



Consejo de Armonización de Normas Electrotecnicas de las Naciones en las Americas  
Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations in the Americas

## **84<sup>th</sup> IEC General Meeting Online, 9-20 November 2020**

On behalf of the members of CANENA, we want to thank Mr. Metzger and Ms. Antoinette Pitteloud for the kind invitation to participate in the IEC Council and SMB meeting to be held online in order to provide a written update on our activities this past year.

CANENA members have been closely following the ratification of United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Specifically, how it may or would impact the national quality infrastructure of the respective countries. The topic was intended to be the theme of our annual meeting. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held as an abbreviated virtual meeting. Looking to 2021, CANENA will once again look to hold an abbreviated virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be preceded by a 30-minute presentation/workshop of Mexico's recent enactment of its Quality and Infrastructure Law. The purpose of this Law is to establish the basis of Mexico's industrial policy through the activities of normalization, standardization, accreditation, Conformity Assessment and metrology, promoting economic development, international trade and protecting its legitimate public interest objectives. IEC Council and SMB members are invited to attend the free workshop and are asked to visit us at [www.canena.org](http://www.canena.org) for details this coming January.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Ms. Svetlana Ulemek (Alert Innovation) was approved for the 2020-2021 term of office as the U.S. Member-at-Large.
2. Mr. Pierre Desilets (Leviton Mfg. of Canada) was approved as Treasurer.
3. ANCE was approved to serve as the CANENA Registrar.
4. CANENA Operations Committee appointed Mr. Mark Humphries (CSA Group) as Chair.
5. The CANENA website was enhanced for easy tracking of project initiation request and to follow the status of on-going standardization projects.

### **Goals and Strategic Objectives for the Coming Year**

**Strategic Plan 2020:** President Yarza provided an update of CANENA project performance broken down in seven (7) steps, starting with project initiation and concluding with publication preparation. Overall, it takes 720 days to complete the process, with the longest time used for proposal submission and draft development.

## Issues, Barriers, Concerns or Opportunities

Canadian Vice President Guy Benjamin has challenged CANENA technical committees to focus on System Approach to LVDC, specifically on the near future regarding technology, standards evolution and product safety; as well as to technological convergence regarding building automation (heating/cooling/lighting vs presence), lighting, power of ethernet (PoE), and safe way guiding systems (SWGS). Regarding the Canadian Electrical Code (CE Code), it has completed its 3-year review cycle on June 2020, with publication set for January 2021. Most sections of the CE Code are impacted at different levels. The Canadian Building/Fire Code is undergoing its 5-year review cycle with the 2020 edition to be published on January 2021. Areas under review are building accessibility, penetration of fire rated assembly, air tightness, earthquake, etc.

Mexican Vice President Juan Rosales is a candidate from Mexico's National Committee to the IEC Council Board and is actively involved with the process of implementing the new Mexican Law for Quality Infrastructure.

US Vice President Greg Steinman provided an overview of the 2020 NFPA 70, National Electrical Code (NEC), highlighting four new articles to CANENA members: Article 242, Overvoltage Protection, Article 311, Medium Voltage Cable over 2kV, Article 337, Type P Cable and Article 800, General Requirements for Communication Systems. The 2023 NEC is underway, with public input closing on 9/10/2020.

CANENA is not an accredited standards development organization. It is an industry-driven process dedicated to reducing the complexity of designing products for multiple markets through harmonization of electrotechnical standards, installation codes and other technical requirements in the countries of our members. Membership in CANENA is individual, not by country, with company or industry association membership as a means to minimize billing. CANENA Technical Harmonization Committees have defined scopes, and the documents they produce are taken into the separate national approval processes by the participating accredited SDOs. Through separate agreements and procedures established between the participating SDOs, harmonized national standards are then published. CANENA's published Cooperation and Communication Strategy ensures transparency of the process and is our commitment towards acting in a complementary manner with each official national, regional and international standardization entity. To obtain more information about CANENA, go to [www.CANENA.org](http://www.CANENA.org)

Thank you once again for inviting CANENA to participate in the IEC 2020 General Assembly. To obtain a copy of CANENA's most recent newsletter, click on the following link: <https://www.canena.org/canena-connects/>