



Report to WTO TBT Committee

October 2020 – January 2021



The following organizations are mentioned in this report:

ABINEE	Associação Brasileira Da Indústria Elétrica E Eletrônica (Brazilian Electrical and Electronics Industry Association)
ACCSQ	ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality
AEI-EI	ASEAN Engineering Inspectorate-Electrical Installation
AFSEC	African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission
AFEO	ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations
ANCE	Asociación de Normalización y Certificación (Association for Standardization and Certification, Mexico)
APCF	Asian Pacific Community Fund
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COPANT	Pan American Standards Commission
EAC	East African Community
ICONTEC	Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y Certificación (Colombian Institute of Technical Standards and Certification)
IEM	The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia
ISC	Institute of Standards of Cambodia
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
STAMEQ	The Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality, Vietnam
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
VSQI	Vietnam Standards and Quality Institute

The following IEC acronyms are used in this report:

ACAS	Affiliate Conformity Assessment status
ACB	Academy & Capacity Building
ACP	Affiliate Country Programme
CA	conformity assessment
CAB	Conformity Assessment Board
IEC-AFRC	IEC Africa Regional Centre
IEC-APRC	IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre
IEC-LARC	IEC Latin America Regional Centre
NC	National Committee
NEC	national electrotechnical committee
SMB	Standardization Management Board
TC/SC	technical committee/subcommittee

IEC activities on behalf of developing and newly industrialized countries

This report to the WTO TBT Committee highlights the activities undertaken by the IEC with the aim of increasing the participation of developing and newly industrialized countries in standardization and conformity assessment activities in the period from 1 October 2020 to 31 January 2021.

IEC collaboration with WTO

In the late 1990s, the WTO challenged international organizations to find new ways to support least developed and developing countries in:

- implementing international standards as a basis for national or regional standards or regulations
- increasing participation in international standardization activities

As a response, the IEC established the Affiliate Country Programme (ACP) in 2001, to enable developing countries that are not members, to take part in IEC international standardization and global conformity assessment activities, within the terms of the programme, but without any membership financial obligations.

The programme has evolved over the years and has progressively added new features and benefits for affiliate countries that surpass the initial challenge set by the WTO. Today, the programme includes a wide range of learning and competency building programmes in international standards development, conformity assessment and national quality infrastructure, with local assistance through the IEC Regional Centres and mentoring programme.

As a result of the WTO challenge, 16 developing countries joined the IEC Affiliate Country Programme and have since become valuable IEC members.

Through the activities undertaken by its IEC Geneva Office and Regional Centres, the IEC continues to pursue its close collaboration with the WTO TBT Committee, advance the goals of the challenge and report on a regular basis on the activities of the ACP.

IEC Standards are crucial in ensuring cold chain for COVID-19 vaccines in Africa

While COVID-19 vaccine campaigns are underway in most high-income nations, UNICEF, together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), is leading efforts to supply approved COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low and lower to middle income countries, of which one quarter are in western and central Africa.

Keeping the vaccines at stable below zero temperatures is a challenge, especially in remote areas, where the lack of access to electricity requires the use of specific off-grid equipment. Since 2008, UNICEF has delivered and installed nearly 20 000 solar powered fridges across the region to store vaccines in dedicated facilities.

Making sure standards set the required safety and performance indicators for this essential equipment whilst allowing populations to trust in the appropriate equipment is crucial. To meet this requirement, the IEC prepares numerous standards, recognized by the World Bank and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in the field of renewable energy systems, from wind to solar, both on-grid and off-grid and issues technical specifications and makes recommendations for small renewable hybrid systems for rural electrification.

Furthermore, the IEC publishes standards on the safety aspects relating to most electronic appliances, including fridges and prepares international safety standards for refrigerators, freezers and similar appliances.

The full article is available from the [IEC website](#).

Two new mentorships within the IEC Affiliate Country Programme

Enabling affiliate countries to learn from the experience of IEC members is one of the objectives of the IEC Affiliate Country Programme. Within this framework, two mentorship agreements have been recently signed.

