Module II-B

USNC/IEC Organizational and Governance Structure

Module II-B: Learning Objectives

- This module provides an overview of the U.S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (USNC/IEC)

  - Membership

  - Organization structure

  - Governance and policy-setting bodies

  - USNC Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)

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Module II-B: Disclaimer

- The information contained in this self-taught learning module is intended as a summary of [documents and procedures](#) frequently used within the IEC and the USNC/IEC.

- For additional information about content addressed in this module, please contact the USNC/IEC Staff (usnc@ansi.org).

- Additional information is also available via [USNC/IEC Education & Training.](#)

Reference Materials & Source Documents

- ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1: 2021
  Procedures for the technical work

- ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2: 2021
  Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards

- ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1:2021 + IEC Supplement:2021
  Procedures specific to IEC

- IEC Statutes and Rules of Procedures
  IEC membership and participation procedures

- USNC Statutes: 2018

- USNC Rules of Procedure: 2005

- Model Operating Procedures for USNC/IEC TAGS: 2019

- Guide for U.S. Delegates to meetings of ISO and the IEC

- IEC Code of Conduct (Patent Policy included)

- IEC Diversity Statement

U.S. National Committee of the IEC: Strategic Objectives

- Seek Leadership Positions at all levels of IEC and related activities
  and work to guide and influence the structural and market positioning of the IEC in Global Markets consistent with U. S. electrotechnical positions

- Grow USNC Membership through improvements in service, outreach, participation and diversity of the organization

- Increase regional effectiveness of the USNC and the IEC

- Develop comprehensive standards strategy

- Develop comprehensive conformity assessment strategy

- Build strong Consumer Involvement and Active Participation in the Management and Technical Levels of the IEC and USNC
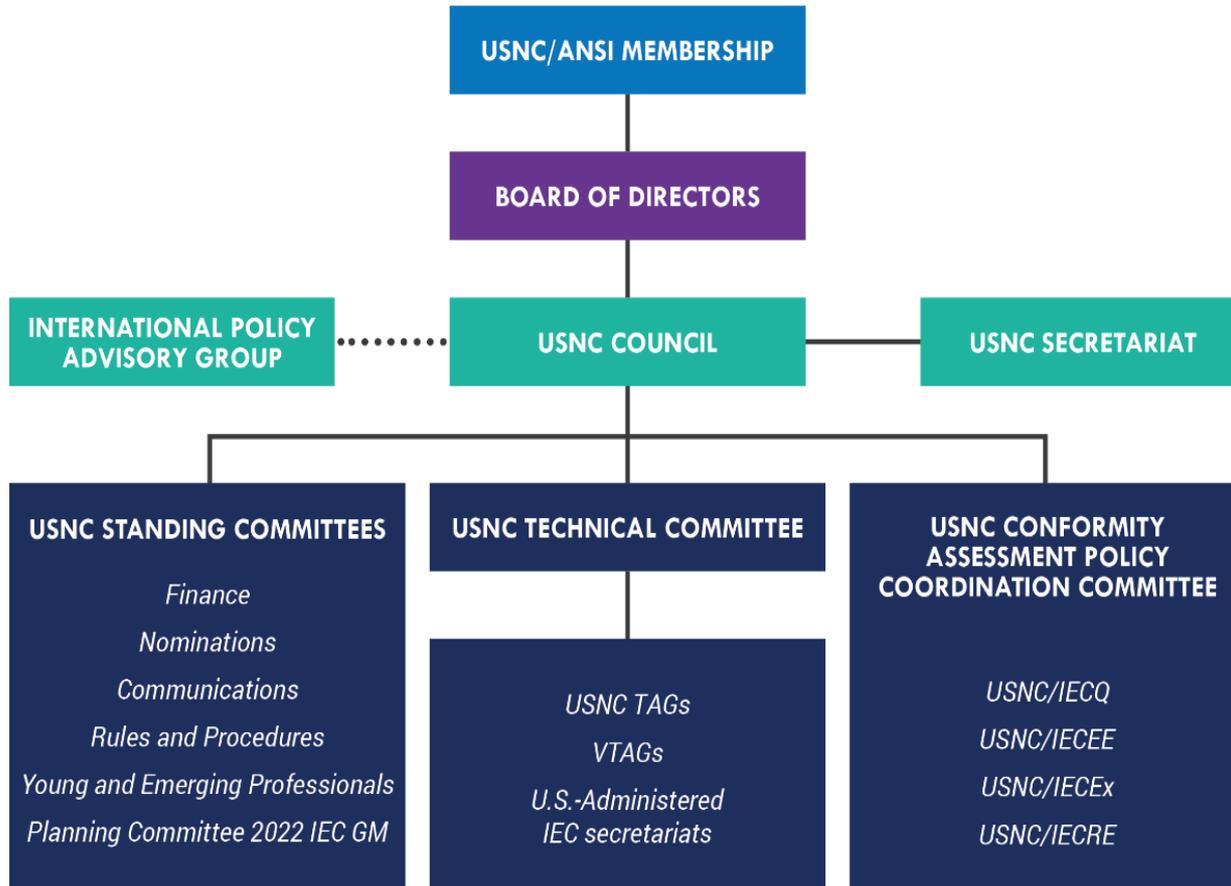
USNC/IEC Membership

