DEVELOPMENT OF ANSI AND USNC/IEC POLICY AND TECHNICAL POSITIONS TO ISO AND IEC

INTRODUCTION

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from more than 150 countries, with one representative body from each country. ISO is a non-governmental organization established in 1947 and based in Geneva, Switzerland. Its mission is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity. ISO's work results in international agreements that are published as International Standards and other types of ISO documents.

ANSI is the sole U.S. representative and dues-paying member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and as a founding member of ISO, ANSI plays an active role in both its governance at the policy level and in many of its technical activities.

In 1904, leading scientists and pioneering industrialists from around the globe came together to discuss the need for cooperation leading to the standardization of electrical apparatus and machinery. This pivotal meeting ultimately led to the establishment of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in 1906. Today, the IEC promotes international cooperation on all questions of standardization and the verification of conformity to standards in the fields of electricity, electronics and related technologies.

The U.S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (USNC/IEC) serves as the focal point for U.S. parties that are interested in the development, promulgation and use of globally-relevant standards for the electotechnical industry. The USNC/IEC is a totally integrated committee of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI also provides the fiduciary framework by which the USNC's financial obligations are met, including the payment of annual dues to the IEC.

This paper addresses the mechanisms and processes that ANSI has in place to develop consensus U.S positions on both policy and technical matters of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, via the US National Committee (USNC), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

ISO

As a founding member of ISO, ANSI plays a strong leadership role in its governing bodies. ANSI holds seats on the following ISO governance groups:

• ISO General Assembly – The annual business meeting of all ISO members, including ANSI.

• ISO Council – responsible for strategic planning, external relations, commercial and financial policy decisions of ISO. ANSI holds a permanent seat on this body.

• ISO Technical Management Board (ISO/TMB) – responsible for introduction of new technical subjects, coordination of the overall standards development work program and development of procedures for the development of ISO standards. ANSI holds a permanent seat on this body.

• CASCO, COPOLCO and DEVCO – The ISO policy development committees related to conformity assessment, consumer issues and developing countries, respectively. ANSI chooses to actively participate in these bodies.

IEC

One of the first IEC National Committees, founded in 1907, the USNC plays a strong leadership role in IEC's management bodies. The USNC holds permanent seats on the following IEC governing groups:

• IEC Council (General Assembly) – The governing body of the IEC and consists, among others, of the IEC President and the Presidents of all Full Member National Committees.

- IEC Council Board – responsible for strategic planning, external relations, commercial and financial policy decisions of IEC.

- IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB)) – responsible for the overall management of IEC's technical work, including the establishment, dissolution and scopes of TCs, coordination of the overall standards development work program and development of procedures for the development of IEC standards.

- IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) – delegated by the IEC Council, responsible for the overall management of the conformity assessment activities of the Commission. The conformity assessment work of the IEC is carried out by schemes reporting to the CAB. The current schemes are as follows:

  IECEE – IEC System for Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrical Equipment and Components
  IECEx – IEC System for Certification to Standards for Electrical Equipment in Explosive Atmospheres
  IECQ – System for Quality Assessment of Electronic Components and Associated Materials and Processes

  The USNC is one of 12 elected members of the CAB.

- IEC Market Strategy Board (MSB) – delegated by Council, responsible for the development and maintenance of the strategy to be adopted to maximize input from the IEC's principal markets, to serve innovative and fast-moving markets, and to enhance the identification of market criteria for IEC products and services that best meet user needs. Four US industrial leaders are currently members of the MSB.

DEVELOPMENT OF ANSI AND USNC POSITIONS ON ISO AND IEC POLICY MATTERS

To develop and determine ANSI or USNC positions on ISO and IEC strategic, external relations, commercial or financial policy matters the following governance groups have been established:

- The ANSI ISO Council (AIC); and
- The USNC Council.

The process by which the AIC or the USNC Council develops and determines its positions is step-wise process and it may be summarized as follows:
- The AIC or USNC Council members discuss and decide to propose an initiative to ISO or IEC (including proposals for new fields of ISO or IEC work), or the AIC and USNC Council receive information/documents from ISO and IEC on which they must act.
- ANSI staff prepares notices that are circulated to generate comments from a broad spectrum of interested parties. Dissemination of this information may occur via email, ANSI website posting, ANSI news releases, notice in ANSI constituent publications, postings on ANSI constituents' websites and at meetings of various kinds. On occasion, ANSI will also use its Standards Panels as appropriate to provide input on and help shape ANSI positions to ISO. This has occurred in areas such as homeland security, nanotechnology, identity theft and protection and biofuels.
- ANSI staff, working with ANSI constituents, will research other affected parties outside the ANSI system, who are then specifically contacted for their input on the ISO or IEC initiative.
- All comments are compiled after the deadline for commenting, and a recommended ANSI position (with comments as necessary) is prepared by ANSI staff in consultation with the AIC or USNC Council Chairs.
- The recommended ANSI position and comments are presented to the AIC or USNC Council for endorsement, via email ballot or at a meeting (whichever is most convenient).
- Attempts are made to resolve negative comments from AIC and USNC Council members.
- AIC and USNC Council members are provided an opportunity to review unresolved negative comments, from any source, and change their endorsement if they agree with those comments.
- The final ANSI or USNC proposal, position and comments are advanced to ISO or IEC.

DEVELOPMENT OF ANSI AND USNC POSITIONS ON ISO AND IEC TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT MATTERS

To develop and determine ANSI or USNC positions on ISO and IEC technical policy matters before the ISO/TMB and the IEC/SMB (see above), the following governance groups have been established:

- The ANSI ISO Forum (AIF); and
- The USNC Technical Management Committee (USNC TMC).

