

[International Electrotechnical Commission TC 105 on Fuel Cells](#)

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Brief Synopsis of Presentation:

Dave Conover (National Evaluation Service): IEC TC 105 on Fuel Cells

The scope of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee (TC) 105 is to prepare international standards covering fuel cell technologies for all fuel cells in stationary, propulsion, and portable power generation systems applications. In this effort it also communicates and coordinates with other international standards efforts where relevant, such as ISO TC 197 on hydrogen, and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Just because a standard is developed and implemented in the United States doesn't mean that products meeting that standard can be readily accepted in other countries. If those countries have developed and adopted different standards then access to those markets for U.S. manufacturers may be impeded. U.S. manufacturers may have to develop variant designs for different countries and/or conduct numerous duplicative testing and certification efforts in documenting compliance with multiple standards. This supports a growing focus on international standards as a way of facilitating intra-country technical communication and uniform global acceptance of technology.

As there are strong alliances of countries such as the European Union participating in the development of international standards, it is increasingly important to look beyond the U.S. borders and participate in international standards activities. This can help to ensure that what is published as an international standard and subsequently adopted by various countries does not preclude or impede the deployment of U.S. technology. Sometimes these international activities start with a U.S. standard, but many times they start with a standard developed elsewhere. "One country, one vote" is a key point that must be understood, furthering the importance of U.S. participation to ensure that U.S. interests are addressed.

A U.S. Technical Advisory Group monitors IEC TC 105 activities, determines the U.S. position on IEC TC 105 efforts, supports U.S. input to IEC TC 105 efforts and provides for U.S. representation at the meetings. Within IEC TC 105 there are seven working groups. Working groups develop standards that implement a program of work designed and approved by all voting members (countries) of the TC. Working Groups under TC 105 include WG 1: Terminology, WG 2: Fuel Cell Modules, WG 3: Safety of Stationary Fuel Cell Systems, WG 4: Performance of Stationary Fuel Cell Systems, WG 5: Installation of Stationary Fuel Cell Systems, WG 6: Fuel Cell Systems for Propulsion and Auxiliary Power Units, and WG 7: Portable Fuel Cell Appliances. Some of these have developed a draft standard or technical report that is close to being approved by the TC for a wider public review. Other working groups are just beginning to draft standards.

Dave Conover is the past Deputy Technical Administrator of the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) to IEC TC 105 and made this presentation on behalf of Kelvin Hecht the Technical Administrator of the US TAG and U.S. delegate to the IEC TC 105.