Australia and Cambodia

The [IEC National Committee of Australia](#) has agreed to mentor the [IEC national electrotechnical committee of Cambodia](#) for a period of two years.

The IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme builds upon an existing strong relationship between Standards Australia and the Institute of Standards of Cambodia (ISC). Both organizations liaise on a regular basis to discuss topics of shared interest including digital trade, capacity building, blockchain, and e-commerce. As part of this mentorship, Australia will provide support to Cambodia to develop its national electrotechnical committee and to improve its participation in IEC standardization and conformity assessment by gaining competency and practical experience.

A first virtual meeting took place on 27 November to officially launch the partnership and define their objectives.

Further information about this partnership is available from the [IEC website](#).

Brazil and the Dominican Republic

Within the framework of the IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme, the [IEC NC of Brazil](#) has agreed to mentor the [IEC NEC of the Dominican Republic](#). The first meeting to inaugurate the two-year agreement took place on 7 December.

As part of the mentoring programme, the NEC of the Dominican Republic has indicated that it seeks to learn how to strengthen its organization, how to achieve greater participation and commitment from representatives of the energy sector and how to sensitize the different electrotechnical sectors on the importance of using IEC Standards.

More information is available from the [IEC website](#).

IEC Regional Centres activities and regional collaboration

IEC has six administrative offices around the world with one office located on each continent. IEC activities in developing and newly industrialized countries are managed through three regional centres, IEC-AFRC in Nairobi, Kenya, IEC-APRC in Singapore and IEC-LARC in São Paulo, Brazil, in coordination with the IEC Geneva Office in Switzerland.

Due to the travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, most meetings and events have been held online since March 2020.

IEC Africa Regional Centre

The IEC Africa Regional Centre ([IEC-AFRC](#)) is the focal point for IEC activities on the African continent. It aims to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC CA Systems and enhance participation in IEC activities.

- From 7-8 October, IEC-AFRC attended the 23rd East African Standards Committee meeting organized by the [EAC](#). Participants included representatives from quality infrastructure institutions in the EAC of which a number are also IEC members ([Kenya](#) and [Uganda](#)) or affiliates ([Burundi](#), [Rwanda](#), [South Sudan](#), and [Tanzania](#)). The EAC partner states hold meetings at least once a year for the purposes of recommending harmonized standards and conformity assessment procedures for approval by the EAC Council of Ministers. The meeting was an opportunity for IEC-AFRC to provide information on the harmonization of EAC standards and conformity assessment procedures.
- On 15 October, a virtual meeting took place between the [NC of the United Kingdom](#) and the [NEC of Namibia](#) as part of the IEC mentoring programme. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the objectives of the mentorship.
- From 19-20 November, IEC-AFRC attended the [AFSEC](#) General Assembly to learn more about AFSEC planned activities in 2021 and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre

The IEC Asia-Pacific Regional Centre ([IEC-APRC](#)) is the focal point for IEC activities in the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC CA Systems and enhance participation in IEC activities. In addition,

IEC-APRC provides support to IEC technical committees and subcommittees.

- As part of its celebration of World Standards Day on 14 October, [STAMEQ](#) and [VSQI](#) organized an event, *Standards Promote Green Growth*, which brought together 200 representatives from government and industry. The event was an opportunity for IEC-APRC to raise awareness about the benefits of standards and to promote the IEC and its contributions towards sustainability.
- On 20 October, [IECEX](#) participated in a webinar entitled *IECEX National Virtual Conference 2020* jointly organized by [IEM](#), [Standards Malaysia](#) and [PETRONAS](#). As part of the webinar, IEC Vice-President and Chair of [IEC CAB](#) provided the keynote address. In addition, the Chair of IECEX gave a presentation about electrical equipment and installation in hazardous areas and the importance of IECEX. The webinar brought together 200 attendees from the oil and gas, petrochemical, plastics, solvent, paints and pharmaceutical industries.
- On 18 November, IEC-APRC and a project leader from [IEC TC 64](#) attended the [AFEO](#) and [AEI-EI](#) year-end virtual meeting which brought together 47 participants, primarily senior government officials, regulators and consulting engineers.
- On 24 November, IEC-APRC attended the [ACCSQ](#) web meeting to discuss the latest developments at the IEC and the importance of IEC Standards and CA Systems. Attendees included 40 government representatives, largely from national standardization bodies and national regulatory agencies.
- On 17 December, the IEC jointly organized a regional seminar with the [IEC NC of Japan](#) and [APCF](#) on solar PV, grid integration, energy storage systems and energy management in smart homes. IEC-APRC promoted IEC work in these areas, covering solar energy from panels to grid integration, and [joint ISO and IEC](#) standardization work on energy management in smart homes. Participants included NC officers as well as stakeholders from the public and private sectors representing 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- On 28 January, the IEC organized a regional web session for affiliate countries to better understanding their needs in relation to conformity assessment and IEC support to them. Approximately 50 participants from the region attended.

