

EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF ELECTRICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES FOR COMMERCIAL, MILITARY AND DUAL-USE APPLICATIONS

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Abstract

Electrically propelled vehicles unite diverse technologies and diverse standardization and regulation cultures. The relevant standardization landscape is thus a complex one, particularly if new energy vectors such as hydrogen are taken into account. The proposed paper will highlight current evolutions in the field, discussing the interaction between various international standardization committees (particularly ISO TC22 SC21 and IEC TC69). Particular attention will be given to a number of pending issues such as the definition of reliable performance and energy consumption tests for plug-in hybrid vehicles with both fuel and electricity energy supply, as well as to the impact of the introduction of new technologies such as hydrogen on vehicle safety standardization. The growing interest for the deployment of hybrid electric drive technology for military and dual-use applications has given rise to specific standardization issues, which are being tackled by specific technical teams. Current rating standards to evaluate the performance of ground vehicles must in fact be adapted to hybrid electric vehicles especially to those features that were not inherent to the existing vehicles, such as silent watch, silent mobility, power generation and energy storage and recovery. New standards are needed to evaluate the potential benefits of the hybrid systems against the future vehicle requirements within the specific bounds and regulations of each country. The paper will report on activities in this field and will recommend specific work areas for standardization, highlighting the potential interaction with ongoing international standardization work.

INTRODUCTION

Standardization, on a global level, is mainly dealt with by two institutions: the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), founded in 1904, deals with all things electrical, whileas the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), founded in 1948, deals with all other technologies. With standardization of the electric road vehicle becoming a key issue, the question arises which standardization body would have the main responsibility for electric vehicle standards. This problem is less straightforward than it looks: the electric vehicle, which introduces electric traction technology in a road vehicle environment, represents in fact a mixed technology [?], being both a "road vehicle" and an "electrical device".

One can discern a fundamentally different approach taken towards the concept of standardization in the automotive and the electrotechnical world. There is a different "standard culture", the origin of which can be traced back to historical reasons.

There is a long tradition for standardization in the electrotechnical industry, as well as a stronger tendency to standardize all and everything. Electric motors are covered by extensive IEC standards covering their construction and testing. Even subjects such as the colour code of wires are standardized (e.g. green and yellow for the protective or earth conductor). In the electrotechnical industry in fact, the role of specialist component manufacturers acting as suppliers to equipment manufacturers has always been more common.

Electricians do not only want to define the vehicle as a whole, but also to standardize its components, on a point of view of safety, environment, quality and interchangeability.

Furthermore, the customers of the electrotechnical industry are more likely to be powerful corporations (e.g. railway companies) who tend to enforce very strict specifications on the equipment they order or purchase, hence the need for more elaborate standards to ensure the compliance of the equipment. Industrial electrical equipment is also designed for an extended service life: continuous operation during several years, which corresponds to up to 100000 hours.

In the car manufacturing world on the other hand, standardization is limited to issues which are subject to government regulations (safety, environmental impact, performance measurement) and to the areas where interchangeability of components is a key issue. Since car manufacturers desire to develop their own technical solutions which embrace their proprietary technological know-how and which give their products an unique market advantage, there are few standards covering combustion engines for example. Car manufacturers accept that a vehicle, as a whole, is subjected to safety and environmental regulations, but do not feel the need for definition of individual components.

Furthermore, the automobile has become a mass-market product: extensive routine tests on every produced vehicle would be prohibitively expensive, and the customer is

more likely to be a "consumer", less interested in providing the supplier with written specifications demanding compliance to specific international standards. The expected service life of an automobile (5000 to 10000 hours) is also much lower than of an industrial electrical machine.

This difference is further reflected in the constitution of the technical committees and their working groups which deal with electric vehicle standardization in respectively IEC and ISO. In the IEC committees many of the delegated experts are electricians or component manufacturers, whileas in ISO there is a much stronger input from vehicle manufacturers.

IEC-ISO ACTIVITIES ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Collaboration between ISO and IEC in the field of electric vehicles has been established since the foundation of the respective working groups, ISO TC22 SC21 and IEC TC 69, in the early 1970s. During the years however, there have been considerable discussions between the two groups as to the division of the work, in which there were a number of overlaps. By the end of the 1990s, a consensus was agreed [?] defining the specific competences of the respective committees, as shown in Table ??.