- The broad-based USNC/IEC constituency represents the stakeholders in the U.S. electrotechnical community

- The USNC/IEC includes representatives of academia, consumers, government agencies, manufacturers, professional societies, testing organizations, trade associations and more
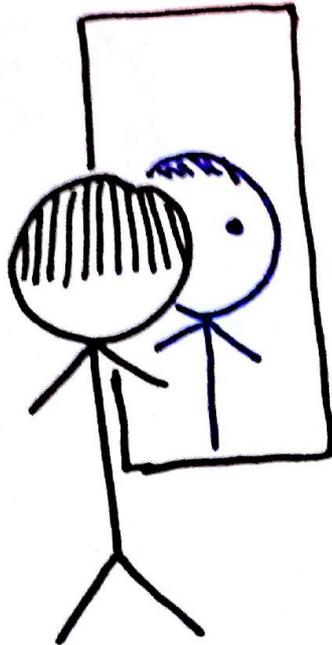
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USNC/IEC Membership (cont)

- Members of the USNC are appointed by the USNC Council with the approval of the ANSI Executive Committee. ANSI Membership is a prerequisite for USNC Members. They must also:
  - serve as US Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Administrators, USNC Conformity Assessment System Secretariats, or IEC Technical Committee (TC)/Subcommittee Committee (SC)/Systems Committees (SyC) Administrative Secretariats, and have paid all requisite fees,

  - or

  - have expressed interest in participating in the USNC and have paid the USNC Premier Member fee.

  For more information about membership, please contact the USNC/IEC staff (usnc@ansi.org).

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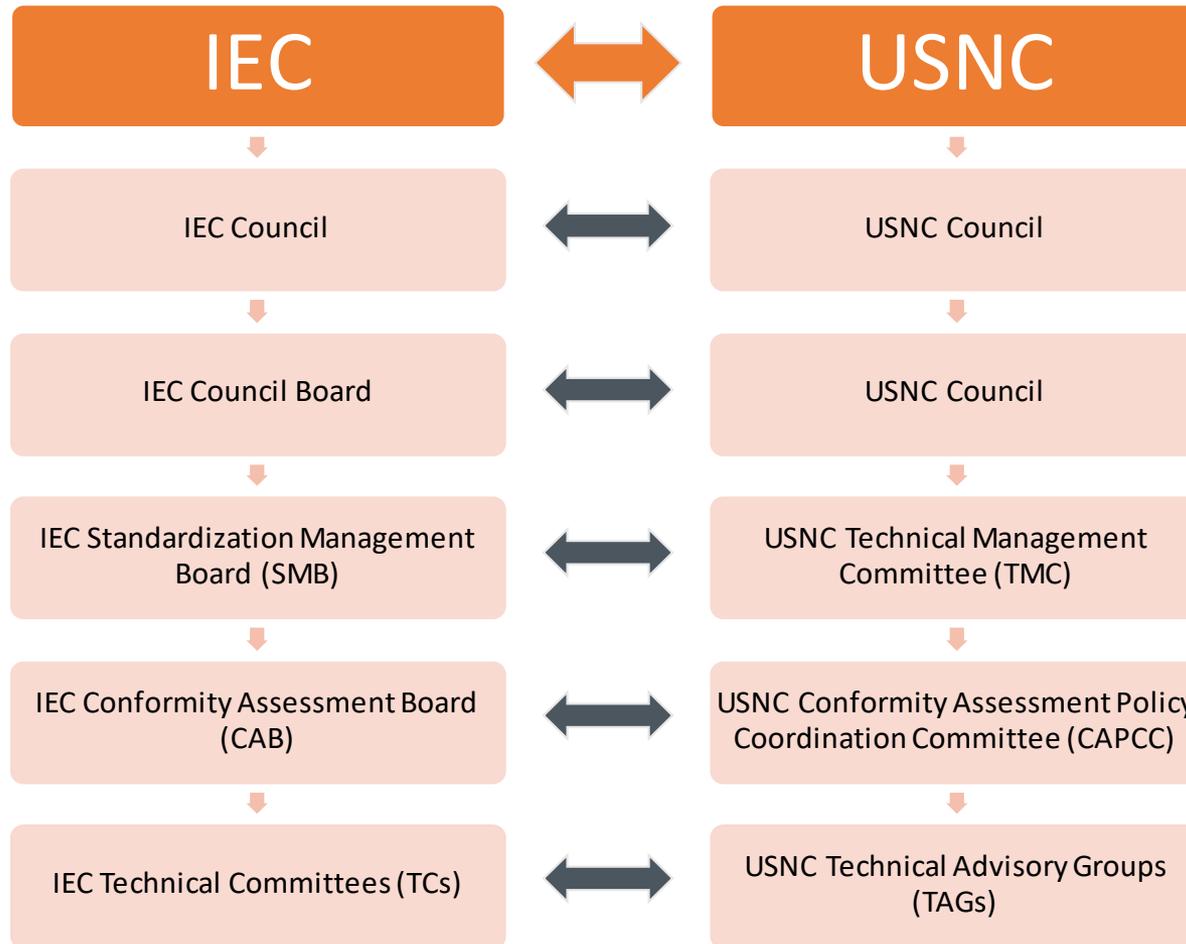
USNC/IEC Organizational Structure

Look familiar?