IEC Latin America Regional Centre

The IEC Latin America Regional Centre ([IEC-LARC](#)) is the focal point for IEC activities in the Caribbean and Latin American region. It aims to promote awareness of the IEC in the region, increase the use of IEC International Standards and IEC CA Systems and enhance participation in IEC activities.

- On 13 October, during the [ANCE](#) webinar on the [UN SDGs](#), IEC-LARC gave a presentation on how IEC International Standards and CA Systems contribute to the 17 UN SDGs. The webinar brought together 30 participants from the government, industry and certification bodies.
- On 16 October, [ICONTEC](#) and Santo Tomás University in Colombia jointly organized a meeting entitled *The IEC and the current and future challenges of International Standardization* with the support of IEC-LARC. The meeting provided students with knowledge in the field of international standardization and raised awareness about the work of the IEC. Approximately 100 university students at the master and doctoral levels attended the meeting.
- On 20 October, IEC-LARC participated in a webinar, entitled *Standards save the planet*, organized by [ICONTEC](#) as part of its World Standards Day celebration. The webinar was an opportunity for the 300 participants, representing regional stakeholders and public organizations, to learn more about IEC activities and standards that help protect the environment.
- On 3 November, IEC-LARC provided an update on recent IEC activities during the [COPANT](#) General Assembly which brought together 82 participants representing COPANT membership and international organization. The event was an opportunity for the IEC to provide support to COPANT and the activities of its members in Latin America and the Caribbean region.
- On 24 November, [IEC ACB](#), together with the [IEC NC of Mexico](#), organized a training session about publication [IEC 62368-1](#) on safety requirements for audio/video, information and communication technology equipment, which brought together 30 participants.
- On 1, 3 and 10 December, IEC ACB and IEC-LARC organized a training session for officers from the [IEC NC of Colombia](#) with 5 participants.

- On 4 December, IEC-LARC attended the annual [ABINEE](#) meeting which brought together representatives from the electrical industry in Brazil. The meeting, held online, was attended by 300 delegates representing the government and industry.

IEC Affiliate Country Programme

The IEC ACP assists developing and newly industrialized countries in enhancing their knowledge and competencies in international standardization and conformity assessment. It enables countries that do not yet have the necessary infrastructure and technical expertise to participate fully in IEC activities to become a part of the IEC community. Participants can join the programme, free of charge, upon invitation from the IEC General Secretary & CEO.

As part of the programme, participants benefit from a quota of free IEC International Standards, an online learning platform, webinars, training, capacity building events, mentoring arrangements, as well as personalized support from the IEC Geneva Office and Regional Centres.

As of 31 January, [84 affiliate countries](#) participate in the programme of which 59 countries have established a NEC.

Update on participation

Affiliate Plus status

In December, [Congo](#) and [Bolivia](#) were granted [Affiliate Plus](#) status, which provides additional benefits to affiliate countries. With this status, countries can access up to 400 IEC International Standards free-of-charge and receive priority to participate in the IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme. Affiliate Plus status is granted when affiliate countries declare the national adoption of at least 50 IEC International Standards and have established a NEC.

As of 31 January, 34 affiliate countries benefit from Affiliate Plus status.

