintain core principles. It also talks about the importance of educating the participants to ensure they remain effective in their role.

Industry takeaway:



- » Companies need to invest in educating their employees participating in standards development activities and support the training, conferences and mentoring opportunities to ensure they remain effective in their role.
- » Industry should treat pre-standardization activities as strategic investments that can shape future standards deliverables, particularly in emerging technology areas where early influence matters most.
- » Companies must recognize that standards development is undergoing a digital transformation and remain open to adopting new tools for standards authoring, while also building internal use cases that demonstrate the value of consuming digital and machine-readable standards.

4) ADDRESS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES HEAD-ON

The strategy highlights the need for consistent financial support for the standards ecosystem, sustained participation in high-impact technology areas, and policies that protect the standards community from copyright and other intellectual property theft, while recognizing software/data's growing role.


Industry takeaway:

- » Companies need to keep track of their overall standards participation and periodically assess which areas are important to their technologies and market for sustained participation in strategic areas.
- » Industry should be working with standards organizations governance and policy groups to ensure that IP Policies remain effective ensuring balance for all participants and providing standards users necessary access to content, particularly in the context of Standards Essential Patents (SEPs), where transparency and essentiality are critical to fostering innovation and broad adoption.
- » Companies should be open to hosting the standards committee meetings, supporting the SDOs in helping to fund the cost of managing the Secretariats role

and ensuring that their employees are able to travel for important standards committee meetings to drive impact and influence.

The key to successful strategy is in its implementation. ANSI is leading the implementation by building coalitions and partnerships to strengthen U.S. participation in international standards bodies, particularly in critical and emerging technologies, creating educational platforms and resources to help stakeholders at all levels understand and leverage standards for competitive advantage, exploring innovative approach to accelerate consensus-building while maintaining the rigor that defines American standards and convening stakeholders through targeted events and working sessions to translate objectives into concrete actions.

Industry has an important role to play in the implementation of *USSS*. This is a reminder that leadership is not only about technical excellence; it is also about sustained engagement, coalition-building, and the ability to translate innovation into widely adopted, market-relevant international standards. The opportunity now is execution: investing in people, participation, and process innovation so that U.S. technical expertise continues to influence global standards in a way that supports open markets, trusted interoperability, and innovation at scale.

The USNC community which includes industry experts, committee officers, and participating organizations are uniquely important to execution of this strategy. The strategy calls for stronger public-private coordination and more impactful U.S. engagement in international forums. In practice, the IEC technical ecosystem is one of the key arenas where market access, interoperability, safety, and security requirements converge for sectors like electrification, connected infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and emerging digital technologies exactly the kind of cross-cutting environment the strategy targets at a high level. 



THE CET STANDARDS RACE: WHAT USSS 2025 MEANS FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP AT THE IEC

Mohsen Seifi, Ph.D., VP of Global Advanced Manufacturing, ASTM International; Principal Investigator, ASCET Center of Excellence



Since 2012, China has tripled its IEC secretariats from 6 to 15. In ISO, the secretariat gap between the two countries has narrowed to just five positions, with China now holding 87 to the U.S.'s 92. [1, 2] The IEC remains the international body where Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations hold their strongest structural advantage, accounting for more than 90 percent of all secretariats, and the U.S. still holds 27 IEC secretariats, nearly double China's total. [1] But the trajectory is unmistakable.

And it comes at a time when engagement is slipping, not surging. At the October 2025 Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS) event, ANSI President and CEO Dr. Laurie E. Locascio warned that many U.S. companies are pulling back from standards participation, treating it as a cost rather than a strategic investment, precisely when other nations are scaling up. [3]

The strategic response is now in place. *USSS (U.S. Standards Strategy) 2025's* first objective focuses

strengthening international standards leadership, including addressing geopolitical pressures within the standards processes. [4, 5] The *NIST Strategy for American Technology Leadership*, released in September 2025, makes bolstering American leadership in standards one of four strategic priorities, committing to accelerate U.S. engagement in international standards for critical and emerging technologies. [6] Public comments on the *USSS* draft reinforced the need for pre-standardization activities to coordinate U.S. positions before new IEC work items are proposed. [7]

The strategy is the right document at the right time. The question is whether the U.S. standards ecosystem can convert strategic alignment into sustained leadership inside IEC committee rooms.

