

Newsletter November 2023

BEC training on standardization: second edition in 2024



The first edition of the training on standardization, held in 2022-2023 was a big success. More than 50 Belgian experts in electrotechnology have participated in six life sessions and four TEAMS conferences. In 2024, Q1 and Q2, BEC will organize a second series of trainings. The programme is almost finalized.

On January 31, Marc Cumps and Anirudh Eswaran (both BEC staff members) will kick off the training programme with their presentation "Getting started: The BEC organization, your gateway to the international world of standards".

The session will be organized as a life meeting in the BEC offices in Bluepoint Brussels, in the late afternoon, from 16 h till 19 h. It is also a great opportunity to discuss all the practical questions with respect to the BEC procedures and software.

This first introduction will be complemented by two consecutive sessions of two full days, on March 6 and 7, with the collaboration of both IEC and CENELEC:

- On March 6, you can learn everything you need to become an expert to represent your organization in the national standardization organization.
- On March 7, the knowledge build up on the first day will be further developed to train you as a Belgian expert representing your organization in the international working groups of both IEC and CENELEC.

Both sessions are scheduled from 9 h till 17 h in the BEC offices.

The next step for an expert with full understanding of the IEC and CENELEC processes is to learn more about **harmonized standards**. Harmonized standards are developed in the CENELEC framework in order to complement mandatory EU law, e.g. on toys, machinery, etc. We hope to work with the experts from CENELEC as we did in 2022, but there is no final agreement yet. Our target date is late March / early April. The session will take place as an afternoon life-only session in the BEC offices.

A unique opportunity to get some practical experience with the "theory" sessions in January and March will be offered on April 17, when we will organize the **IEC bootcamp**, hopefully again in

collaboration with our colleagues from the Netherlands, the NEC. In this bootcamp, one complete cycle of development of an international standard is simulated. Each participant will be challenged during the day to participate in the process in different roles. The session will take place in Bluepoint Antwerp, from 9 h till 17 h.

On May 14, Geert Maes (Karabe) will teach us about his "**Strategic approach to standards**". This session will integrate the three sessions organized by Geert in the first edition of the programme: The CENELEC process / CENELEC technical decision making / Deep dive in the Frankfurt Agreement". The session will be held as a hybrid session in the BEC Offices, from 15 h till 19 h.

The BEC team would like to conclude the training series in the same way as the 2022-2023 session, with a series of lectures from the Tilburg University about standards in procurement, the liability using standard, GDPR and intellectual property.

Registration links:

- Getting started: The BEC organization, your gateway to the international world of standards - 31.01.2024: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2YX89XW</u>
- How to become an expert 06.03.2024: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BGB2CNT</u>
- How to become an international expert 07.03.2024: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BGP8T7P</u>
- IEC Bootcamp 17.04.2024: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTLYRY8</u>
- A strategic approach to standardization
 14.05.2024: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WR5FZMG</u>

IEC Conformity Assessment seminar at the BEC

The BEC organizes a half-day IEC Conformity Assessment event on February 21 in the afternoon from 13:30 to 17:00 at the BEC premises Bd A. Reyerslaan 80, 1030 Brussels.

www.iec.ch/conformity-assessment

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Whereas standards provide written instructions, Conformity Assessments (CA) verify that these instructions are properly

applied in real-world technical devices and systems. Conformity assessment refers to any activity that determines whether a product, system, service and sometimes people fulfil the requirements and characteristics described in a standard or specification. Such requirements can include performance, safety, efficiency, effectiveness, reliability, durability, or environmental impacts such as pollution or noise, for example. Verification is generally done through testing or/and inspection. The global IEC CA systems facilitate access to markets by the recognition of conformity assessment results from anywhere around the world within the CA system.

In the first part of the seminar the IEC CA systems will be introduced by a guest-speaker from IEC:

- IECEE: schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and components
- IERE: schemes relating to Equipment for use in Renewable Energy applications
- IECEx: schemes relating to Equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres
- **IECQ**: schemes for Quality Assessments

In the second part of the seminar IEC CA partners **SGS Belgium N.V.** and **Laboratoria De Nayer v.z.w.** will introduce practices and share experiences with the CA schemes.