National adoptions

The national adoption of IEC International Standards continues among affiliate countries. The following declarations have been announced:

- In November, [Mongolia](#) declared the adoption of 33 IEC Standards (from [IEC TC 1](#): Terminology, [IEC TC 2](#): Rotating machinery, and [IEC TC 14](#): Power transformers). The country has now adopted a total of [70 IEC Standards](#).
- In December, [Bolivia](#) declared the adoption of 74 IEC Standards (from [IEC TC 3](#): Documentation, graphical symbols and representation of technical information, [IEC TC 15](#): Solid electrical insulating materials, and [IEC TC 20](#): Electric cables). The country has now adopted a total of [96 IEC Standards](#).
- In December, [Congo](#) declared the adoption of 44 IEC Standards (primarily from [IEC TC 34](#): Lighting, [IEC SC 59M](#): Performance of electrical household and similar cooling and freezing appliances, and [IEC SC 121A](#): Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear). The country has now adopted a total of [54 IEC Standards](#).

Since the launch of the ACP in 2001, 53 affiliate countries have declared the adoption of 8 638 IEC Standards.

Commenting process

The commenting process is a benefit granted to countries participating actively in the ACP. Active participation is defined as an affiliate country that has selected up to 11 IEC technical committees and appointed one expert to participate in each of the selected committees. Experts have the opportunity to submit comments at specific stages of the standards development process.

The [IEC NEC of Ecuador](#) has submitted three editorial comments on draft IEC publications at the Committee Draft and Committee Draft for Vote stages:

- In November, it submitted editorial comments for the draft publication [IEC 60076-22-8](#), *Power transformers – Part 22-8: Power transformer and reactor fittings – Devices suitable for use in communication networks*, under development by [IEC TC 14](#): Power transformers.
- In December, it submitted editorial comments for the draft publication [IEC TS 63189-2](#), *Virtual power plants – Part 2: Use cases*, developed by [IEC SC 8B](#): Decentralized electrical energy systems, and the

draft publication [IEC TS 62786-3](#), *Distributed energy resources connection with the grid – Part 3: Additional requirements for stationary battery energy storage system*, developed by [IEC TC 8](#).

As of 31 January, 64 comments have been submitted by affiliate countries

Helping developing countries understand the advantages of IEC Conformity Assessment

Technology has been essential for economic development. For example, solar panels have enabled millions of households to access electricity while smartphones have provided a gateway for financial services. Demand for electronic and electric goods is thriving alongside the rise of the middle class in many developing countries.

International standards are essential to global markets. By ensuring the safety, performance and interoperability of products, they facilitate global trade while also protecting end users.

Why conformity assessment?

Products that are unsafe or do not perform adequately can undermine markets. In an example from rural [Ethiopia](#), the onslaught of poor quality and counterfeit solar PV products – without government approval or product guarantee – has resulted in the failure and/or poor performance of these products. The effect can be financially devastating for households and impede the roll-out of these products.

To help affiliate countries better understand how conformity assessment can help protect against unsafe and poor-quality products, the IEC appointed Trond Sollie to serve as the [IEC Ambassador](#) for affiliate country training needs in conformity assessment.

According to Sollie, “in the IEC context, conformity assessment is primarily the demonstration that electric and electronic equipment comply with relevant safety standards. Testing, inspection and certification are part of this concept, either as a stand-alone activity or taken all together or in combination.”

Conformity assessment helps to remove barriers to trade while also providing regulators and consumers with the knowledge that products respect globally recognized standards for safety and performance. “This is, of course,

essential for all countries, but increasingly important for developing countries as electrical and electronic products are becoming commonplace for more and more inhabitants,” notes Sollie. “There is a risk of these countries becoming ‘dumping grounds’ for imported sub-standard products which may be unsafe.”

Learning with ACAS

To help affiliate countries participate in the four IEC Conformity Assessment Systems – [IECEE](#), [IECEX](#), [IECQ](#) and [IECRE](#) – the IEC has set up Affiliate Conformity Assessment status ([ACAS](#)). As part of ACAS, affiliate countries are trained to use IEC International Standards and participate in the IEC CA Systems through the recognition of IEC CA certificates at the national level.