USSS 2025's IEC ambitions face three structural challenges. They are the ground truth that implementation has to navigate.

The first is the leadership pipeline. USNC administers over 170 Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) with more than 2,500 experts [8], extraordinary infrastructure



by any measure. But the IEC is expanding into smart manufacturing, cybersecurity, AI, and sustainability faster than the U.S. expert base is growing to match. [9, 10] China's coordinated national approach, including financial incentives from provincial and local governments for companies engaging in international standards work, creates a volume advantage that the private-sector-led model has to answer with smarter targeting. [1, 11]

The second is the gap between U.S. commercial interests and the direction IEC committees are heading. The IEC's framework through 2030 is organized around sustainability, net-zero, and digital transformation [9], and its AI work increasingly emphasizes governance and trustworthiness alongside technical performance. [10] The stakes are not abstract. At the 89th IEC General Meeting in New Delhi, India was named the global secretariat for LVDC standardization, a foundational clean-energy technology. [10] That is a secretariat the U.S. does not hold, in a space where American companies are active and competitive.

Regardless of the direction of domestic policy debates, U.S. industry is deeply invested in these markets. Solar, grid modernization, EV infrastructure, industrial AI: these are American companies competing globally. USNC's role is to ensure that commercial reality drives U.S. technical positions in IEC committees. As several speakers at ANSI's October 2025 Innovation Summit observed, difference in regulatory approaches could increase global demand for voluntary IEC standards as the de facto baseline for market access and product safety. [12]

The third is funding, the binding constraint on everything else. CSIS estimates that deep engagement in a single international standards body can cost approximately \$300,000 per engineer per year. [13] The CHIPS and Science Act authorized standards funding that has not yet been fully appropriated, and a March 2026 CSIS brief warned that federal implementation has progressed more slowly than anticipated. [13]

Every ambition in *USSS 2025* ultimately depends on having enough funded, technically skilled Americans in IEC working groups.

The challenges are real, but they are not going unanswered. Implementation infrastructure is coming online, and CET standards leadership carries bipartisan support at the strategic level.

The Korea–U.S. Standards Forum in December 2025 brought NIST, ANSI, ASTM, UL, and Microsoft together around bilateral cooperation in sectors like electrified transportation, directly aligned with *USSS 2025*'s international engagement objective. [14] ANSI's Innovation Summit convened stakeholders to identify actionable steps for 2026. [12] The expanded Consumer Participation Fund now covers TAG fees, lowering one barrier to broader engagement. [15] These are tangible moves, not just statements of intent.

On the commercial alignment front, USNC TAGs for IEC TC 82 (solar), TC 88 (wind), and SyC LVDC already have active U.S. industry participation, and U.S. experts lead or co-lead work in TC 65 (industrial automation) and the Systems Committee on Smart Manufacturing. [10] The private-sector-led model *USSS 2025* reaffirms is the mechanism for translating U.S. commercial interests into IEC leadership, regardless of domestic policy signaling.

The Advancing Standards for Critical and Emerging Technologies (ASCET) Center of Excellence, a \$15 million NIST cooperative agreement led by ASTM International, is one of the most tangible implementation mechanisms now operational. [16] Its Information and Data Sharing Hub, launched in January 2026, covers AI, biotechnology, quantum technology, and semiconductors, with ANSI, ASME, IEEE, A3 Robotics, CSA Group, and UL Standards and Engagement as partners. [17] Workforce programs in development are focused on training technical experts who can fill seats in IEC working groups and project teams. [18] ASCET convenes, coordinates, and fills gaps so that organizations like USNC TAGs can operate



more effectively. It implements both *USSS 2025* and the *NIST Strategy for American Technology Leadership*, giving CET standards work durable bipartisan support. [4, 6]

