

## **Strategic Policy Statement – International Organization for Standardization, ISO/TC 161**

### **Title: ISO/TC 161 - Controls and protective devices for gas and/or oil**

#### **Background**

ISO/TC 161 was established to develop a set of International Standards in the field of control and protective devices for gas and oil burners and appliances using as a bases existing local or regional standards. More recently ISO/TC 161 expanded its scope to include high-pressure controls [i.e., > 500 kPa (> 72 psi)] for use in industrial burner applications or for use in local gas transmission and distribution service. The safety of applications where ISO/TC 161 controls are used can only be realized when safe, durable controls and protective devices are available in the marketplace.

The ANSI U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO/TC 161 was established in 1999 and consists of relevant stakeholders and U.S. manufacturers of burner controls. The primary objective for the U.S. participation in this area of international standardization is to develop a globally recognized set of standards for use by the heating controls industry. Since the very beginning, the U.S. TAG has been successful in affecting and shaping the International standards developed under ISO/TC 161, and the work continues. A strong US commitment with broad expertise is essential in driving technical positions and engineering practices consistent with products currently used in North America.

#### **Strategic Intent**

The intent is to develop International standards that support state of the art technology and reflect a set of relevant minimum safety and performance requirements. This helps to promote fair competition, improves product quality and increases manufacturing productivity. Common global safety standards help to facilitate these objectives and reduce the need for product variability between isolated regions and markets.

More recently, the major innovation in the field of control and protective devices is in the development of combined controls, which include functionality that links mechanical, electrical and electronic controls that may also employ dedicated hardware, software and specialized sensor technology. As with all existing and emerging technologies, it is advantageous for US manufacturers to be involved and to take a leadership role in the development of requirements – “first to develop, first to launch”. To achieve this strategic intent, U.S. TAG members are encouraged to take an active role in the development of new/revised requirements by submitting proposals with supporting technical rationale and participating in technical meetings to support such proposals and contribute when needed.

#### **Mission Statement**

To effectively contribute to the development of International Standards in the field of controls and protective devices for gas and/or oil burners, appliances and local distribution and transmission networks.

## **Vision**

To successfully influence ISO/TC 161 standards with North American safety philosophies and best practices; thus, reducing the need for national differences and to develop standards that are globally relevant.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- a. **Reduce barriers to trade** – Reducing or eliminating national differences in regional harmonized standards will allow manufacturers to reduce certification time and cost, while simultaneously opening access to multiple markets and increasing the ability of North American companies to grow internationally.
- b. **Reduced resources and maintenance** – Developing and maintaining a single global standard and then implementing it at the regional level results in reducing the amount of time and use of resources than having to repeat a similar process for separate regional standards.
- c. **Faster incorporation of new technologies** – As technologies change at a faster pace, standards often find themselves in a “catch-up” mode. The implementation of new technologies by updating a single global standard streamlines the process rather than doing the same on several regional standards.