- That's because the USNC "mirrors" the IEC structure in order to best coordinate US positions for each of the respective IEC Council, Committees, and Groups
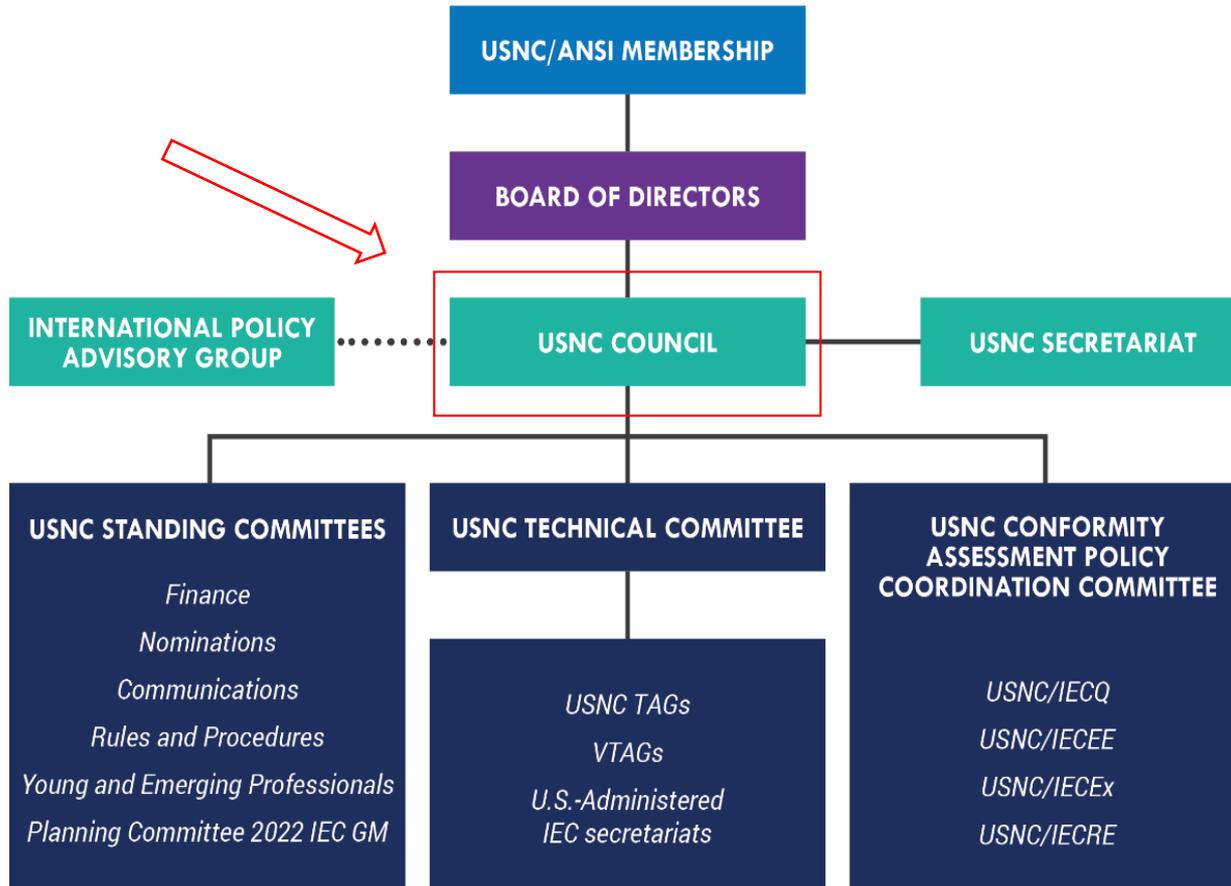
IEC/USNC Organization Structure: Mirror Image Relationships

IEC	⟷	USNC
IEC Council	⟷	USNC Council
IEC Council Board	⟷	USNC Council
IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB)	⟷	USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC)
IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB)	⟷	USNC Conformity Assessment Policy Coordination Committee (CAPCC)
IEC Technical Committees (TCs)	⟷	USNC Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)

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USNC Participation in IEC Policy and Management Activities

- The USNC is one of six permanent Council Board members
    - 15 members total

- The USNC is one of seven permanent Standardization Management Board (SMB) members
    - 15 members total