There is also a proven playbook. The ASTM-ISO Partner Standards Developing Organization agreement, signed in 2011, established the framework for jointly developed ISO/ASTM 529xx additive manufacturing standards. [19] But by 2018, standards were not keeping pace with the technology. ASTM International established its Additive Manufacturing Center of Excellence to close gaps faster, leveraging the AM Standardization Collaborative roadmap ANSI had assembled. [20] That combination of international partnership, gap analysis, and an operational center of excellence worked. The ISO/ASTM 529xx standards are now used globally, from aerospace to semiconductor equipment supply chains. [19, 21] It was this track record that positioned ASTM International to secure the ASCET Center of Excellence, bringing lessons from additive manufacturing to a broader set of critical and emerging technologies while developing new approaches for the CET landscape. The playbook is not identical, but the results from additive manufacturing speak for themselves.

The IEC's 2025 to 2030 strategic cycle is setting committee leadership for the next decade. [9] Secretariats, convenorships, and project team leads being decided now will determine who shapes standards for grid infrastructure, industrial AI, smart manufacturing, and cybersecurity. The U.S. holds nearly twice China's IEC secretariats. [1] That advantage is not permanent.

USNC TAGs have the structure to act. [8] The question is whether enough of us are using it. Do you know which IEC technical committees in your sector are approaching leadership transitions? Do you know where U.S. participation is thinning? If not, that is the first conversation to have when you get back to your TAG. USNC's own participation tracking can

help answer those questions today, and tools like the ASCET Information and Data Sharing Hub [17] are being built to make that picture even clearer.

The strategy is written. The tools are being built. What happens next depends on whether we show up. ☺

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CONFESSIONS OF A STANDARDS ACCOUNTANT: WHY "IMPROVING BUSINESS STABILITY" IS THE FUNNIEST SERIOUS THING WE DO

Peter Pondillo, Senior Manager of Standards and Policy, Corning Inc.; USNC Vice President - Finance



We have dedicated the last several issues of the USNC Current to a series highlighting the USNC Strategic Objectives. This issue features the final topic in the series: **Improving Business Stability**. We extend our appreciation to all contributors who shared their insights and helped deepen our understanding of why these objectives matter to the USNC and how they strengthen our effectiveness in participating in the IEC and advancing U.S. positions. Each of the objectives in this series can be revisited as linked below:

[Communicate and Educate](#)

Ethan Biery, Summer 2024

[Positive Leadership: Lessons from Ted Lasso](#)

Veronica Lancaster, Fall 2024

[Developing a Future Roadmap: Preparing for Tomorrow's Standards Landscape](#)

Megan Hayes (Fall 2025)

[Enhancing U.S. Influence within the IEC](#)

Muhammad Ali (Winter 2025)

In upcoming editions of the USNC Current, look for a new series, **The Role the U.S. Plays in the IEC**, which will explore the various U.S. leadership roles within the IEC, the responsibilities they carry, and why they are essential.

As a USNC officer, I'm willing to admit something that could get me banned from the next coffee queue at the IEC General Meeting: our Strategic Objective "Improving Business Stability" is the least flashy line in the plan—and the most important one if you enjoy lights that turn on, devices that play nicely, and markets that behave less like roller coasters and more like commuter trains. In a world where technology sprints ahead and geopolitics occasionally throws elbows, stability isn't a luxury. It's the shock absorber that lets innovation make it to market. And yes, it's also the thing that pays for the coffee.

Let's translate the objective's deceptively simple bullets—analyze business model options for financial sustainability, help shape IEC financial policy and



ensure the functionality and efficacy of USNC TAGs—into what they really mean for your bottom line, your sanity, and the global trading system.

First, the money. Standards may be voluntary, but the work that makes them happen isn't. In the *United States Standards Strategy* (USSS), we state plainly that consistent and adequate financial support is crucial for driving innovation, developing new standards, and ensuring ongoing participation by U.S. experts. Treating standards as a cost center instead of an investment is like calling a seatbelt "optional." You can do it—until you can't. Improving business stability begins with sustainable funding for the engine room: the committees, experts, coordinators, and tools that convert ideas into globally accepted specs that reduce barriers to trade.