Table 1: Basic division of work IEC/ISO

ISO	IEC
Work related to the electric vehicle as a whole	Work related to electric components and electric supply infrastructure

To oversee the developments in the field, a Steering Group was set up which did overview the current work of the committee and formulated recommendations on specific issues.

CURRENT STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITY ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

IEC TC69

WG2: Motors and controllers The initial task of WG2 was "Definition and measuring methods concerning the performance of motors and motor control systems, including protection of personnel against electric shocks and protection of electrical components". This WG was founded in 1973, and initially produced four technical reports with the intention of having these harmonized with ISO documents in a later stage.

During the early 1990s, attempts were made to revitalize WG2 in order to revise and expand these four reports into full-blown standards. From 1995 onwards, work was performed on the revision of 60785 and 60786, incorporating them into a single document in order to reflect the technological evolution which closely integrated motors and controllers. A draft has been circulated with title "On-board power equipment for electric road vehicles", which had to emanate into IEC61981. Work on this document has however been discontinued since 1999, following discussions in the IEC TC69/ISO TC22 SC21 steering group[?], mainly because the need for component standardization was not perceived by vehicle manufacturers. IEC61981 has thus been dormant as a PWI ever since, and so has WG2.

One could however identify a number of issues which warrant the development of future activities for WG2, taking into account the fact that the term "electric vehicle" is now to be understood as "electrically propelled vehicle", which encompasses battery-electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles. All these electrically propelled vehicles make use of electric motors, drives and controllers.

Furthermore, the evolution in power electronics has led to a generalized use of a.c. drive technologies, which now have nearly fully supplanted the venerable d.c. drives. The a.c. inverter used in these vehicles charges the battery during regenerative braking; it could also be used however to charge from an a.c. power supply at high power levels, allowing fast charging without heavy and expensive off-board d.c. charging equipment, and also permitting a bidirectional power flow for supply network management purposes such as peak shaving. This makes the whole vehicle an "electric device", creating specific needs for standardization. New activities on this subject could be launched within the framework of IEC TC69, on the condition however that a clear demand for such standards can be identified. Special attention should be given to EMC related issues for which the liaison with IEC TC77, which deals with EMC issues should be optimized.

WG3: Batteries The initial task of WG3 was "Energy storage systems, including safety of personnel against electric shocks and protection of electrical components". Close collaboration of TC69 WG3 with IEC TC21 "Batteries" eventually led to the regrouping of all battery standardization work to a joint working group encompassing TC21, SC21A and TC69, under the leadership of TC21. WG3 was then disbanded in 1997.

Within TC21, several standards have since been published in the IEC61982-1 series, defining dynamic discharge performance tests and dynamic endurance tests for electric road vehicle batteries.

WG4: Infrastructure This WG was initially focused on power supply sources and chargers, including power supply sources external to the vehicle, chargers mounted or not on the vehicle, safety of personnel against electric shocks, protection of electrical components and a.c. or d.c. connectors.

WG4 entered a new elan in the mid-1990s to take up work on infrastructure standardization, which led to the IEC 61851 family of international standards concerning the electric vehicle conductive charging system. WG4 has been dormant since 2000 however, and the documents for d.c. charging station and inductive charging are still lingering at CD stage:

With the reactivation of IEC TC69 in 2007, the revision of the 61851 standards has been identified as new work for WG4. The subject of vehicle charging infrastructure has indeed returned in the focus of interest: on one hand, the concept of "plug-in" hybrid is getting more attention due to the fact that electricity from the grid constitutes a more efficient and economical fuel; on the other hand, one should consider the poor overall energy efficiency of the hydrogen pathway (particularly if the hydrogen is generated through electrolysis) compared to the all-electric energy pathway.

ISO TC22 SC21

Battery-electric vehicles The ISO subcommittee dealing with electric road vehicles has been continuously active on a number of issues and has drafted the ISO6469 standards on electric vehicle safety. These are now under revision, which should lead to a comprehensive set of standards on the safety of electrically propelled road vehicles (battery-electric, hybrid and fuel cell).

Work was also performed on terminology, consumption and performances measurement. The ISO8713 standard on terminology will be replaced by a document now under development which will encompass comprehensive definitions of all vocabulary used in ISO TC22 SC21 standards. This document will not be published as an international standard however but as a technical report.