- The USNC and its members participate in approximately 94% of Technical Committees and administer 21% of TC Secretariats
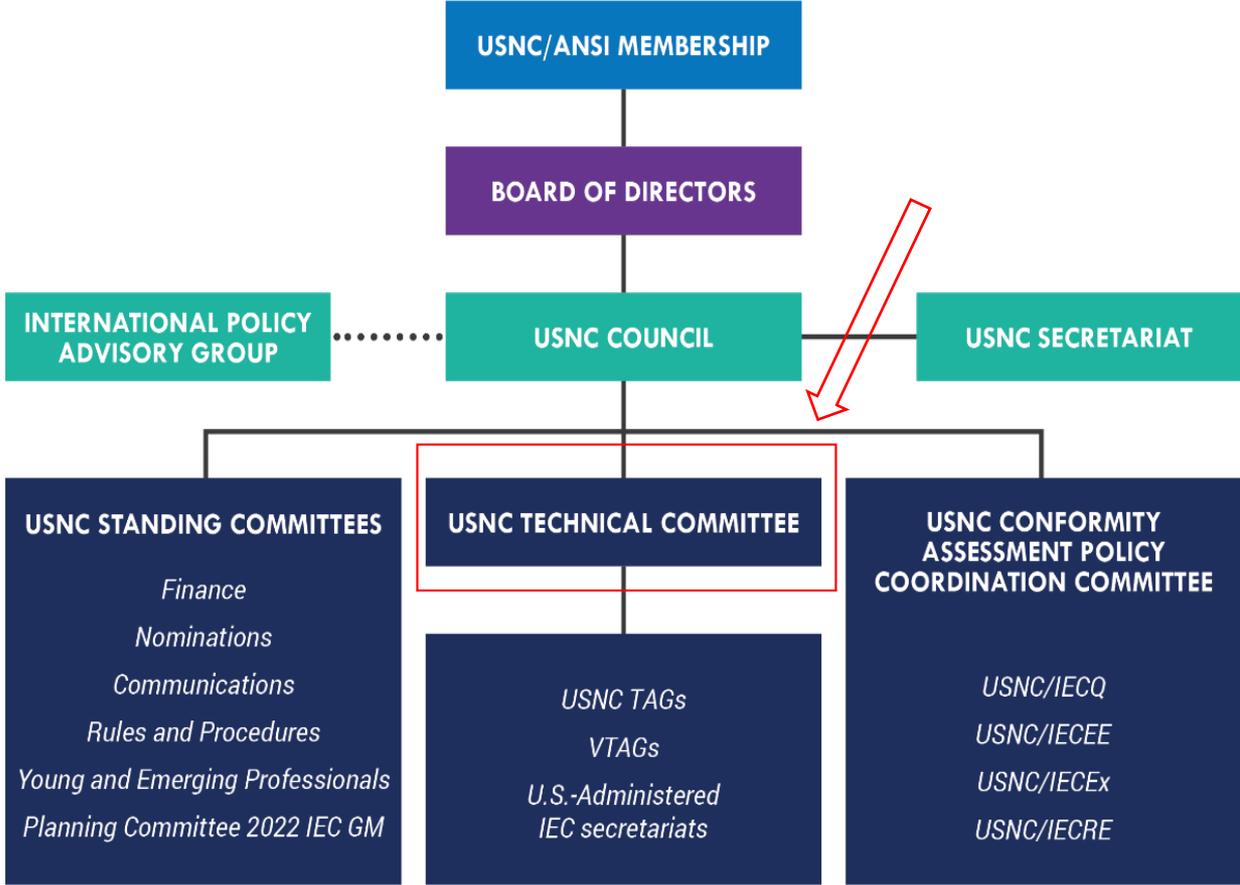
USNC Council

USNC Council

- Represents and coordinates U.S. involvement in IEC on behalf of the U.S. electrotechnical community

