

Why Harmonized Standardization is important for the African Continent

Offering an efficient African infrastructure for the improvement, maintenance, and distribution of an appropriate range of standards will improve the wellbeing of the African Populations and accordingly will

- Improve cost effective sustainable access to electricity.
- Improve technical skills covering electrotechnical fields.
- Develop informed users of electrotechnical Standards.
- Increase the efficiency of the industrial processes achieving considerable savings in the design and improving quality of products and services.
- Support conformity systems for improved quality of products.
- Facilitate the trade on the African continent by removing the different technical barriers thus opening up new markets and furthering economic integration and economic growth within AfCFTA (annex 6 TBT).
- Provide the framework to promote harmonization; through collective cooperation among IEC full members and IEC affiliates in Africa.
- Contribute to the improvement of the health and safety of persons and to the protection of the environment in Africa.

Initiative supported by



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NECs
(Academia/
Research centers
and YPs)

African
Electrotechnical
Standardisation
Commission
(AFSEC)

Formation of AFSEC

The need for Harmonization of the electrotechnical standards to ensure the reliable and safe operation of the evolving Pan-African power grid was recognized by the Top African Institutions. This was the initial motivation for the formation of AFSEC in 2008 as a subsidiary body of the African Energy Commission (AFREC), which clearly has a major role in supporting electrotechnical industrialization of Africa with adequate quality and reliability. The scope also includes collaboration with related organizations to develop related standards and conformance assurance systems. The AFSEC Secretariat was located in South Africa until 2018. Since 2019, it has been transferred to Cairo Egypt, where the permanent Head Quarter is now hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy.

Vision

AFSEC's vision is to enhance Africa's development and competitiveness through excellence in electrotechnical standardization.

Mission

- To promote an inter-African cooperation for everything related to electrotechnical standardization.
- Harmonization of standards and related specifications.
- Remove barriers to trade, to create markets.
- Enhance safety of products.
- Reduce the cost of assurance of compliance.

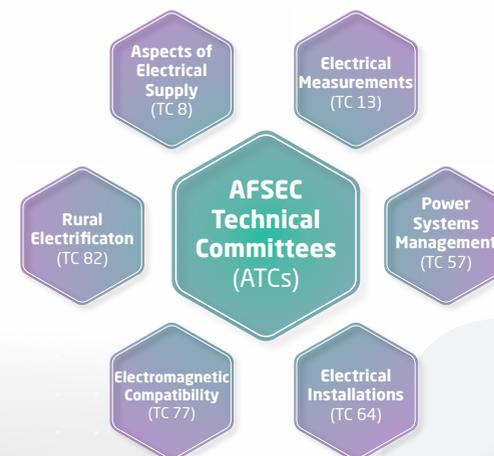
● Roadmap based on AFSEC Strategic Goals

- Enhance the recognition of AFSEC as the preeminent authority in electrotechnical standardization.
- Provide a harmonized standardization platform connecting all key stakeholders.
- Foster the involvement of all African stakeholders through their National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC)/Standardization Body.
- Increase the Statutory Membership, encouraging their involvement in technical work of AFSEC.
- Develop mechanisms for focused technical collaboration among technical committees (TCs).
- Foster involvement of Academia in standardization with Young Professionals providing a system that can attract and increase industry participation.
- Promote Conformity Assessment.
- Develop AFSEC Guides.

● Main AFSEC Achievements

215 Standards recommended by the Council till 2020 for adoption, in addition to **35 Standards** are in the voting process for adoption by National Electrotechnical Committees.

4 Published Guides (In English & French)



● NECs Key Message addressing the Academia/ Research Centers and Young Professionals (YPs)

- Advocate for the inclusion of standards education in university and/or college curricula especially for engineering students.
- Promoting the involvement of Academia in Standardization Process; Standards Development and Conformity Assessment Process, by being representatives in AFSEC Technical Committees (ATCs).
- Encourage participation of students to join the AFSEC Young Professionals (AYP) & Gender program and participate in AFSEC activities.
- Establish a program that will assist in the YPs development for participation in standards activities.

● Impact of Cooperation between AFSEC and Academia/ Research Centers and Young Professionals (YPs)

- Building Capacity of New Generation “Young Professionals” that participate actively in standardisation work.
- Capturing the interest of academics in young professionals to participate in standardization by introducing new technologies in standards.
- Increased gender diversity in standards with more appropriate standards for the African continent.
- Standardization included in the Africa educational facilities curricula especially for engineering students and research center’s.