The event will close with an informal networking opportunity. Register via this link if you wish to attend this seminar.

Mr. Calogero Lana elected as IEC Conformity Assessment Board member



Congratulations to Mr. Calogero Lana (SGS CEBEC) who was elected as Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) member at the IEC General Assembly meeting held on 26 October 2023 for a three-year term of office from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026. The CAB is responsible for the management and supervision of IEC conformity assessment activities, including oversight of the four IEC Conformity Assessment (CA) Systems <u>www.iec.ch/conformity-assessment/ca-</u> systems :

- IECEE is the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components
- IECRE is the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Renewable Energy Applications
- IECEx is the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres
- IECQ is the IEC Quality Assessment System

These CA systems represent the only globally standardized approach to testing, inspection and certification. The CAB does not manage the day-to-day work of the CA Systems operated by the IEC, but the Systems report regularly to the CAB, which approves their basic rules. Want to know more, see "IEC Conformity Assessment seminar at the BEC".

New IEC White Paper "Power semiconductors for an energy-wise society"

Power semiconductors are electronic components which are essential for tackling the major challenges of decarbonization and digitization on the path to an energy-wise society. Today, these components play a critical role in various aspects of modern industry and in society - from renewable power generation and transmission, electromobility, automated factories and energy-efficient data centres to smart cities and smart homes.



The IEC Market Strategy Board has published a new white paper that examines the important role of power semiconductors in global decarbonization efforts. It takes an in-depth look at expected trends and opportunities, as well as

Power semiconductors for an energy-wise society

the challenges surrounding the power semiconductors industry. Among the significant challenges mentioned is the need for change in industry practices when transitioning from linear to circular economies and the shortage of skilled personnel required for power semiconductor development.

The white paper stresses the need for strategic actions at the policy-making level to address these concerns. It further highlights the pivotal role of standards in removing technical risks, increasing product quality and enabling faster market acceptance. Besides noting benefits of existing standards in accelerating market growth, the paper also identifies the current standardization gaps. Download the white paper <u>"Power semiconductors for an energy-wise society"</u>. Register here for an information session on 29/11/2023 from 12:30 till 13:30 UTC

Systematic Review of National Standards



newer standards.

BEC is pleased to announce that the systematic review of **national standards** in electrotechnology has commenced. The procedure of systematically reviewing national standards occurs every five years, ensuring that these standards are up to date with the state of the art. Furthermore, reviews allow for the identification of possible redundancies with

In theory, national standards result from work stemming from the Belgian industry. However, in practice, many of these standards are inherited from international and European standards, with minor modifications made for the Belgian market where necessary. National standards that inherit directly from international standards are named "NBN IEC standards", while those that are adopted by European standardization are referred to as "NBN EN IEC standards". Lastly, national standards inheriting from European standards for which no equivalent international standard exists are referred to as "NBN EN standards". Some national standards do not have an international or European equivalent. These standards are referred to as "NBN C standards", where the "C" is indicative of the field of electrotechnology. It is important to note that, prior to 1993, this nomenclature was also used for national standards adopted from European and international standardization, which is sometimes the cause of confusion.

The national systematic review process is as follows:

- These standards will be first discussed within their respective mirror committees during a mirror committee meeting.
- Next, the national experts within these committees shall be given the chance to evaluate the validity of the standards by means of a voting procedure, with the choices being to either confirm the standard for another five years or withdraw the standard. Given that, as aforementioned, several older standards adopted from IEC and/or CENELEC bear the same name as national standards without a European or international equivalent, BEC will also provide the committees with a third option of renaming NBN C-standards to be in line with the more recent "NBN EN" nomenclature.
- Based on the ballot results, the appropriate actions will be taken.

First standards to be commented via the Online Standards

Development (OSD) platform

International standards are developed through global cooperation and consensus building. It takes time and involves many people around the world, including IEC technical experts, National Committee members and staff. In order to enhance efficiency and collaboration throughout the process, IEC and ISO are developing together a harmonized platform: The Online Standards Development (OSD) platform.



