Standards and Codes . . . the Key to Safe Plant Operations, Quality and Profitability is the title of the Engineering Newsletter of January 1990 issued by the CMA. The article indicates that the CMA’s involvement in the consensus standards process is aimed at promoting safety and quality and at enhancing profitability.

National standards and codes provide a valuable resource to those involved in the design, installation, maintenance, and management of chemical-process facilities. They represent the expertise of those who have experience in specialized areas. They are developed, reviewed, voted on, and approved by committees of individuals representing various interests and thus represent a consensus as to recommended practice.

National standards are dynamic in that they are updated as new technology, experience, and data become available; American National Standards must be updated at least every 5 years. National standards are developed by a voluntary program; people who work on the committees are sponsored by their company or organization. In addition, standards organizations have staffs to facilitate and coordinate the work of the committees.

The development or revision of consensus standards requires a public review. The American National Standards Institute, recognizes most standards writing organizations as Accredited Organizations that have established procedures for obtaining public review. Negative votes or comments must be reconciled. The new or revised standard is publicized in appropriate publications and in the ANSI newsletter to obtain further public review. This process ensures that all interested parties have the opportunity to comment.
NATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations are responsible for national standards related to electrical and process control safety:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
1 Battery March Park
P. O. Box 9101
Quincy, MA 02260-9101
Tel. No. 1-800-344-3555

Instrument Society of America (ISA)
67 Alexander Dr.
P. O. Box 12277
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Tel. No. 919-549-8411

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)
The Standards Department
445 Hoes Lane
P. O. Box 1331
Piccataway, NJ 08855-1331
Tel. No. 1-800-678-IEEE

American Petroleum Institute (API)
1220 L. Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. No. 202-682-8000

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
178 Rexdale Boulevard
Rexdale Ontario, Canada
M9W1R3

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
2101 L. Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
333 Pfringsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062
Tel. No. 312-272-8000

United States Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210