

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

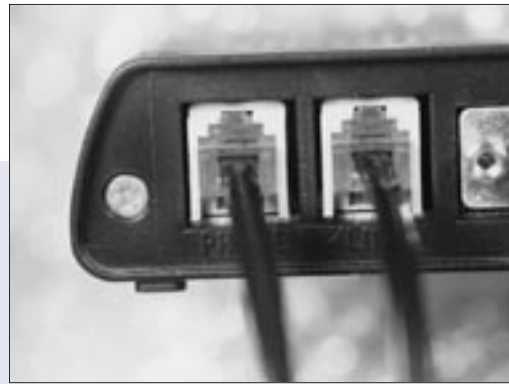
The first international organization in the field of standardization, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has served the world's electrical industry since 1906, developing international standards to promote quality, safety, reproducibility and environmental compatibility of materials, products and systems. For the past 40 years, it has also set standards for the electronic industry and contributed to standardization for telecommunications. IEC also operates programs to access conformity with those standards around the world.

IEC membership consists of the autonomous national electrotechnical committees in 62 countries (as of July 2003). The U.S. member is the U.S. National Committee of the IEC. On becoming an IEC member, each national committee agrees that all private and public electrotechnical interests in its country will receive balanced representation within the Commission. The General Secretary of the IEC is Aharon Amit.

The Affiliate Country Program offers developing nations the possibility to use IEC Standards and provides a limited means of participation in the standardization work, without the financial burden of actual membership. As of July 2003, the Program comprised 64 countries.

Where desirable in the interests of efficiency, the IEC prepares, publishes and updates standards in cooperation with other international organizations, notably with ISO and ITU on, respectively, information technology and telecommunications. Close relationships are also maintained with regional standards bodies to encourage the harmonization of intra-regional standards and globally agreed IEC standards.

The IEC charter embraces all electrotechnology, including electronics, magnetics, electromagnetics, fibre optics and electroacoustics as well as associated disciplines such as terminology, symbols, measurement, design, safety, durability and performance. IEC standards make it possible for electrical and electronic equipment, systems and sub-systems to work together no matter where they are designed, manufactured, assembled, or used. IEC standards cover all types of equipment from professional and industrial installations to domestic appliances, and are responsible for many major



IEC, ISO and ITU work together on telecommunications standards such as those for Internet and multimedia applications.

electrical power installations in the developing world, using assemblies of equipment from various sources. Over 5,000 current IEC standards are used as the basis of national rules and standards in more than 100 countries.

Examples of IEC standards used in daily life include those for the safety and performance of household appliances such as washers and dryers, those for multimedia equipment like CD-Roms and DVDs, and those for objects related to lighting such as a cord for a table lamp, or the light switch on your wall.

INTERNET

www.iec.ch

Basic material about IEC and standardization.

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