- Coordinates USNC activities with standards developers to promote consistency in IEC international and national activities
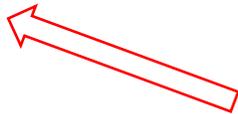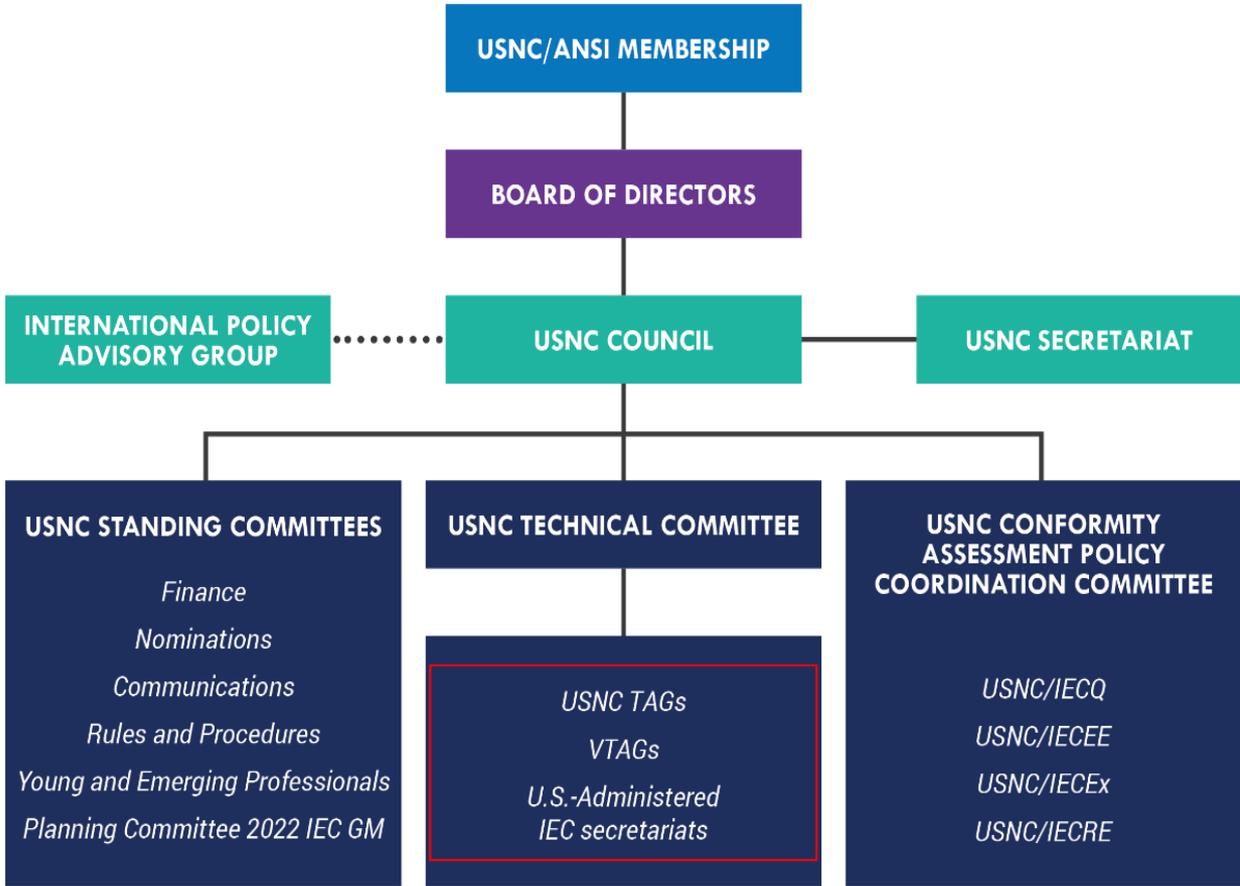
USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC)

USNC Technical Management Committee (TMC)

- Manages the technical work of the USNC and represents the interests of the U.S. at the Standardization Management Board (SMB)
  - Develops U.S. positions in preparation for IEC/SMB meetings
  - Appoints and oversees the designation of Technical Advisors, Deputy Technical Advisors, and TAG Administrators
  - Approves the designation of U.S. Secretariats to IEC Committees
  - Authorizes invitations to host IEC Technical Committee (TC) and Subcommittee (SC) and Systems Committees (SyC) meetings in the U.S.
  - Interfaces with regional/international bodies on technical issues
  - Updates and approves USNC TAG Operating Procedures

USNC Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)

USNC TAGs

- USNC-approved Technical Advisory Groups ([TAGs](#)) develop the U.S. positions on technical – and certain policy – issues under consideration within the IEC technical committee structure

- USNC TAGs are *mirror committees* of IEC TCs and SCs

- TAGs provide the delegates who will represent the United States in technical committee discussions at IEC meetings and also the experts who will serve on WGs, PTs and MTs

USNC Technical Advisory Groups (USNC TAGs)

- U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (USNC TAGs) are committees appointed by the USNC for participation in all IEC technical and certain IEC policy activities

  - Any U.S. parties interested in and directly and materially affected by the work of the TC/SC may participate as members of a USNC-approved TAG

  - The process for developing USNC positions provides an opportunity for fair and equitable participation without dominance by any single interest

  - An annual TAG participation fee of $310 is required

USNC TAG Responsibilities

- Development and maintenance of international standards in a specific technical area
  - "Mirrors" relevant IEC committee
  - Formed when new area of technical work is identified
- Compliance with ISO/IEC Directives
- Provides the U.S. delegations to technical committee meetings
- Includes all relevant stakeholder interests
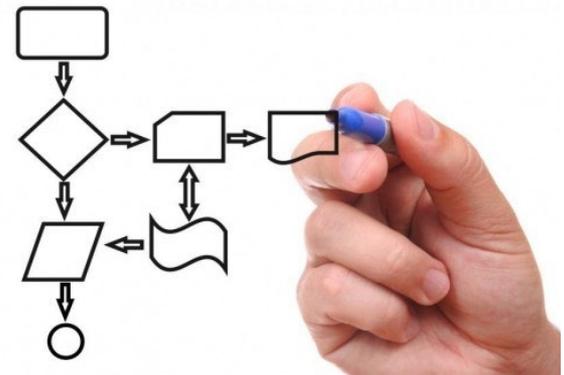
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USNC TAG Responsibilities (cont)

- Determines U.S. positions on matters arising before international technical committees

  - All U.S. positions developed by a TAG must be submitted to the relevant IEC committee by the USNC office

