



CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

Between the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO)

Preamble

As part of its Mission of facilitating international trade, the IEC aims to maximize worldwide acceptance and adoption of globally harmonized IEC International Standards that meet the needs of all major markets and recognition of certificates issued within its Conformity Assessment Systems.

The Agreement on the Establishment of South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) encourages the use of international standards published by international organizations such as IEC by way of adoption, where appropriate, as SAARC Standards and facilitates capacity building among the Member States in the fields of Standardization and Conformity Assessment by way of training, workshops, seminars etc.

The IEC and SARSO have consequently agreed to co-operate in a number of areas, covering especially cross representation and exchange of information.

1. Objectives

- a) To promote the development, use and adoption of IEC International Standards as well as the use of IEC Conformity Assessment Systems in response to market demands, and thus to facilitate world trade;
- b) To increase the participation from the countries in the region in IEC activities;
- c) To accelerate the electrotechnical standardization process in response to market demands, especially increasing demands in the region;
- d) To keep non-IEC members of SARSO informed about IEC-related activities and developments, in the interest of transparency

2. Contact points

At operational level, the focal points for SARSO to contact IEC are the IEC General Secretary in Geneva and the IEC Asia Pacific Regional Centre (IEC-APRC) Director in Singapore. For the IEC to contact SARSO, the contact point is SARSO Director General.

3. Exchange of information at the IEC Central Office/SARSO Secretariat level

3.1 In addition to general information about the IEC which is publicly available, including *e-tech*, the *Catalogue* of IEC standards and the *annual performance report*, the IEC Central Office will provide the SARSO Secretariat with access to the IEC Web site for the following information:

- IEC Directory (names, addresses);
- Databases which provide comprehensive and state of the art information on all technical projects;
- Council documents, which include all IEC Council Board (CB) decisions and reports to Council;
- Standardization Management Board (SMB) documents available to National Committees (NCs);
- Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) documents available to NCs.

3.2 The SARSO Secretariat will provide the IEC Central Office with the following information:

- Directory of SARSO Members (names, addresses);
- SARSO Action Plan (work programme of SARSO indicating status of progress and target dates);
- All resolutions of SARSO Governing Board and SARSO Technical Management Board (TMB) concerning standardization and conformity assessment activities.

3.3 Other general information may be made available as the need arises on agreement between the IEC General Secretary and the SARSO Director-General

4. Cross Representation

A representative of SARSO is invited to attend the IEC Council Meeting.

A representative of the IEC is invited to attend the SARSO Governing Board Meeting.

5. Participation in and use IEC technical work

SARSO undertakes to encourage its members whenever possible, based on national needs, to use and adopt IEC International Standards directly or via national adoptions. In addition SARSO undertakes to encourage its members to participate actively in the IEC technical work.

6. Cooperation

6.1 When SARSO establishes a Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) or Subcommittee (SC) that parallels the activity of an IEC Technical Committee or one of its Subcommittees, it shall notify the IEC which in turn will arrange for specific data of the equivalent IEC/TC or SC to be transferred to the SARSO/STC or SC. SARSO will undertake to convey the results of its standards harmonization activities to the IEC.

6.2 SARSO and IEC will consider the possibility of developing a joint activity programme.

7. Implementation of the Agreement

The IEC General Secretary and SARSO Director General are responsible for the implementation of this Agreement. It may be terminated by either party with six months' written notice.

For SARSO

Dr Syed Humayun Kabir
Director General

Signature: _____



Date and place: Frankfurt 2016-10-09

For IEC

Mr Frans Vreeswijk
General Secretary & CEO

Signature: _____



Date and place: Frankfurt 2016-10-09