## IEC Documentation – From IEC Web-site

Summary of Standards Production and Approval Process

1. **International Standards and other publications**

IEC TCs/SCs (Technical Committees and Subcommittees) develop International Standards and other types of publications for a specific area of electrotechnology. (See the full list of [IEC TCs/SCs](http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:6:0).)

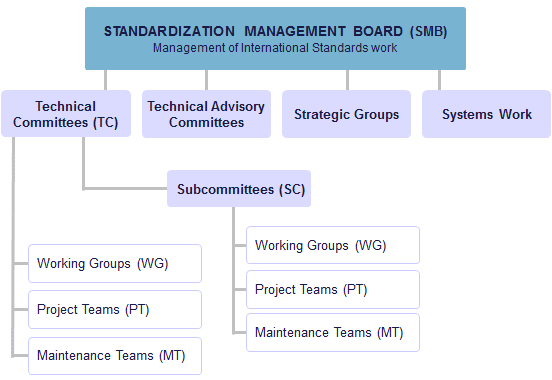
 These publications fall into two broad categories:

* **Normative publications** reflect agreements on the technical description of the characteristics to be fulfilled by the product, system, service or object in question.
* **Informative publications** provide background information such as implementation procedures or guidelines

International Standards and other publications are the result of **full or limited international consensus** among the [IEC's members](http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:5:0::::LANG:EN) (National Committees). Any member of the IEC may participate in the preparatory work of an International Standard, and any liaison organization i.e. international, broad regional organizations, consortia and fora may also participate in this preparation.

 IEC publications are bilingual in English and French, while the Russian Federation National Committee prepares Russian-language editions. Certain publications have also been translated into Spanish.

1. **Management of standards development**



* 1. **Standardization Management Board (SMB)**

The [SMB](http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:48:0::::FSP_ORG_ID,FSP_LANG_ID:3228,25) (Standardization Management Board) is responsible for the overall management of the IEC's standardization activities.

 The following bodies report to the SMB:

* [Technical committees](http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:62:0) are created and disbanded by the Standardization Management Board. The field of technical activity, which is called the scope, is approved by the Standardization Management Board and any subsequent changes have to be submitted for approval. Technical committees inform the Standardization Management Board of liaisons (Category A- and B- liaisons) with international organizations and submit for approval liaisons with manufacturers associations, consortia and fora (Category D-liaisons);
* [Technical Advisory Committees](http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:48:3515926380669732::::FSP_ORG_ID,FSP_LANG_ID:3228,25#2) which help ensure the coordination across the technical work of the IEC of issues such as safety, environment and electromagnetic compatibility;
* Strategic Groups also help the SMB by looking at market needs and outlining any potential cross-over of work.
  1. **Technical committees (TC)**

The technical committees report to the Standardization Management Board.

* 1. **Subcommittees (SC)**

A subcommittee may be created by the parent technical committees when it considers that its field of technical activity generates too many work items to be efficiently handled by itself. The scope of the subcommittee falls within the scope of the parent committee and any changes have to be approved by the parent technical committee.

1. **Development process**
   1. **Earlier stages**

(Omitted)

* 1. **Approval stage - Final Draft International Standard (FDIS)**

The FDIS is circulated to the National Committees for a two-month voting period. Each National Committee's vote must be explicit: positive, negative or abstention.

 No comments are allowed with a positive vote.