Analyzing business model options isn't code for "raise dues and hope no one notices." It's about aligning resources with outcomes, modernizing our operations, and building a resilient, adaptive structure that thrives under stress. That's why our modernization strategy targets fully digital workflows across USNC processes and aims to reduce our internal processing time. A unified platform for ballots, commenting, and consensus tracking isn't just good hygiene—it directly cuts overhead and uncertainty. Time saved gathering, reconciling, and filing input is time returned to subject-matter experts who move markets.

If you're picturing the slow, stately march of standards as a cross between a symphony and a filing cabinet, think again. We're introducing agile methods to form rapid U.S. positions in fast-evolving areas, aiming to cut the average time for urgent topics. Does faster equal sloppier? Not in a system anchored by WTO principles of transparency, openness, impartiality, consensus, coherence, and relevance. Speed here means "less loop, more lift." It's stability through responsiveness: getting to smart consensus quickly enough to shape the standards used worldwide, instead of sprinting after someone else's rules.

Second, the rules—and the bills. "Help shape IEC financial policy" sounds wonky enough to cure insomnia. But policies governing how international work is funded and managed can either enable barrier-free trade or sneak in technical toll booths. In our strategic vision, we commit to defending good standards governance—transparent, open, consensus-based, and market-relevancy because fair process equals predictable outcomes, and predictability is the currency of business stability. When we coordinate U.S. positions on IEC policy and financial matters, file formal comments that reinforce impartiality and IP protection, and press for consistency with WTO principles, we're doing something profoundly pro-business: making sure accepted standards reflect technical merit, not whoever yells the loudest or pays the most.

Let's be honest—there are attempts globally to manipulate standards processes for geopolitical gain. That's not a punchline; it's a wake-up call. Stable businesses need stable playing fields. By reinforcing governance that ensures all voices are heard and standards solve real market problems, we avoid the chaos of competing, incompatible specifications that fragment markets and fuel uncertainty. And when we support stronger U.S. participation in conformity assessment (think IECEE and IECEx), we aren't collecting stamps—we're building barrier-free trade lanes, reducing duplicate testing, and accelerating adoption. We aim to grow U.S. participation in target schemes and publish harmonized guidance documents—with adoption. Translation: fewer surprises, smoother regulatory pathways, and clearer investment signals.

Third, the people. "Ensure functionality and efficacy of the USNC TAGs" is the genteel way of saying "make the U.S. position coherent." TAGs—those Technical Advisory Groups that coordinate U.S. input to IEC technical committees—are the orchestra pit where the score becomes sound. When they work well, the U.S. voice has clarity, consistency, and weight. When they don't, the world hears cacophony. To improve stability, we're strengthening collaboration among TAG Administrators, reducing redundant proposals



and comments, increasing joint submissions over baseline, and deploying standardized collaboration platforms for structured comment management and version control. We're piloting AI-assisted analysis to consolidate input and detect gaps, and we aim for adoption across TAGs. That's not gadgetry for its own sake; it's risk reduction. Fewer contradictions, faster consensus, better outcomes.

We also know stability depends on people staying engaged, skilled, and—this matters—having backups. Succession planning is not a mystical art reserved for ancient guilds; it's mentoring with a schedule. We're pairing new young professionals with experienced delegates, offering recognition awards to boost retention, and training participants across niche sectors, including open-source and data-driven communities. It's proactive workforce development with active engagement, and ensuring delegates are competent on governance, policies, AI-assisted tools, and effective communication. If you've ever seen a standards group hinge on one heroic volunteer's memory, you know why this matters. Business stability is a team sport, not a solo.

A word about markets: we're not stabilizing in order to move slowly. We're stabilizing to move with purpose. Through our strategy to identify priority sectors, publish an annual USNC sector map, and coordinate industry-led proposals, we aim to proactively shape markets with new work aligned to national innovation priorities. Submitting new proposals across priority sectors and initiating timely work, signals to businesses that standards—and therefore market expectations—will track with reality. That reduces uncertainty, improves planning, and supports investment.

