



**TO ALL IEC TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES AND IEC NATIONAL COMMITTEES**

**Subject: Guidance package for implementation of Essential Differences in Requirements in IEC Standards (EDR)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The IEC has agreed to put into practice procedures for the implementation of the global relevance of IEC standards. The preparatory phase of a two-year trial period for the implementation of essential differences in requirements in IEC standards started October 2003 and will end in October 2005, at which time the experience gained will help to review the process before incorporating the procedures into the IEC Directives.

We are therefore pleased to provide you with the attached guidance package containing:

- AC/135/2002
- specific rules for implementation of EDRs;
- flow chart;
- submission form

During this process, the respective IEC Central Office technical officers may be consulted for any clarifications regarding the process. Further, TC/SC officers, NC secretariats may draw to the attention of the IEC Technical Director [rc@iec.ch](mailto:rc@iec.ch) and the SMB secretariat [jl@iec.ch](mailto:jl@iec.ch), any concerns they feel should be reported to the SMB for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

**A. AMIT**  
**General Secretary**





**TO THE CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES OF ALL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEES**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Essential differences in requirements in standards (Global Relevance)**

The Council Board has recently approved a document dealing with the implementation – in well specified cases – of essential differences in requirements in IEC standards, to allow products complying with these standards to meet the different needs of major segments of the global market.

A training and information programme will be circulated at the beginning of next year.

“CB Decision 2002/016:

The CB approved the revised implementation procedure, as given in annex\*, which respects the spirit of the original approved CB/Global Relevance Task Force’s recommendation, for immediate implementation, noting that the procedure will be reviewed in two years’ time.

The CB therefore tasks the Central Office to develop a training and information programme to help the IEC TC/SC officers to implement this new procedure.

It further tasks the Standardization Management Board (SMB) to set up a system to monitor the inclusion of essential differences in requirements and legal provisions in IEC standards.”

Yours faithfully,

\* This document is given in annex.

**A. AMIT  
General Secretary**



## ANNEX

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES IN REQUIREMENTS IN IEC STANDARDS

#### 1. ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES IN REQUIREMENTS

To allow products complying with IEC standards to meet the different needs of major segments of the global market, essential differences in requirements may – in well-specified cases - be included, on an equivalent basis, as normative requirements, either in the main body or in a normative annex, in the relevant IEC standard.

In other cases, i.e. not major segments of the global market, where it is felt this will significantly assist users of the standard, such essential differences in requirement should be included in an informative annex.

Essential differences in requirements to be included in the normative part of the relevant IEC standard shall be based on one of the following:

##### **a) Differences in technical infrastructures,**

The essential differences which characterize the electrical systems are:

- frequencies
- voltages
- currents
- earthing systems

Frequencies are quoted in IEC 60196, voltages are quoted in IEC 60038, currents are quoted in IEC 60059 and earthing systems are quoted in IEC 60364.

Essential differences based on alternative sizing can also be included in a standard according to annex E of the Directives, part 2.

##### **b) Differences in climatic conditions.**

They are quoted in the IEC 60721 and based on a classification system.

Essential differences in requirements based on other characteristics which may be included in the normative part of the standards must be submitted to the relevant technical committee /sub-committee (TC/SC) by National Committees (NCs) for consideration. In case of lack of consensus, the established SMB appeal procedure applies (Directives, part 1, clause 5).

The decision to include or not include an essential difference in requirement shall be based on specified rules.

The meaning of essential differences in requirements does not imply different side-by-side standards and the procedure is to be applied only in those cases where the TC/SC agrees on the achievement of a substantial degree of harmonization with most of the other requirements in the IEC existing and under development standards.

Each proposal for essential differences in requirements, including its justification, shall be endorsed by the relevant IEC National Committees.

The proposal shall include technical and market relevance justifications and indicate how any resulting IEC standard will be treated nationally.

Such essential differences in requirements shall be submitted at the earliest possible stage (NWIP) and at the latest at the CD stage, for inclusion in the CDV. In any case the IPR provisions applicable to NWIPs have to be applied.

When voting on a CDV or FDIS containing essential differences in requirements in the normative part of the standard, NCs shall not take the inclusion itself of such differences as the reason for a negative vote.

All negative votes related to essential differences in requirements, at any stages (NWIP, CDV, FDIS), must be accompanied by a technical /market justification.

## **2. LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

Different requirements due to legal and regulatory provisions shall be included in an informative annex of the relevant IEC standard. This Annex should indicate the law/regulation reference as well as the technical rationale for a requirement and the national ministry/department/agency responsible for the requirement.

The annex shall be referenced in the main body of the standard at the relevant clause.

## **3. "IN SOME COUNTRIES" CLAUSE**

The "in some countries" clause may still be applied according to the IEC Supplement to the Directives. However in order to avoid duplication, the relevance of this clause shall be reassessed after two years of implementation of the above-mentioned procedures.