  - U.S. Technical Advisors (TAs) for IEC committees are appointed by the USNC Technical Management Committee and operate in compliance with the USNC Operating Manual (see Module III-B for more information on TAs).
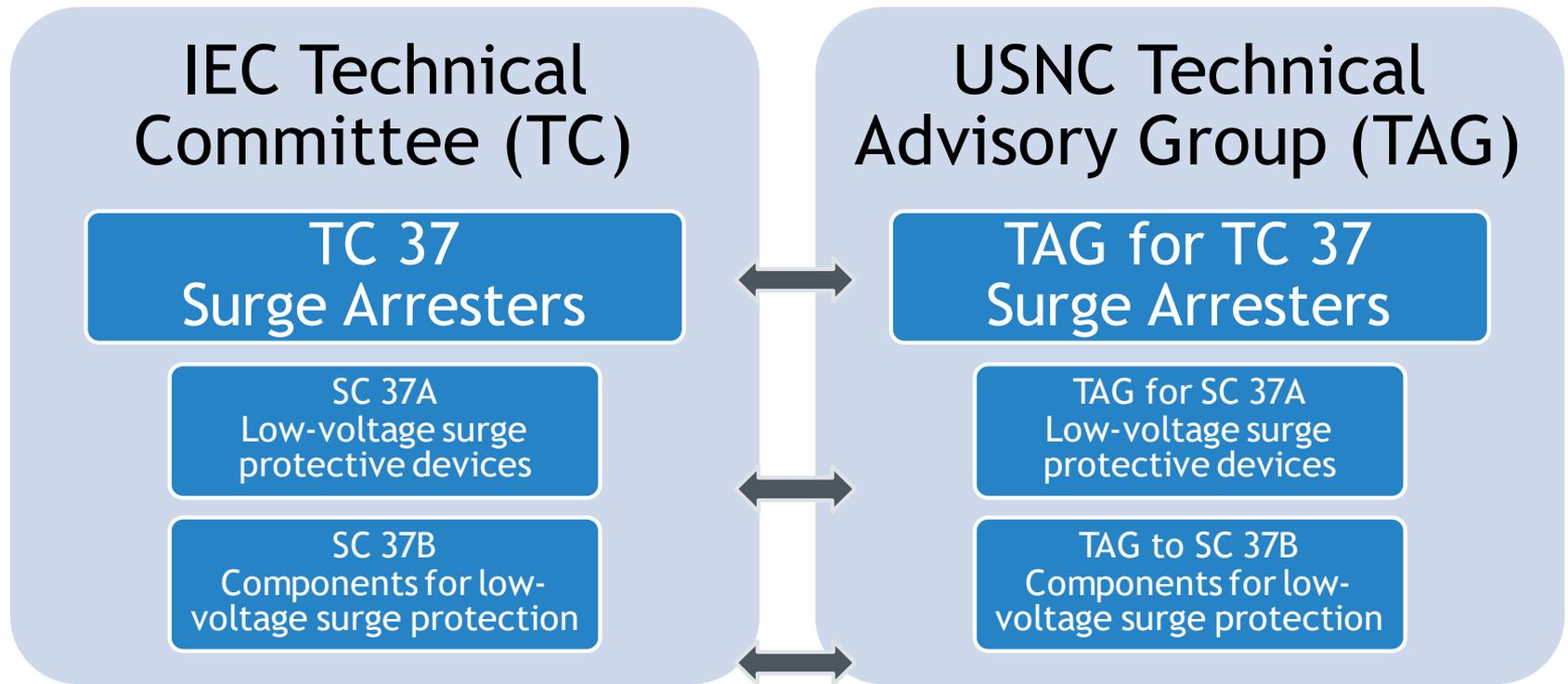
Criteria for Establishment of a USNC TAG

- There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation

- Participation shall not be conditional upon membership in any organization nor unreasonably restricted on the basis of technical qualifications or other such requirements

- Guidelines for determining a U.S. voting position shall be provided and followed

- Criteria for approval of U.S. positions on International Standards shall be met

- At least three (3) voting members are required for viability

USNC TAG Procedures

- All USNC/IEC TAGs may choose to adopt:
  - the *Model Operating Procedures for USNC/IEC Technical Advisory Groups* *or*
  - their own procedures, which must be equivalent to or more stringent than the TMC-approved model procedures and conform to the essential requirements of the *Model Operating Procedures for USNC/IEC Technical Advisory Groups*

Example IEC/TC and USNC TAG Relationship

IEC Technical Committee (TC)

TC 37
Surge Arresters

SC 37A
Low-voltage surge
protective devices

SC 37B
Components for low-
voltage surge protection

USNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

TAG for TC 37
Surge Arresters

TAG for SC 37A
Low-voltage surge
protective devices

TAG to SC 37B
Components for low-
voltage surge protection

USNC Funding

- In 1998, the ANSI Board of Directors challenged the USNC/IEC to become a self-supporting entity
    - The USNC is a totally integrated committee of ANSI
    - ANSI provides administrative support to the USNC
    - ANSI provides the fiduciary framework by which the USNC's financial obligations are met, including the payment of annual dues to the IEC

- With the exception of membership fees, the USNC receives no subsidies from other organizations or financial support from the U.S. government