And yes, we are absolutely leaning into efficient development models that keep pace with technology while upholding core principles. The *USSS* champions targeted pre-standardization to accelerate formal work, responsible use of AI tools to improve drafting and the usability of published standards, and training so participants can find, evaluate, create,

and communicate standards information in a digital environment. It's not only the how, but also the why: efficiency and responsiveness produce high-quality standards that evolve with markets, and that feeds back into business stability. If your engineers can design to standards that arrive on time and reflect real needs, your CFO gets fewer migraines.

Now, a small plea to corporate boards. If standards look like line-item costs, we've failed to tell the story. The *USSS* spells it out: standards fuel innovation, accelerate market adoption, streamline regulatory pathways, protect IP, and widen market access. They prevent standards from becoming trade barriers, uphold a level playing field, and deliver coherence across overlapping efforts. That web of benefits doesn't always fit neatly in quarterly reporting, but it absolutely lives in your risk register. Participating actively—supported by your teams and measured by tangible goals—translates into competitive advantage. In standards, value accrues to those who show up, stay engaged, and shape fair rules.


Here's the punchline: Improving business stability is not about avoiding change. It's about designing our system to expect it. It's marshaling resources to sustain participation, modernizing tools so consensus stays crisp, defending governance so markets stay fair, and nurturing a workforce that can carry the baton. It's making standards development more efficient without compromising openness or consensus and investing in conformity assessment, so adoption is swift, and borders don't turn technical.

If that sounds both serious and mildly comedic, welcome to the USNC. We measure success with faster internal processing, growth in participation in key technical committees and conformity assessment schemes, and competent, active delegates—but we live by principles: transparency, openness, impartiality, consensus, coherence, effectiveness, relevance, and robust IP protection. Those are not just ideals; they are the scaffolding that keeps the building steady while we renovate the interior.



So yes, call it business stability. But understand it as the disciplined, deliberate work of keeping markets predictable while technology evolves and global politics swirl. It's the art of making the standards system resilient enough to absorb shocks, flexible enough to respond, and strong enough to lead. And if we do it right, there will be fewer unpleasant surprises, more

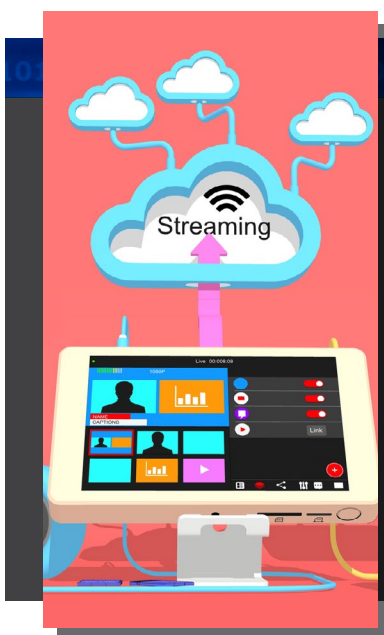
efficient pathways to adoption, and better coffee at meetings—because someone paid attention to cash flow, policy, and the human beings who make it all run.

In other words, stability is the funniest serious thing we do—because when it works, almost nothing dramatic happens. Products interoperate. Trade flows. Risks are managed. And you get home in time for dinner. 

USNC 2026 IEC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMPETITION

The 2026 IEC Young Professionals Workshop will be held in conjunction with the 90th IEC General Meeting in Hamburg, Germany from November 16th–20th, 2026. The in-depth, five day workshop will bring together young professionals from around the world who are at the beginning of their careers in electrotechnical standardization and conformity assessment, and who have each been selected and recognized by their IEC National Committees. Recipients will be financially supported for their airfare and accommodation. As seen during previous IEC General Meetings, there is a lot of enthusiasm surrounding the young professionals programs around the world.

The criteria and nomination process for this competition are detailed in the [nomination form](#). Nominations should be submitted to Mackenzie Connors (maconnors@ansi.org) no later than **Friday, July 17th, 2026**



ANSI MEMBERSHIP WEBINARS

Membership in ANSI is the key to unlocking the benefits and opportunities that standardization can provide. Standardization and conformity assessment activities lead to lower costs by reducing redundancy, minimizing errors, and reducing time to market, resulting in enhanced profitability.

