
Introduction

The Standards and Practices Department has been an integral part of ISA for fifty years. To accomplish its primary goal of uniformity in the field of instrumentation, the Standards Department relies on the work of volunteer committee members whose efforts are coordinated and directed by volunteer Committee Chairmen and Standards and Practices Department Directors. These volunteer members provide the time and technical expertise needed to develop and update standards in the field of instrumentation and control.

The Society also participates in many national and international standards activities. On March 26, 1976, ISA was approved as an Accredited Standards Writing organization by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Through strict adherence to our ANSI approved procedures, ISA maintained its ANSI accreditation and continues to submit new and revised ISA standards to ANSI for approval as American National Standards. ISA is a member of the ANSI Board of Directors, is currently represented on three ANSI Standards Management Boards, and is actively involved with the work of ISO and IEC. Through ANSI, ISA holds the secretariat of IEC SC31C, "Increased Safety Apparatus," IEC SC31L, "Electrical Apparatus for the Detection of Flammable Gases," and IEC SC65B, "Industrial Process Measurement and Control: Devices." In addition ISA standards committees serve as the advisory groups for U.S. representation to ISO and IEC committees and working groups.

The products of the ISA standards program are well-surveyed, carefully written standards and recommended practices that outline accepted procedures in instrumentation throughout U.S. industry. To maintain their value, these standards and practices are reviewed and modified where necessary by the committee responsible for them, at intervals after publication.

Toward the goal of improving its standards program, ISA welcomes criticism of its work. Correspondence should be directed to the attention of Standards Board Secretary, ISA, 67 Alexander Drive, Research Triangle park, North Carolina 27709, Telephone (919)549-8411, Fax: (919)549-8288, E-mail: standards@isa.org.

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