





IEC  
MASTERPLAN  
2006

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# VISION

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**IEC Standards and conformity assessment programmes – the key to international trade.**

# MISSION

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**IEC's mission is to be globally recognized as the leading provider of standards, conformity assessment schemes and related services needed to facilitate international trade and enhance user value in the fields of electricity, electronics and associated technologies.**

# MARKET RELEVANCE

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1. In promoting maximum adoption and use of IEC Standards and services world wide, the IEC management will make every effort to **ensure that member National Committees (NCs) represent all relevant national interests** in both the private and the public sectors. These include manufacturers and utilities, suppliers, distributors, users and consumers, researchers, academics, standards development organizations (SDOs) and regulators.
2. The IEC will **continue to highlight the essential representative role of its member NCs**, recognizing both that it is through good representation on NCs that industry can influence IEC work and that the majority of the costs of IEC standardization are borne by the sponsors of experts who carry out the technical work.
3. The IEC will **emphasize the democratic and transparent nature of its organization and operations**, which offers equal opportunity to all members to benefit in line with their contributions to the IEC's technical activity.
4. In order to **maximize input from and benefits to its principal markets**, the IEC will develop means and processes by which it can **attract and substantially increase industry participation** in its standardization and conformity assessment management bodies.
5. To ensure the widest possible acceptance of IEC work and to reflect developments in society, the National Committees of the IEC will **encourage the participation of end-users and consumers** both at national level and as members of their delegations to the IEC.
6. The IEC will strive to **increase its acceptance as a global platform for a full range of technical publications** from limited-consensus documents to full-consensus International Standards, as well as for conformity assessment schemes and standards-related services. Coverage will include emerging, converging and fast-moving as well as traditional and mature technologies, systems and horizontal work for the public (regulated) and private sectors.

# IEC STANDARDIZATION AS A STRATEGIC TOOL

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1. The IEC will **enhance its promotion, marketing and communications efforts with decision makers** in industry, governments, regulators and intergovernmental organizations **on the strategic benefits of IEC products and services**, and of participating in their development and use. Among regulators and developing countries, particular emphasis will be given to the importance of adopting and referring to IEC Standards and of using IEC's conformity assessment schemes.
2. In addition, the IEC will extend its co-operation with and communication efforts in academic circles as well as in industry to **develop and provide educational materials for technical personnel and managers**. These programmes will focus on the development, use and strategic value to business of IEC International Standards, conformity assessment schemes and other services.
3. The IEC will **provide leadership in assessing emerging and converging technologies and identifying new areas for standards development**.
4. Recognizing that industry will gravitate to the most cost-effective standardization structures which it can influence or control, IEC will continue to **develop effective mechanisms, tools and processes to serve innovative and fast-moving markets** through expanded relationships with consortia and fora (e.g. for limited-consensus products), and with relevant SDOs that have global reach (e.g. for joint-logo products).
5. In order to better meet market requirements, the IEC will consider alternative business models such as establishing a self-supporting **IEC unit**, separate from the existing structure for full-consensus International Standards, **to develop and publish limited-consensus documents and to provide other services to consortia**. Industry will be encouraged to take the lead role, participating directly at both management and technical levels.

1. The IEC will continue to **encourage the engagement of newly industrializing and transition economies in the IEC family. Candidate countries will be identified and membership facilitated** for those willing and able (a) to promote and support national implementation of IEC International Standards and progressively replace conflicting national standards; (b) to form a fully representative national electrotechnical committee; and (c) to participate actively in the technical work.
2. In order to achieve its Mission of facilitating international trade, **the IEC will implement its global relevance policy to maximize worldwide acceptance and adoption of globally harmonized IEC standards** that meet the needs of all major markets.
3. In order to maximize global harmonization of standards and to support IEC conformity assessment schemes, the IEC will **develop and/or enhance relationships with other relevant SDOs and with international conformity assessment bodies.**
4. In order to **rationalize the dues for smaller and newly industrializing countries, and to encourage new members**, the IEC will review the way in which the mathematical formula approved by Council is applied to the calculation of members' dues.

# INNOVATE AND ADD VALUE

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1. The IEC will **continue to respond to market needs in a timely and cost-effective way**, developing and improving tools and services to save time and cost. This will in turn **facilitate investment in future projects and services** for the benefit of the user and standards development communities.
2. In particular, the IEC will co-operate with National Committees to **provide leadership in the development and provision of innovative and effective IT tools needed by the entire standardization community**.
3. In seeking to add value for the market while safeguarding revenue streams for the future, the IEC in conjunction with National Committees will **research and evaluate a number of new information services**. The aim will be to facilitate access by the market to electrotechnical standards-related information from multiple sources, especially National Committees, through a single integrated user interface.

# SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE

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1. The IEC will **continue its prudent financial management**, maintaining the balance of revenues from sales and royalties between the National Committees and Central Office **to safeguard the financial stability of the membership while ensuring the resources needed** for central operations and investments.
2. In the interest of efficiency, the IEC will **further enhance co-operation with ISO and ITU on policy, procedures and processes**. It will also identify and **pursue new areas for co-operation with ISO** (e.g. subcontracting services or tasks between IEC and ISO secretariats) that would increase the secretariats' efficiency and benefit the organizations' communities as a whole while respecting the integrity of each organization and maintaining an efficient, independent IEC operation to best serve IEC markets.
3. The IEC will **work closely with ISO and ITU to develop a coherent approach to intellectual property rights (IPR) issues** by these three key global standardization organizations.
4. The IEC will **continuously adapt its structures and internal processes**, seeking to acquire the best quality information and resources from stakeholders, particularly industry, to prioritize the technical work and maintain its quality while meeting market requirements for cost efficiency and timeliness.
5. The IEC will seek to **reinforce direct market inputs to the Sector Boards** (SBs), systematically reviewing operating mechanisms for the SBs and **adapting their coverage of specific sectors as needed**. The goal will be to **enhance industry's involvement and decision-making**, particularly as regards IEC activities with consortia and fora, developing or improving processes to identify market criteria for IEC products and services to best meet user needs.
6. The IEC will continue to **improve the quality and efficiency of its standards development structure**. Alternative stakeholder participation and document approval models, as well as Technical Committee structures, will be studied and benchmarked as necessary to achieve substantially accelerated development of urgently required full-consensus publications.
7. The IEC will study means by which it may **continue to optimize the structure, governance, management and efficient operation of its conformity assessment schemes to meet market needs**, to secure the schemes' resources and to support the standardization work on which they are based.

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