## **4. REVISION OF EXISTING STANDARDS**

For a revision of an existing standard a proposal for one of the above-mentioned procedures shall be sent to the relevant TC/SC Secretary.

If essential differences in requirements are requested by a NC on a revision of an existing standard, a proposal including justification shall be sent to the relevant TC/SC Secretary. The relevant TC/SC Secretary may then send a request for derogation concerning the maintenance cycle of this standard to the Standardization Management Board (SMB).

When a NC sends its request for derogation to the TC/SC Secretary a copy shall be sent, at the same time, to the Secretary of the SMB.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

The IEC/SMB shall install a system for monitoring the inclusion of essential differences in requirements and legal provisions in IEC standards.

The SMB/DMT shall review the existing procedures in order to accommodate the above mentioned procedures.

An extensive training and information programme should be implemented for the TC/SC Officers and NC Secretaries.

A periodic report should be the basis for a review of the procedure after two years.

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Geneva, 2002-10-01 RD/RC

## **SPECIFIC RULES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES IN REQUIREMENTS IN IEC STANDARDS (EDR)**

### **1. Essential Differences in Requirements (EDR) (See AC/135/2002)**

To allow products complying with IEC standards to meet the different needs of major segments of the global market, essential differences in requirements may – in well-specified cases – be included, on an equivalent basis, as normative requirements, either in the main body or in a normative annex, in the relevant IEC standard.

In other cases, i.e. not major segments of the global market, where it is felt this will significantly assist users of the standard, such essential differences in requirement should be included in an informative annex.

#### **1.1 Essential differences in requirements to be included in the normative part of the relevant IEC standard shall be based on one of the following:**

##### **a) Differences in technical infrastructure**

The essential differences, which characterize the electrical systems, are:

- frequencies
- voltages
- currents
- earthing systems

Essential differences based on alternative sizing (dimensional) can also be included in the normative part of a standard according to annex E of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

##### **b) Differences in climatic conditions**

#### **1.2 EDRs based on other characteristics, which may be included in the normative part of the standard, must be submitted to the relevant technical committee/sub-committee (TC/SC) by National Committees (NCs) for consideration.**

The meaning of essential differences in requirements does not imply different side-by-side standards and consequently the procedures for essential differences are to be applied only in those cases where the TC/SC agrees on the achievement of a substantial degree of harmonization with most of the other requirements in the IEC existing standards or standards under development.

### 1.3 Legal and regulatory requirements

Different requirements due to legal and regulatory provisions shall be included in an informative annex of the relevant IEC standard. This Annex should indicate the law/regulation reference as well as the technical rationale for a requirement and the national ministry/department/agency responsible for the requirement.

The annex shall be referenced in the main body of the standard at the relevant clause.

## 2. Submittal stage

### 2.1 An EDR can be processed for inclusion:

- in a new standard;
- as a revision of an existing standard .

### 2.2 Any IEC NC may submit a proposed EDR within the scope of an existing TC/SC. Each EDR shall be presented using the designated form (IEC Form EDR.dot), shall be fully justified and documented, and shall contain a full draft of the proposed revision.

Such EDR proposals shall be submitted at the earliest possible stage (NWIP) but at the latest, at the CD stage, for inclusion in a CDV. In all cases the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) provisions applicable to NWIPs must be applied to the EDR.

### 2.3 The proposal, endorsed by the originating NC, shall include technical and market relevance justifications and indicate how any resulting IEC standard will be treated at national level.

### 2.4 Copies of the completed form, and EDR proposal, shall be submitted to the relevant TC/SC Secretary with copy to the CO and shall, as soon as all the required justifications are available, be circulated by the CO to the members of the TC/SC, for P-members consideration and to the O-members for information.

In the case of EDRs based on infrastructure, climatic conditions or sizing, TC/SC officers have no right to refuse them providing that all the requested justifications are included in the EDRs.

For EDRs based on “other characteristics”, TC/SC Officers have to first check that they are duly justified from a technical content and market point of view and also that the treatment of the standard at the national level is well described.

In both cases incomplete justifications will lead to the EDR proposal being sent back to the originator for completion.

### 3. Admissibility stage

3.1 An EDR may be considered either by correspondence or at a TC/SC meeting. A proposal for an EDR shall be circulated in the most expeditious manner possible and should not be delayed awaiting a TC/SC meeting.

3.1.1 EDR based on technical infrastructures, climatic conditions or sizing

The proposer shall provide the following justifications:

- market justification,
- technical justification,
- statement of intended national use of the standard.

3.1.2 EDR based on other characteristics

The proposer shall provide the following justifications:

- market justification,
- degree of harmonization with most of the other requirements in the IEC based standards,
- technical content of the EDR,
- statement of intended national use of the standard.