As Sollie remarks, “The web-based ACAS training modules are an excellent ‘academic entrance’ for understanding the basics of the IEC CA Systems and a stepping-stone for getting further involved. It is a good starting point for national electrotechnical committees (NEC) to ensure that also conformity assessment is part of their national agenda”.

Many affiliate countries have benefited from the participation in ACAS. In Ecuador, for example, ACAS training was first given to the staff of the NEC before rolling out to NEC members and other interested parties. As a result, the NEC has actively participated in IEC CA working group meetings with the aim of developing new markets to export their electrotechnical products.

According to Sollie, “IEC CA Systems are unique as no such international certification schemes exist in other product areas. All IEC members and affiliates should therefore take maximum advantage of these systems.”

One key feature of the IEC CA Systems is the mutual acceptance of test reports and certificates. This facilitates trade among participating countries and certification organizations by promoting the harmonization of standards and cooperation among certification bodies worldwide. Sollie highlights the [IECEE CB scheme](#) which offers “safety assurance of electrical and electronic consumer products and which is therefore relevant for all countries.”

Recent CA activities for affiliates

The IEC participates in numerous workshops and seminars around the world to help affiliate countries understand the benefits of standardization and conformity assessment.

Unfortunately, as Sollie remarks, “Due to the restrictions in travel and social contact as a result of the coronavirus, the possibilities for participating in such events became quickly rather limited.”

Despite the lack of travel, new opportunities have emerged as events transitioned online. For example, the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) and the IEC Latin America Regional Centre (IEC-LARC) co-hosted a webinar about the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems last May. “It was a successful webinar held with separate English and Spanish sessions, attended by about 150 people from 12 countries,” notes Sollie.

Discussions are also underway to organize a similar webinar for the African region together with the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) and the IEC Africa Regional Centre (IEC-AFRC). As Sollie remarks, “I have been in contact with the AFSEC secretariat about their process of preparing a conformity assessment guide for their member countries, and possibly at the same time map what CA schemes they may be considering”.

Plans are also underway in the Asian region. According to Sollie, “I know that the new [Affiliate Leader](#) from Mongolia, Battsengel Gurrachaa, is concerned about assisting affiliate countries with their CA schemes too.”

Understanding the specific training needs of affiliate countries is also a priority. Together with the IEC ACB, the IEC ACP is currently preparing a survey to be completed by affiliate countries. “The outcome of this survey will be interesting and should be a good basis for planning of further activities,” notes Sollie.

As of 31 January, 35 affiliate countries have signed the ACAS Pledge of which 26 have signed the ACAS Declaration.

IEC 84th General Meeting, 9-20 November, online

Once a year, the IEC General Meeting brings together delegates from IEC member countries and affiliate countries. As a result of the meeting’s online format, the Affiliate attendance rates increased by 75%, in comparison to last year, with 82 delegates attending from 34 affiliate countries.

Three sessions specifically designed for developing countries provided an opportunity to share experiences and best practices on topics such as conformity assessment and the UN SDGs. The presentations and video recordings of the three sessions are available on the [IEC website](#).

Affiliate forum

The [Affiliate forum](#) provided the opportunity for affiliate countries to share their best practices on a variety of topics such as stakeholder engagement, strengthening NECs and quality assurances. Presentation included case studies from Mexico, [Myanmar](#) and [Senegal](#).

The out-going IEC Affiliate Leader Rojas Manyame provided an update on the new developments in the programme and its main achievements over the past twelve months. Attendees welcomed the next IEC Affiliate Leader, Battsengel Gurrachaa, who begun her mandate on 1 January.

Workshop for industrializing countries

The [Workshop for industrializing countries](#) focused on the theme of the UN SDGs and how international standards can contribute to achieving these goals. Mr Ralph Sporer, IEC Vice-President and Chair of the [IEC SMB](#) provided an overview of the strategic vision of IEC on SDGs while Mr Vimal Mahendru, IEC Ambassador on UN SDGs explained how IEC activities are aligned with the SDGs. Other presentations provided insight on how IEC activities in areas such as renewable energy and low voltage direct current (LVDC) are essential for achieving universal energy access (SDG 7).