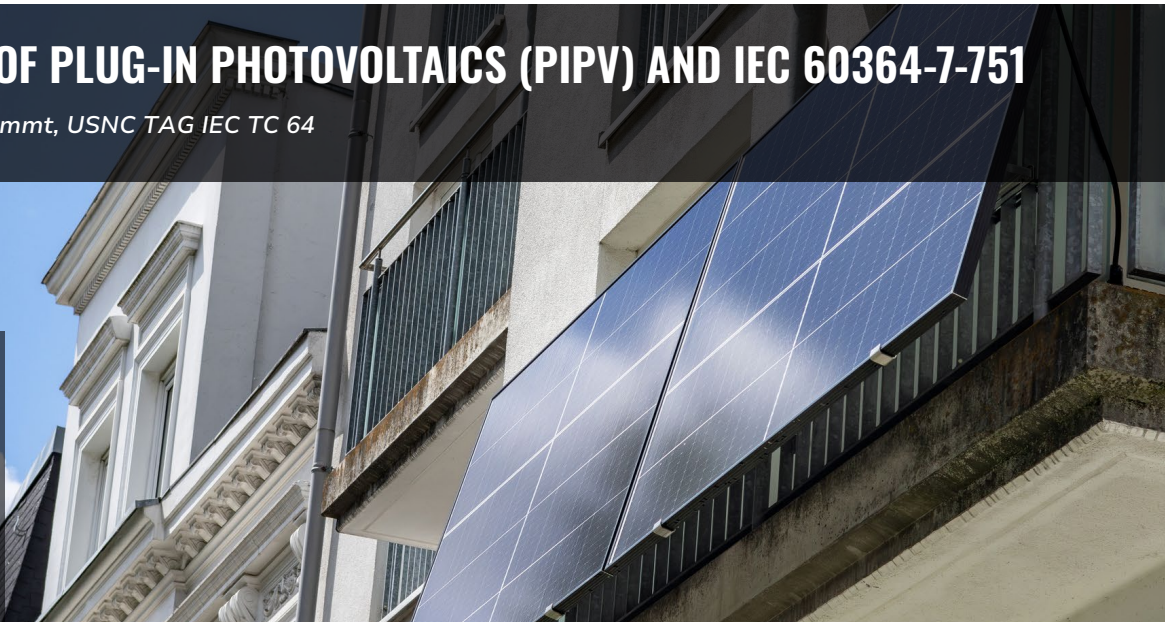
These interactive 30-minute webinars—held on the first Friday of each month and free of charge—are hosted live and provide an overview of ANSI's activities, as well as information on how to take full advantage of ANSI membership. A Q&A session encourages active dialogue between all participants.

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THE FUTURE OF PLUG-IN PHOTOVOLTAICS (PIPV) AND IEC 60364-7-751

Achim Ginsberg-Klemmt, USNC TAG IEC TC 64



On May 7th 2025, Utah unanimously passed a groundbreaking, bipartisan Plug-In Solar bill. H.B. 340 legalized portable, plug-in solar generation devices under defined safety conditions, allowing residents to connect small, certified solar systems directly through standard plug-in connectors without requiring hard-wiring or interconnection bureaucracy.

The premise was straightforward: if a PIPV device meets recognized safety standards, incorporates anti-islanding protection, and remains within defined power limits, citizens should be allowed to generate modest amounts of electricity from their balconies, backyards, and driveways.

At nearly the same time, however, the international installation standard IEC 60364-7-751 was moving toward publication that contains the following clause:

“A generating set shall not be connected to a final circuit.”

Translated from IEC standards language, that means: No plug-in solar generation through standard plug-in connectors.

The drafting question carries broader implications for who may self-generate electricity and participate in the future electricity market.

THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURAL DEFENSE

When the U.S. expert raised concerns within the IEC Technical Committee 64 Working Group 48 (TC64/WG48), the convenor merely entered into the official meeting record the following statement:

“The US expert came with a late intervention, further discussion is necessary but it cannot hold up publication.”

From a procedural standpoint, this response is understandable.

- » The intervention occurred in an advanced stage.
- » The contested language traces back to earlier IEC generator provisions.
- » Installation standards govern wiring systems, not product functionality.
- » No dedicated IEC product standard for Plug-In PV yet exists.