Online standards development

In the current pilot phase, selected documents are already developed through the platform. Using the OSD platform, it is possible for standards writers to collaborate directly on the same document. Experts can contribute directly within the document, at any time, and can access and review new content and proposed changes. Exchanges between experts is simplified and content history ensures that information is not lost.

Further OSD member commenting features have been designed to facilitate the process of national contribution during the Commenting stages. They allow for:

- Improved and simplified commenting practice for national mirror committee experts
- More collaborative work and consensus building for an efficient resolution process for the national mirror committee
- Facilitated submission of national position

Because access to the document is online, it is no longer necessary to handle two separate documents. Comments are made within the text thus eliminating the need to fill in a separate form. PDF and an extract of comments are downloadable for reference and/or archive.

Voting and commenting on «OSD» documents (CD, CDV, ...) are notified on the Belgian Collaboration Platform as in the past, together with a procedure description. The notification document provides a link to the OSD platform. Please contact your TO to get commenting rights if you experience problems. At the national deadline, the TO will pause the comments. All comments are validated by the TO. At the ballot, it is indicated whether or not comments have been posted on the OSD platform.

For more detailed information, please refer to: <u>https://www.iec.ch/online-standards-</u> <u>development</u> and <u>https://collaborate.iec.ch/#/pages/workspaces/152623/documents/194229</u>



Launch of European Standardisation Panel Survey

The European Commission has launched a first edition of the European Standardisation Panel Survey (ESPS) on World Standards Day, presenting an opportunity to over 100.000 European standardisation experts to address their innovation needs, and to gain a better understanding of industry's needs for standardisation deriving from Research & Innovation (R&I). The survey is accessible at this <u>link</u> and will remain open until the end of 2023, targeting a large-scale population of European industry, ensuring a balanced

representation of companies of different sizes and from a wide variety of technology domains. You are kindly invited to participate in the survey.

IEC value-added products

IEC has developed several value-added products to make the used of standards easier:

• A **Consolidated version (CSV)** allows users to access technical content from multiple publications that have been merged into a single, user-friendly product. The CSV

incorporates the content of amendment(s) into the publication. The track changes mode shows where the publication has been modified by the amendment.

• A Redline version (RLV) allows users to easily access the



changes between the new and previous edition of a publication. The RLV is a package that includes both the official publication and its redline version. In the redline version, the track changes mode highlights all the changes between the new edition and previous edition of the publication.

- A **Commented version (CMV)** is the only product where the consensus-based content of a publication is enriched with technical commentary. The CMV consists of an RLV in which an IEC expert has added significant and extensive comments explaining the main changes to the publication. These comments display in pop-up windows in the publication content and are also listed at the end of the document.
- An **Extended version (EXV)** allows the user to compile the key information and content in a single, easy to use document.

For more information see <u>www.iec.ch/mnet/value-added-products</u>



The BEC General Assembly 2024 is planned on Thursday 23 May 2024 from 15:30 till 17:30 in the BEC meeting room, Bd. Auguste Reyerslaan 80, 1030 Brussels.

BEC's upcoming meetings

CEB-BEC 23/CEB-BEC 23B - Electrical accessories - December 4, 2023 CEB-BEC 88 - Wind turbine systems - December 5, 2023 CEB-BEC INCERT - Building Committee - December 19, 2023 CEB-BEC INCERT - Mark Committee - December 19, 2023 CEB-BEC 81- Lightning protection - January 15, 2024 CEB-BEC INCERT - WG2 Strategy - January 30, 2024 CEB-BEC SMB-BE - Technical Standardization Management Committee - January 30, 2024 CEB-BEC 95 - Measuring relays and protection equipment - February 2, 2024

Save the date BEC GA 2024

CEB-BEC 109 - Insulation co-ordination for low-voltage equipment - March 4, 2024
CEB-BEC 31 - Electrical apparatus for potentially explosive atmospheres - March 5, 2024
CEB-BEC 215 - Electrotechnical aspects of telecommunication equipment - March 6, 2024
CEB-BEC 21 - Secondary cells and batteries - March 8, 2024
CEB-BEC 64 - Electrical installations and protection against electric shock - March 19, 2024
CEB-BEC 47 - Semiconductor devices - March 27, 2024
CEB-BEC 78 - Live working - March 28, 2024

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