

**Strategic Policy Statement – USNC TAG to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)  
Technical Committee 72 (TC 72)**

**Title of IEC Technical Committee 72 – Automatic electrical controls  
Standards – IEC/UL 60730 series**

**Strategic Intent:**

IEC TC 72 was initially established to fill the needs for international safety standards for automatic electrical controls for use in household appliances and similar equipment. However, due to the expanded application of controls in various business sectors, the scope of the standard and the TC was expanded to include industrial applications provided that there is no scope conflict with another standards or TCs. Due to the broad span of specialized controls within its scope and from the divergent but successful philosophies of standards already established in various countries to cover controls within the same scope, the standard is organized as a Part 1: General requirements and a Part 2: Particular requirements to cover the needs of the controls under the TC's scope.

Since its first issuance in 1986, IEC/TC 72 has proceeded with an effective program which has published IEC 60730-1, Part 1: General requirements Ed. 4 (2011), and is now looking to publish edition 5. In addition, TC 72 has published sixteen Part 2 standards.

The USNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to IEC/TC 72 was established over two decades ago and its main objective then and now is to harmonize US safety philosophies and practices (as much as possible) with those of the EU and Asia Pacific regions through technical leadership and competency and active participation in the development of the IEC standards; thereby, developing one safety standard that can be used in the design and development of products intended for the global market.

As with all emerging technologies, it is advantageous for US manufacturers to be involved such that they take a leadership role in the development of requirements – “first to develop, first to launch”. To achieve this strategic intent, USTAG members are encouraged to take an active role in the development of new/revised requirements by submitting proposals with supporting technical rationale and to participate in technical meetings to support such proposals and contribute when needed.

**Mission Statement:**

To effectively contribute and influence the development of an International Standard of Safety for Automatic Electrical Controls.

**Vision:**

To influence IEC/TC 72 standards with US 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** – By reducing national differences in regional standards, it will allow manufacturers to obtain single certification through the CB Scheme to access multiple regions and countries, decrease time to market, and increase the ability of NA companies to grow internationally. The CB Scheme, established by the International Electrotechnical Committee for Conformity Testing to Standards for Electrical Equipment (IECEE), provides a means for the mutual acceptance of test reports among participating safety certification organizations in certain product categories. (<http://www.iecee.org/cbscheme/cbfunct.pdf>).
- b. **Reduced resources and maintenance** – Developing and maintaining a single global standard and then implementing it at the regional level results in a shorter amount of time and use of resources than having to do the same 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. Examples of this include remote access (Smart phone control and SmartGrid.) The implementation of new technologies by updating a single global standard streamlines the process rather than doing the same on several regional standards.
- d. **Reduced manufacturing cost** – by developing a harmonized standard, it facilitates NA manufacturers to design one product platform for the global market.