- Numerous funding options were considered and a "Pay to Play" philosophy was ultimately adopted by the USNC/IEC Council
    - Determined to be the fairest, most equitable and least onerous payment mechanism
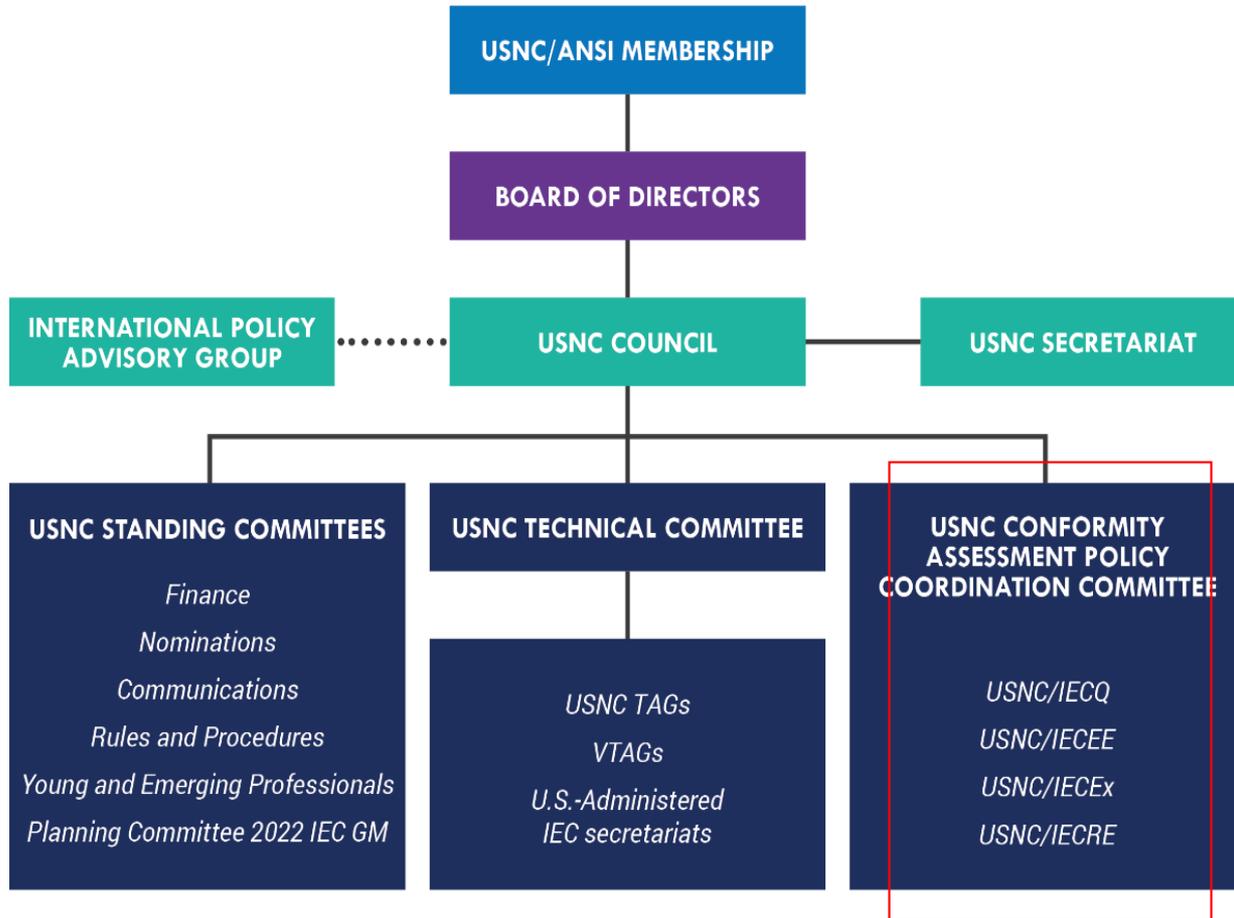
USNC Funding

- "Pay-to-Play"
  - Modest, across-the-board fee for all individual TAG Participants (currently $310 annual fee; $620 for TAGs serving two or more TC/SC/SyCs)
    - ANSI membership is not required
    - Exemptions, waivers, etc. are considered on a case-by-case basis
  - ANSI members (companies, organizations and government agencies) can become USNC Premier Members for an annual fee of $6,600
    - Individual TAG participation fees are waived for any employee of that company, organization or agency

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USNC Conformity Assessment Policy Coordination Committee (CAPCC)

USNC Conformity Assessment Policy Coordination Committee (CAPCC)

- Manages the conformity assessment work of the USNC and represents the interests of the U.S. at the Conformity Assessment Board (CAB)
  - Develops U.S. positions in preparation for IEC/CAB meetings
  - Appoints and approves Secretariats of the US conformity assessment mirror committees;
    - IECEE
    - IECEx
    - IECRE
    - IECQ *(USNC does not currently participate in this system)*
  - Interfaces with regional/international bodies on conformity assessment issues

USNC Four Conformity Assessment Systems

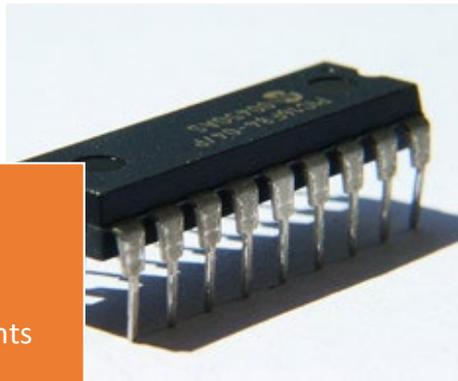**IECEE**
- Electrical equipment: safety and performance