Hybrid vehicles Performance specifications, particularly fuel consumption and emission measurement standards, are being treated by ISO TC22 SC21 WG2, which has now finalizing the ISO 23274 for non-externally chargeable vehicles. The committee is now working on the more complicated issue of externally chargeable vehicles (plug-in hybrids) where several issues have to be taken into account, since these vehicles can be fuelled from two separate energy sources. The definition of suitable test cycles and the management of battery state of charge are now the subject of discussion within the working group[?].

The safety aspects of hybrid vehicles are for the moment not treated by any standard. ISO6469 only applies to battery-electrics, although plug-in vehicles represent the same technology and thus the same hazards. The ongoing revision of this standard will address this hiatus.

Fuel cell vehicles The "fuel cell" can be quite rightly considered an "electrical device" since it generates electricity; its standardization would thus be a task of the IEC. To this effect, IEC Technical Committee 105 "Fuel Cell Technologies" was put charge of preparing international standards regarding fuel cell technologies for all applications.

However, the international standardization work on fuel cell powered road vehicles has been mostly concentrated within ISO TC22 SC21. For this reason, road vehicles were excluded from the scope of the standard IEC 62282-2 "Fuel cell modules" the work was transferred to ISO.

This discussion underlines once more again the special case of the electrically propelled road vehicle, which unites automotive technology (typically standardized under the auspices of ISO) and electrical technology (typically standardized under the auspices of IEC). This dichotomy has caused similar discussions in the past about who exactly was to perform the standardization work; such discussions can only be

resolved by mutual collaboration and recognition of the characteristics of each technology being put to use.

ISO TC22 SC21 has published the ISO23273 set of standards for fuel cell vehicle safety. Relevant parts of this standards will however be replaced by the appropriate parts of the revised ISO6469 when these are published.

As for performance standards, the ISO23828-1 on energy consumption measurement is now in CD stage. The main discussion on this document concerns the choice of methods to measure hydrogen consumption, where several methods can be used[?] (weight, pressure or flow method), each of which has its specific advantages and accuracy.

STANDARDS VERSUS REGULATIONS

Regulations are not the same as standards. While standards come forward from the technical community and are in principle voluntary documents, regulations are government-endorsed documents enforceable as law. For vehicles, regulations are a prerequisite for type approval of vehicles. In Europe, regulations can be established either on UNECE level as an ECE regulation or on European Union level as EU directive. The advantage of the UNECE level however is that it is not only recognized in the EU, but by various other countries supporting the UN agreement. The UN 1998 agreement has a nearly global coverage encompassing various global markets like Europe, the USA, Canada China and Japan. The advantage of this agreement is that it allows global technical regulations (GTR), while letting the different world regions pursue their own style of approval procedures in use for the certification of road vehicles, i.e. the whole vehicle type approval approach in Europe and Japan and the self-certification approach in North America.

CONCLUSIONS

The standardization and regulation activities on electrically powered vehicles are running on a high level worldwide. Experts can be found working together in the various committees in order to realize a set of documents with the aim to provide the international community with a consistent family of standards that are contextualized into a systemic approach of the Regulations, Codes & Standards (RCS) problem as a whole. In a sense, a number of approaches to this problem can be discerned; an effective solution however will have to take into account both the mere technological evolutions and the innate opposition between standards on one hand and regulations on the other. In this framework, a key factor is the behaviour of relevant stakeholders such as government services, research centers, R&D programs and trade associations, which are in a position to provide relevant input to the standardization bodies on one hand and the regulation bodies on the other hand. Furthermore, with several standardization organizations active on the same subject, there is a real danger that much effort

will be lost through parallel work, leading to different and potentially conflicting standards on the same topic. Such "standards" are a source of confusion and are of no useful purpose. The collaboration between different organizations, if implemented efficiently, will however allow standardization work to advance and to obtain positive results. To avoid the proliferation of RCS conflicts, it is recommended to put in place a mechanism to facilitate global harmonization.