Standards bodies depend on continuity. Reopening foundational clauses late in the drafting cycle can trigger negative votes and delay publication.

This explains the procedural basis for publication, but does not resolve the underlying technical concerns.

The clause reflects installation principles developed for traditional generator technologies with mechanically driven portable generators that lacked embedded grid-detection and anti-islanding functionality. In that context, structural wiring separation was considered an appropriate safeguard.

Inverter-based plug-in photovoltaic systems incorporate certified grid-detection and anti-islanding functions that automatically disconnect upon loss of utility grid supply. The PV inverter based architecture differs materially from mechanically driven portable generators, whose hazard mitigation relies primarily on installation wiring topology rather than embedded electronic controls.

Treating both technologies identically because they share a generic label (“generating set”) does not reflect best engineering practices; it reflects categorical inertia. Invoking document maturity as a reason to avoid revisiting that assumption shifts the discussion from a technical evaluation toward procedural convenience.

A standard can be internally consistent and still technically outdated. A clause can be inherited and still be misapplied. And a draft standard can move efficiently toward publication while quietly codifying yesterday’s hazard model.

The question is not whether WG48 followed the rules of process. The question is whether the IEC process is being used to shield legacy assumptions from technical scrutiny.

LEGACY HAZARD ASSUMPTIONS

Standards function best when their hazard assumptions align with demonstrated engineering performance.

When procedural constraints prevent reassessment of those established models, the resulting text no longer reflects current technical capability. This tension is particularly evident in inverter-based distributed generation.

The language in question was crafted at a time when the term generating set commonly referred to mechanically driven portable generators, including gasoline and diesel units. Improper interconnection of such devices can sustain system voltage on conductors assumed to be de-energized. Structural separation was therefore incorporated through the clause: “A generating set shall not be connected to a final circuit.”

Plug-In Photovoltaic systems are different. Modern inverter-based systems certified under UL-1741 (in the U.S.) and comparable frameworks worldwide automatically disconnect within milliseconds when grid voltage is lost. Anti-islanding is not theoretical; it has been embedded in national standards for over a decade.

Current discussions of distributed generation reflect two differing architectural approaches:

In traditional installation models developed around rotating-machine generators, equipment typically connects through dedicated circuits, and hazard mitigation relies heavily on wiring topology and structural separation. Protective coordination is largely implemented at the installation level, and system design historically assumed predominantly unidirectional energy flow.

By contrast, appliance-based distributed systems may be modular, portable, or plug-connected. In these systems, hazard mitigation is implemented in part through certified electronic controls and mechanical electric shock protection features embedded within the device and its connectors. Grid monitoring and automatic disconnection functions operate at the equipment level, although installation-level protection



remains part of the overall safety framework. Energy flow may be bidirectional under defined operational parameters.

WHY THIS MATTERS BEYOND UTAH

The United States does not directly adopt IEC standards. However, lawmakers, global supply chains, insurers, and conformity assessment systems often treat IEC language as a benchmark.

If IEC 60364-7-751-101 gains broad international influence without specific accommodation for inverter-based plug-in photovoltaic (PIPV) systems, several secondary effects could follow. Legislative discussions may rely on installation language that does not distinguish between generator architectures when evaluating electric shock risk. Manufacturers may adjust product design to conform to installation assumptions that were not developed with inverter-based systems in mind. Dual compliance pathways could increase certification complexity and associated costs. Insurance carriers or local Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) may reference IEC text as indicative of prevailing best practices. These dynamics could, in turn, affect accessibility for renters and lower-income households who rely on modular, plug-connected PV systems.

The resulting effect would represent regulatory friction without a clearly corresponding increase in electric shock protection.

When earlier IEC provisions were drafted, Plug-In photovoltaic markets were not yet established. National frameworks such as VDE V 0126-95 and VDE V 0100-551-1 had not been developed, and UL 3700 had not been introduced. Appliance-class PV inverter systems were not widely deployed, nor had plug-in solar received explicit legislative authorization in U.S. jurisdictions.