Case studies from Mongolia and Namibia provided a country perspective on how standards are used to help achieve the UN SDGs.

Affiliate NEC Secretaries and Presidents workshop

Conformity assessment was the key topic of the Affiliate NEC Secretaries and Presidents workshop. Topics presented included the ACAS Declaration and the recognition of IEC CA certificates as well as two case studies from Ecuador and Sudan.

Annex A

89 IEC National Committees (as per 2021-01-31)

Albania	Associate member	Korea, Republic of	Full member
Algeria	Full member	Kuwait	Full member
Argentina	Full member	Latvia	Associate member
Australia	Full member	Lithuania	Associate member
Austria	Full member	Luxembourg	Full member
Bahrain	Associate member	Malaysia	Full member
Bangladesh	Associate member	Malta	Associate member
Belarus	Full member	Mexico	Full member
Belgium	Full member	Moldova	Associate member
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Associate member	Montenegro	Associate member
Brazil	Full member	Morocco	Associate member
Bulgaria	Full member	Netherlands	Full member
Canada	Full member	New Zealand	Full member
Chile	Full member	Nigeria	Full member
China	Full member	North Macedonia	Associate member
Colombia	Full member	Norway	Full member
Côte D'Ivoire	Associate member	Oman	Full member
Croatia	Full member	Pakistan	Full member
Cuba	Associate member	Peru	Full member
Cyprus	Associate member	Philippines, Rep. of the	Full member
Czech Republic	Full member	Poland	Full member
Denmark	Full member	Portugal	Full member
Egypt	Full member	Qatar	Full member
Estonia	Associate member	Romania	Full member
Ethiopia	Associate member	Russian Federation	Full member
Finland	Full member	Saudi Arabia	Full member
France	Full member	Serbia	Full member
Georgia	Associate member	Singapore	Full member
Germany	Full member	Slovakia	Full member
Ghana	Associate member	Slovenia	Full member
Greece	Full member	South Africa	Full member
Hungary	Full member	Spain	Full member
Iceland	Associate member	Sri Lanka	Associate member
India	Full member	Sweden	Full member
Indonesia	Full member	Switzerland	Full member
Iran	Full member	Thailand	Full member
Iraq	Full member	Tunisia	Associate member
Ireland	Full member	Turkey	Full member
Israel	Full member	Uganda	Associate member
Italy	Full member	Ukraine	Full member
Japan	Full member	United Arab Emirates	Full member
Jordan	Associate member	United Kingdom	Full member
Kazakhstan	Associate member	United States of America	Full member
Kenya	Associate member	Vietnam	Associate member
Korea, DPR of	Associate member		

Annex B

84 IEC affiliates (as per 2021-01-31)

Afghanistan	2007	Lao PDR	2002
Angola	2002	Lebanon	2001
Antigua and Barbuda	2002	Lesotho	2005
Armenia	2001	Liberia	2016
Azerbaijan	2011	Madagascar	2005
Bahamas	2012	Malawi	2001
Barbados	2001	Mali	2001
Belize	2002	Mauritania	2002
Benin	2001	Mauritius	2001
Bhutan	2006	Mongolia	2002
Bolivia	2001	Mozambique	2003
Botswana	2001	Myanmar	2007
Brunei Darussalam	2001	Namibia	2001
Burkina Faso	2001	Nepal	2001
Burundi	2002	Nicaragua	2019
Cabo Verde	2017	Niger	2006
Cambodia	2001	Palestine	2009
Cameroon	2005	Panama	2003
Central African Republic	2008	Papua New Guinea	2004
Chad	2008	Paraguay	2001
Comoros	2001	Rwanda	2001
Congo	2008	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2013
Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	2001	Saint Lucia	2002
Costa Rica	2001	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2008
Djibouti	2019	Sao Tome and Principe	2018
Dominica	2002	Senegal	2002
Dominican Republic	2005	Seychelles	2001
Ecuador	2003	Sierra Leone	2003
El Salvador	2008	South Sudan	2013
Eritrea	2001	Sudan	2004
Eswatini (Kingdom of)	2007	Suriname	2008
Fiji	2001	Syrian Arab Republic	2016
Gabon	2007	Tanzania	2001
Gambia	2008	Togo	2006
Grenada	2001	Trinidad and Tobago	2007
Guatemala	2001	Turkmenistan	2001
Guinea	2007	Uruguay	2001
Guinea Bissau	2006	Uzbekistan	2015
Guyana	2001	Yemen	2002
Haiti	2002	Zambia	2002
Honduras	2007	Zimbabwe	2001
Jamaica	2001		
Kyrgyzstan	2003		