It should be stressed that the different standardization bodies involved, both on organizational level (IEC and ISO), as on committee level within these organizations, should not consider themselves as competitors, but as complementary bodies, each bringing their expertise to the field. The division of standardization work on a specific subject like the electrically propelled vehicle, often grown for historical reasons, has involved a lot of discussions, which can run out of hand when each party keeps defending its turf, reasoning out of tradition and emotion.

It is essential that such differences be overcome and that the future standardization work is performed in a spirit of collaboration and joint effort toward a common goal which is the drafting of clear and useful standards which benefit both the manufacturer and the user. For the electrically propelled vehicle, the idea to have vehicle aspects treated by ISO and electrical aspects treated by IEC is a reasonable solution.

The interaction with regulations, codes and legislations however will necessitate the definition of further collaborative structures. The "New Approach" philosophy or the introduction of "global technical regulations" may constitute a worthwhile example to be followed in this framework. In the New Approach philosophy, which is now being implemented in the European Union, regulations enforced by the government (e.g. EU directives such as the machine directive, low voltage directive or pressure vessel directive) define "essential safety requirements", but do not state technical details. For these, reference is made to European or international standards. These standards remain standards, that is, they are voluntary, but complying to the standard implies complying to the directive.

For road vehicles however, this system has not yet been implemented, the type approval regulations being issued by the UNECE which is beyond the level of the EU only. The advantages of the New Approach are clear since the discrepancy between standards and regulations is eliminated, and the restriction of technological development through obsolete specifications enshrined in legislation or overspecification by overzealous legislators can be avoided. The issuance of technical specifications by political legislative bodies without a solid technical base may in fact give rise to unusual, inadequate or foolish specifications which do not establish a tangible benefit nor for the manufacturers nor for the end users of the technology involved. However, one has to recognize that the main vehicle manufacturers are not in favor of an adaptation to this system on EU level, since it deviates from existing, proven practices and could introduce additional discrepancies with the rest of the world which is covered by ECE and might be covered by global technical regulations. The initial work on GTR specification at UNECE level is thus clearly a step forward.

The situation for road vehicles, the type approval of which is defined by international regulations, stands in contrast with the situation for stationary applications, where no international regulating body responsible for harmonizing regulations exists.

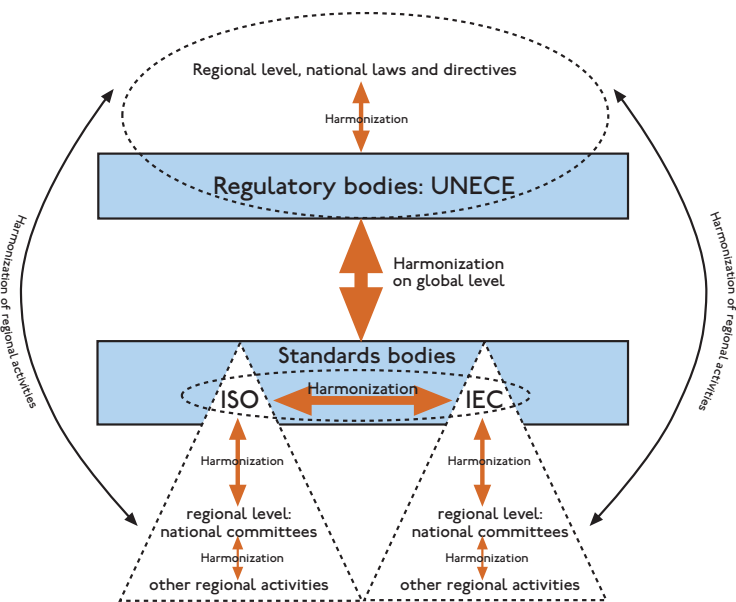


Figure 1: Standardization collaboration and harmonization

Figure ?? shows the various interactions which are necessary for this harmonization. In order to ensure that standards are properly used in regulations, both the standards bodies and regulatory bodies have to intensify joint cooperation on all levels.

An "ideal" RCS landscape would follow a "New Approach" philosophy, with international standards on all appropriate technical matters, and globally accepted technical regulations referring to these standards. All RCS work would be closely co-ordinated in order to avoid parallel or conflicting work. Also, RCS work should be targeted to relevant subject in order to avoid bad practices such as overstandardization, or what is even worse, overregulation.

The mutual collaboration of competent engineers will always remain the keystone of effective standardization work to the benefit of society as a whole.

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