ISO

The process by which the AIF develops and determines its positions is step-wise process and it may be summarized as follows:

- For generic ISO/TMB meeting action items affecting all ISO standards development committees:
  - ANSI staff identifies these items in the ISO/TMB meeting working documents.
  - ANSI staff consults internally and develops a summary statement and recommended position on each action item for the AIF meeting agenda.
  - AIF meeting agendas and supporting documents are issued in advance of the AIF meetings, where these issues will be discussed and decided.
  - The AIF meets and discusses the issue and improves the recommended position as necessary.
  - These positions are carried forward and advocated by the ANSI representative to the ISO/TMB.
- For ISO/TMB action items related to specific ISO standards development committees:
  - ANSI staff consults with the appropriate US Technical Advisory Groups (US/TAGs) for ANSI positions and comments on these action items.

IEC

The process by which the USNC/TMC develops and determines its positions is step-wise process and it may be summarized as follows:

- For generic IEC/SMB meeting action items affecting all IEC standards development committees:
  - USNC/TMC meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the three IEC/SMB yearly meetings.
  - Related SMB documents are circulated to TMC and to cognizant TAG contacts.
  - USNC staff identifies items that require the development of USNC votes/comments.
  - USNC staff consults with appropriate contacts and develops a recommended position on each action item for the TMC meeting agenda.
  - TMC meeting agendas and supporting documents are issued in advance of the TMC meetings where these issues will be discussed and decided.
  - The TMC meets and discusses the issues and approves the recommended positions as necessary.
  - These positions are carried forward and advocated by the USNC representative to the IEC/SMB.
- For IEC/SMB action items related to specific IEC standards development committees:
  - USNC staff consults with the appropriate USNC Technical Advisory Groups (US/TAGs) for USNC positions and comments on these action items.

DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATED ANSI AND USNC POSITIONS ON CROSS CUTTING ISSUES RELATED TO BOTH ISO AND IEC

A growing number of policy and technical issues relate to and affect both ISO and IEC and must be addressed in a coordinated and collaborative way if all sectors of the ANSI and USNC constituencies are to be appropriately represented. The following oversight process relates:

- ANSI and the USNC staffs remain constantly vigilant to issues that are of possible interest to the constituencies of both ISO and IEC.
- When such issues are detected, coordination on the part of both constituencies is pursued, including the scheduling of fact-finding teleconferences and meetings.
- Related documents, summaries of issues, and recommended positions are circulated to all potential interests. Comments and recommended positions are invited.
- If related ANSI and USNC bodies agree on an appropriate, uniform US position, that position is then submitted to both ISO and IEC.

- If agreement on a uniform position cannot be reached, the issue is presented to the ANSI International Policy Committee (IPC), which will work to resolve the matter. On the basis of sector specific differences, the IPC can authorize the submission of different positions to ISO and IEC.

DEVELOPMENT OF ANSI AND USNC POSITIONS ON ISO AND IEC TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Through ANSI and the USNC, the U.S. has immediate access to and influence in the ISO and IEC standards development processes at the technical level. ANSI actively participates in almost the entire technical program of both ISO and IEC, and serves as the international secretariat for many key ISO and IEC committees and subgroups.

ISO and IEC standards are developed by technical committees and subcommittees (which may establish substructures [Working Groups (WG), Maintenance Teams (MT), Project Teams (PT)]) comprising national delegations of experts from the industrial, technical and business sectors which have need for the standards, and which subsequently put them to use. The experts on these delegations may be joined by others with relevant knowledge, such as representatives of government agencies, testing laboratories, consumer associations, environmentalists, academic circles and so on. The national delegations are chosen by the ISO or IEC national member institute for the country concerned (in the case of the U.S., ANSI and the USNC). These delegations are required to represent national consensus positions. According to ISO and IEC rules, the national member body is expected to take account of the views of the range of parties interested in the standard under development and to present a consolidated, national consensus position to ISO and IEC.

ANSI and the USNC establish U.S. Technical Advisory Groups (US/TAGs) comprised of the range of U.S. parties interested in and affected by an ISO or IEC standard for the purpose of serving as the national mirror committee in relation to ISO or IEC committee developing that standard. The primary purposes of each US/TAG are to:

- Submit New Work Item Proposals (NPs) for development as international standards by ISO and IEC within the related ISO or IEC committee.
- Develop national consensus U.S. positions and comments on the standards under development in the relevant ISO or IEC committee.
- Decide on the delegates and experts to represent the U.S. at the international meetings of the relevant ISO or IEC committee.

All materially affected and interested parties have the right to participation on a US/TAG and there can be no undue financial barrier or membership requirement in another organization for such parties to participate on a US/TAG. Most if not all US/TAGs are administered by organizations that are members of ANSI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GREATER DETAIL ON THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT:
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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PAPER

AIC	ANSI ISO Council
AIF	ANSI ISO Forum
CASCO	ISO Policy Committee on Conformity Assessment
CB	IEC Council Board
CAB	IEC Conformity Assessment Board
COPOLCO	ISO Policy Committee on Consumer Interest Issues
DEVCO	ISO Policy Committee on Developing Country Issues
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IECEE	IEC System for Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrical Equipment and Components
IECEx	IEC System for Certification to Standards for Electrical Equipment in Explosive Atmospheres
IECQ	IEC System for Quality Assessment of Electronic Components and Associated Materials and Processes

IPC	ANSI International Policy Committee
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MT	IEC Maintenance Team
NP	ISO or IEC new work item proposal
PT	IEC Project Team
SC	Subcommittee
SMB	IEC Standardization Management Board
TC	Technical Committee
TMB	ISO Technical Management Board
USNC	U.S. National Committee to the IEC
USNC TMC	Technical Management Committee of the USNC
US/TAG	U.S. Technical Advisory Group to an ISO or IEC standards development committee
WG	Working Group