3.2 During a meeting:

If a decision is to be taken at a meeting, the proposal shall be put on the agenda, according to the conditions of paragraph 4.2.1, ISO/IEC Directives Part 1 – technical committee and subcommittee meetings.

3.2.1 EDR based on technical infrastructures, climatic conditions and sizing

The P-members will be requested to check the relevance of the justifications listed in 3.1.1. If those justifications are satisfactory, the EDR will be considered as admissible.

3.2.2 EDR based on other characteristics

The P-members will be requested to review the elements as listed in 3.1.2

If the result of this review is positive and the consensus is reached therefore the EDR will be considered as admissible.

Definition of consensus excerpt from the paragraph 2.5.6, ISO/IEC Directives Part1

*“consensus: General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.*

*Note: Consensus need not imply unanimity.”*

### 3.3 Between meetings

#### 3.3.1 EDR based on the technical infrastructure, climatic conditions and sizing:

An inquiry prepared by the TC/SC Secretary should be sent by the CO to the P-members in order just to check the relevance of the justifications as listed in 3.1.1.

#### 3.3.2 EDR based on other characteristics:

An inquiry prepared by the TC/SC Secretary should be sent by the CO to the P-Members in order to review the justifications as listed in 3.1.2.

#### 3.3.3 Inquiry process:

The duration of this inquiry shall be 2 months.

The result of the inquiry shall lead or not to the admissibility of the EDR

Any admissible EDR shall be considered as:

- a proposal for revision of an existing IEC standard, or
- a comment to a NWIP or CD for a new standard

Any Maintenance Team (MT) or Project Team (PT)/Working Group (WG) can invite a NC having submitted an EDR to consider a possible revision of the base standard and the technical content of the EDR in order to improve the degree of harmonization of the IEC standard. If the NC having submitted the EDR or the TC/SC-MT/WG/PT considers that it is not possible to compromise, the EDR will be submitted as received.

### 3.4 An EDR that is not admissible will be returned to the originating NC.

In case of lack of consensus, the established SMB appeal procedure applies (ISO/IEC Directives, part 1, clause 5).

## **4. Processing of admissible EDRs**

### 4.1 New standard

An admissible EDR related to a proposed new standard is to be incorporated into the CD at the latest and processed in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives Part 1.

### 4.2 Revision of an existing standard

If an EDR is requested by a NC on a revision of an existing standard, a request for derogation, if necessary, of the maintenance cycle of the relevant standard shall be sent to the relevant TC/SC Secretary with copy to the SMB Secretariat for information. The TC/SC Secretary then sends the formal request for derogation to the SMB Secretariat for further process.

If the request for derogation is approved, the TC/SC Secretary takes the necessary steps to initiate the revision of the standard. If the derogation is not approved the originating NC is so advised and the EDR will be processed as part of the existing maintenance cycle for the standard concerned.

4.3 When voting on a NWIP, CDV or FDIS containing EDRs in the normative part of the standard, NCs shall not take the inclusion itself of such differences as the reason for a negative vote.

4.4 All negative votes on EDRs, at any stages (NWIP, CDV, FDIS), must be accompanied by a technical/market justification. The NC submitting the EDR shall address technical/marketing and editorial comments submitted with the votes.

4.5 Vote on the CDV – In order to avoid delays in the IEC work and to have a clear results of the votes, the IEC CO can proceed to a fragmented vote that is:

- a vote on a CDV resulting from the IEC work,
- a vote concerning the inclusion of an EDR.