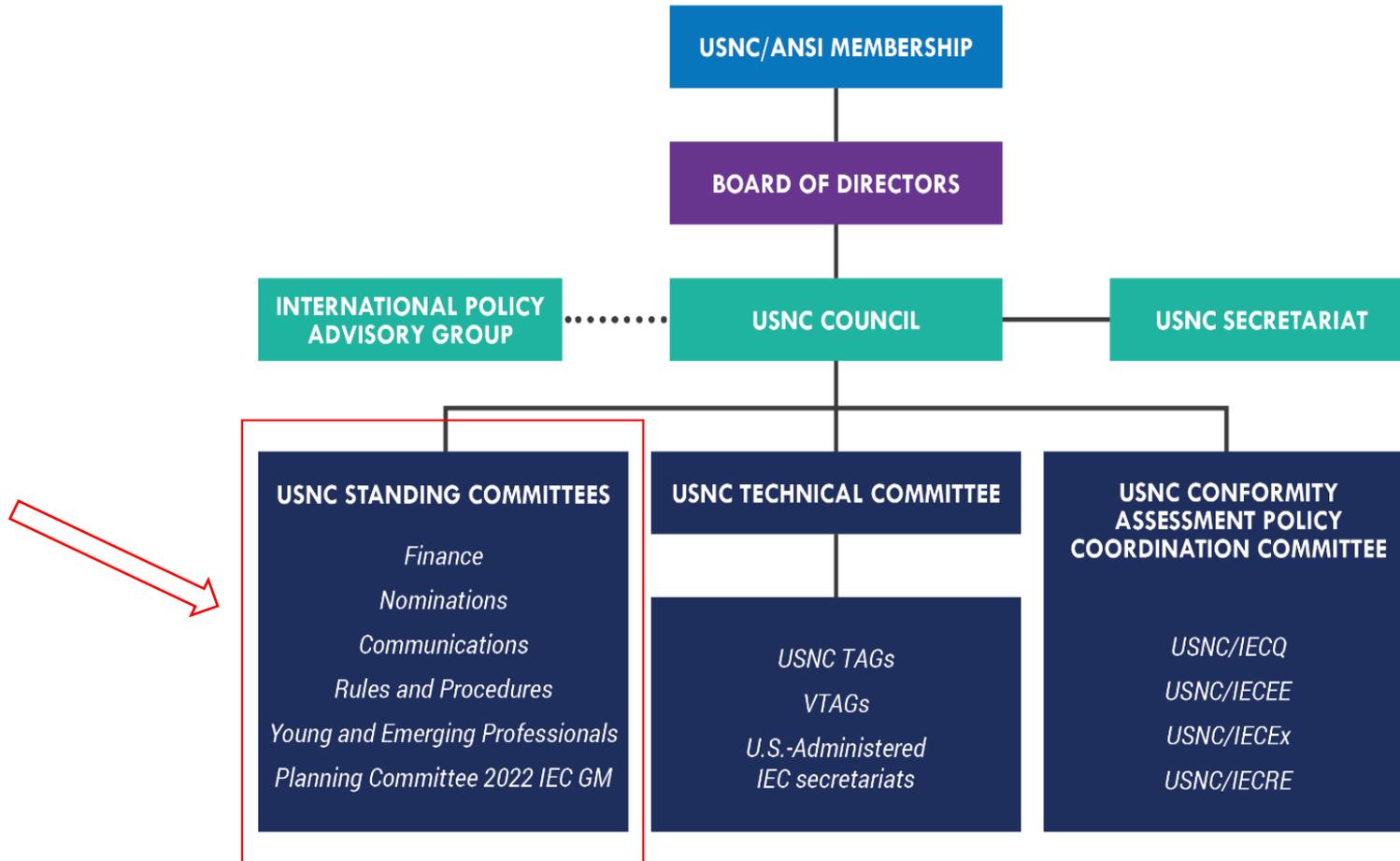**IECEx**
- Hazardous environments

IECEQ
- Electronic components

IECRE
- Renewable energies

USNC Standing Committees

USNC/ANSI MEMBERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INTERNATIONAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP · · · · · · · USNC COUNCIL — USNC SECRETARIAT

USNC STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance

Nominations

Communications

Rules and Procedures

Young and Emerging Professionals

Planning Committee 2022 IEC GM

USNC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

USNC TAGs

VTAGs

U.S.-Administered IEC secretariats

USNC CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT POLICY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

USNC/IECQ

USNC/IECEE

USNC/IECEx

USNC/IECRE

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USNC Standing Committees

- Finance Committee (FinCom)

- Nominations Committee (NomCom)

- Communications Committee (ComCom)

- Young and Emerging Professionals (YEP)

- Rules and Procedures (R&P)

- Planning Committee 2022 IEC GM (PlanCo)

Module II-B

Complete

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