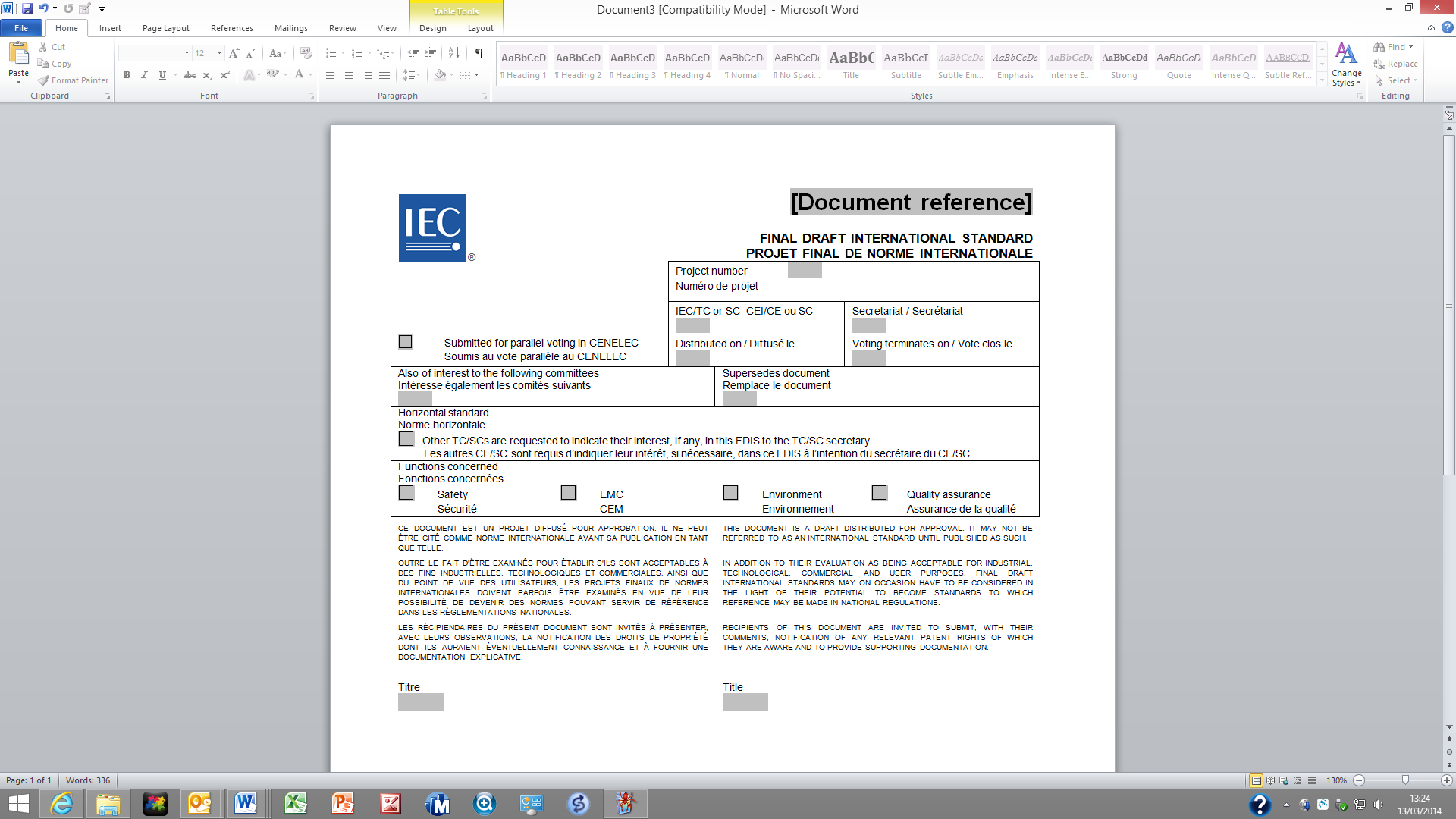
 An FDIS is approved if:

* 2/3 majority of P-members voting approve and if
* Less than 25% of all votes submitted are negative.

If the document is approved, it progresses to the final publication stage.

If the document is not approved, it is referred back to the TC or SC to be reconsidered.

1. **Form for FDIS Vote**



1. **Project control**

Periodical progress reports to the technical committee shall be made by its subcommittees and working groups or project teams.

 Meetings between their secretariats will assist in controlling the progress.

 The office of the CEO shall monitor the progress of all work and shall report periodically to the Standardization Management Board. For this purpose, the office of the CEO shall receive copies of documents as indicated in the ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, Annex D.

**END**