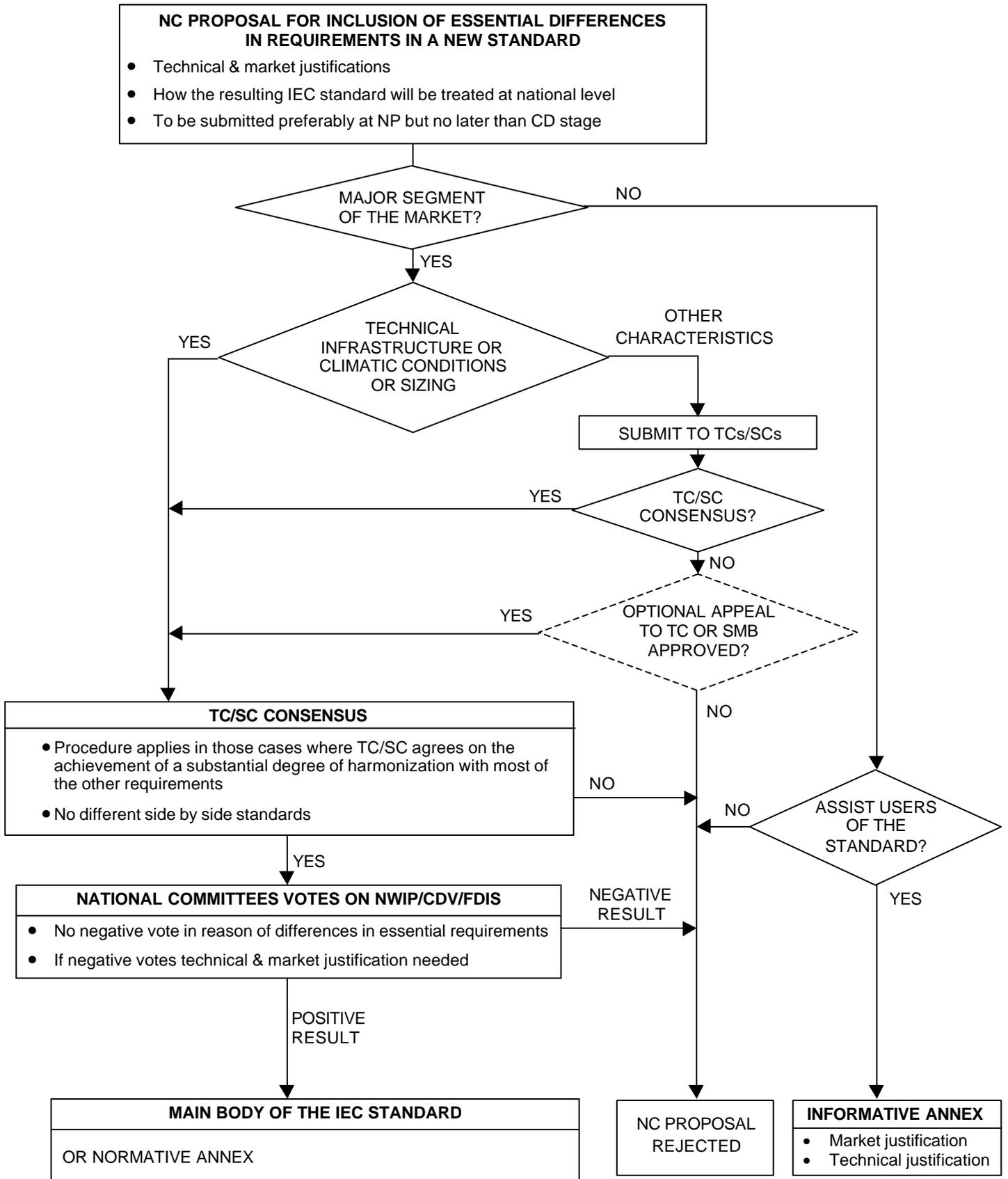
4.6 In the case of a revision, if the proposed IEC revision is rejected and the EDR accepted, the EDR shall be published as an amendment to the existing standard.

4.7 If the proposed IEC revision of the existing standard is accepted but the EDR is rejected, the revised standard is published without the inclusion of the EDR even though the proposer of the EDR launches an appeal.

List of acronyms:

CD: Committee draft  
CDV: Committee draft for vote  
NWIP: New work item proposal  
FDIS: Final draft international standard  
SMB: Standardization Management Board  
CO: Central Office

**THIS FLOWCHART SHALL BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFIC RULES**





# Document reference/EDR

## ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES IN REQUIREMENTS (EDR)

Project number	Proposer	Date of circulation
	IEC/TC or SC	Closing date for comments
Title of the project:		

A proposal for Essential Differences in Requirements (EDR) shall be submitted to the Central Office for circulation after verification by the TC/SC secretary, in accordance with the IEC specific rules on Global Relevance of its standards. The submitter must be a National Committee of the IEC. The proposal is submitted to P-members for comment and to O-members for information. Guidelines for proposing and justifying Essential Differences in Requirements are given in IEC AC/135/2002.

The proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

<b>EDR Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Technical infrastructure/climate conditions/sizing <input type="checkbox"/> Other characteristics
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<b>Category of the standard in which the EDR shall be included</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> New standard	Project No.:	Document:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing standard	No.:	Edition:

<p><b>Justification</b> (the justification shall endeavour to assess the market and technical justification for the inclusion of the essential difference requirements as proposed. Include how the resulting standard will be treated nationally)</p> <p>a) <b>Brief summary is provided as reference. See additional attachments for details in support of the proposal</b></p> <p>b) <b>The market justification</b></p> <p>c) <b>The technical justification</b></p> <p>d) <b>The intended use of the standard at national level</b></p>
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**Definition of Work**

(Indicate:- which aspects of the subject are dealt with, e.g. terminology, test methods, dimensions and tolerances, performance requirements, technical specifications, etc.  
- in which clause the EDR should be included)

**Survey of similar work undertaken in other bodies** (relevant documents to be considered: national standards or other normative documents)

**Standards of relevance:**

**Other comments (if any) from the proposer**

Name of the proposer

**Comments from the relevant TC/SC officer**

Name of the TC/SC officer