Useful briefing papers/flyers



IEC for SDGs

Building upon the knowledge and expertise of its membership, the IEC provides a framework necessary for the development of global technologies. It ensures the safety, performance and sustainability of electrical, electronic and information technologies that underpin all SDGs. With its consensus-based approach, the IEC reflects the needs of countries across the world.



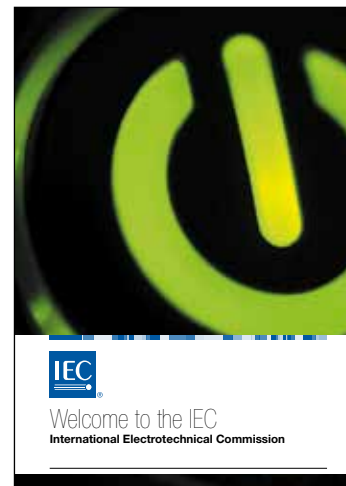
IEC Affiliate Mentoring: a gateway to new markets

The purpose of the IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme is to enhance participation at all levels (standards development, management, conformity assessment) by encouraging national committees to share their expertise with developing countries who participate in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme.



Secrets of effective participation

The aim of this pocket guide is to give you general pointers that can accelerate your learning curve and hopefully increase the efficiency of your participation.



Welcome to the IEC

A useful briefing paper to help communicate about IEC. It gives a basic overview of IEC structure, work and partnerships. Do not hesitate to download or ask for hard copies.

About the IEC

Key figures

173

members and affiliates

>200

technical committees

20 000

experts from industry, test and research labs, government, academia and consumer groups

>10 000

international standards published

4

global conformity assessment systems

>1 million

conformity assessment certificates issued

>100

years of expertise

The IEC, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's leading publisher of international standards for electrical and electronic technologies. It is a global, independent, not-for-profit, membership organization (funded by membership fees and sales). The IEC includes 173 countries that represent 99% of world population and energy generation.

The IEC provides a worldwide, neutral and independent platform where 20 000 experts from the private and public sectors cooperate to develop state-of-the-art, globally relevant IEC International Standards. These form the basis for testing and certification, and support economic development, protecting people and the environment.

IEC work impacts around 20% of global trade (in value) and looks at aspects such as safety, interoperability, performance and other essential requirements for a vast range of technology areas, including energy, manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, homes, buildings or cities.

The IEC administers four conformity assessment systems and provides a standardized approach to the testing and certification of components, products, systems, as well as the competence of persons.

IEC work is essential for safety, quality and risk management. It helps make cities smarter, supports universal energy access and improves energy efficiency of devices and systems. It allows industry to consistently build better products, helps governments ensure long-term viability of infrastructure investments and reassures investors and insurers.



A global network of 173 countries that covers 99% of world population and electricity generation



Offers an affiliate country programme to encourage developing countries to get involved in the IEC free of charge



Develops international standards and runs four conformity assessment systems to verify that electronic and electrical products work safely and as they are intended to



IEC International Standards represent a global consensus of state-of-the-art know-how and expertise



A not-for-profit organization enabling global trade and universal electricity access

Further information

For further information, please visit the IEC website at www.iec.ch. In the “Who we are” section, you can contact your local IEC National Committee directly. Alternatively, please contact the IEC Central Office in Geneva, Switzerland or the nearest IEC Regional Centre.

Global

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