The objection at issue arose late in the most recent IEC drafting cycle. However, inverter-based micro-generation has evolved more rapidly than typical IEC revision timelines, which are deliberate and lagging.

Plug-In Solar is sometimes characterized as a regulatory loophole. That description does not accurately reflect the technical reality of these systems. Appliance-scale photovoltaic generation operates within defined wattage limits, incorporates certified anti-islanding functions and mechanical electric shock protection measures, and is subject to established product certification requirements. Output levels are modest and designed for controlled interaction with the existing electrical system. In Utah, bipartisan legislation concluded that citizens could participate in electricity generation under these constraints without compromising safety or system integrity. The question for the international standards community is whether existing installation philosophy adequately accommodates this certified, limited-scale model of distributed generation or whether current assumptions unintentionally restrict it.

THE COMMITTEE'S PRODUCT STANDARD COUNTERPOINT

Despite VDE V 0126-95 and UL-3700, critics within the IEC made one fair point: there is no harmonized IEC product standard specifically for Plug-In PV (PIPV).

IEC installation standards are generally more comfortable referencing established IEC-certified product frameworks than implicitly legitimizing emerging PIPV device categories without such a framework. In the absence of a globally recognized product standard, TC64/WG48 expressed hesitation. That hesitation is understandable, but it appears resolvable.


Energy systems worldwide are becoming increasingly decentralized as distributed energy resources expand. Battery storage, vehicle-to-grid integration, microgrids, and prosumer aggregation are now incorporated into system planning and market frameworks. Regulatory reforms in multiple jurisdictions, including the United States, reflect this shift.

The advent of Plug-In Photovoltaics (PIPV) is simply one visible expression of this shift. If global, international installation standards rigidly encode one-way



power flow assumptions, they risk standing in tension with the two-way power flow required by the federal electricity directives of today in the U.S.

The debate concerns whether safety frameworks remain anchored in legacy installation doctrine or evolve to recognize certified, adaptive electronic protection. Both models can provide protection; only one aligns with emerging distributed solar architectures. As inverter-based distributed generation expands globally, installation assumptions must

be examined against current protection technology. Experts participating in TC64, TC82, and their respective National Committees should evaluate whether existing language adequately distinguishes between rotating-machine generators and inverter-based systems with certified electronic protection. Where that distinction is absent, clarification or coordinated committee action is warranted. Addressing this issue during the current cycle will prevent an unintended and avoidable barrier for the emerging PIPV technologies. 

JUST PUBLISHED

Check out the latest and greatest recently published standards by the IEC. A complete list of recently published documents can be found [here](#). Here's just one (of many!) we think you'll find interesting:

IEC 60245-1:2026- RUBBER INSULATED CABLES - RATED VOLTAGES UP TO AND INCLUDING 450/750 V - PART 1: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

IEC 60245-1:2026 applies to rigid and flexible cables with insulation, and sheath if any, based on vulcanized rubber of rated voltages U_0/U up to and including 450/750 V used in power installations of nominal voltage not exceeding 450/750 V AC. Particular types of cables are specified in IEC 60245-3, IEC 60245-4, IEC 60245-6, IEC 60245-7, IEC 60245-8. The code designations of these types of cables are provided in Annex A of this document. The test methods specified in Part 1 to Part 8 of the IEC 60245 series are given in IEC 63294 and in the relevant parts of IEC 60811.

IEC 60245-1:2026 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- reference to IEC 60245-2 for the tests has been deleted and replaced by IEC 63294;
- reference to lift cable according to IEC 60245-5 has been deleted;
- normative references have been updated.

Developed by [TC 20 Electric cables](#)



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- » Learning Journeys: Our [learning journeys](#) are designed to help USNC members grow in their skills and confidence at every stage of their careers. Whether you're a young professional just getting started or a seasoned standards leader looking to deepen your expertise, these courses offer practical, flexible pathways to support your development. Each journey brings together curated content, real-world insights, and tools you can apply right away.

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The USNC *Current* newsletter is distributed to the constituency of the U.S. National Committee (USNC) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). It provides updates on technical activities and other information of interest to members of the electrotechnical community. Some articles are reprinted with permission from the IEC News log.

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