

## Why Does ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 Matter? A Q&A About the Standard's Development

By Neal Iorri Jr., CECS, CESI, Olympia Maintenance

The *ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 Standard for Cleaning of Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems* was approved as an American National Standard in December 2011. Since then, it has gained momentum throughout the kitchen exhaust cleaning industry and related trades, industries, and authorities having jurisdiction. It is the most forward-looking and far-reaching action IKECA has taken to raise the bar for the entire kitchen exhaust cleaning industry.

Some members and nonmembers alike have asked for clarification about the process and purpose of ANSI/IKECA C10-2011. Here are a few questions we have heard and the answers to them.

### **Q. What or who is ANSI?**

A. ANSI is the American National Standards Institute, a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1918 and the coordinator of voluntary standards activities in the United States; it is the agency that approves American National Standards. ANSI is also the coordinator and manager of U.S. participation in the work of nongovernmental international standards organizations. It is an accrediting body that oversees the creation, distribution, and use of standards and guidelines that directly impact almost every industry in the country. You can find more information at [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org).

### **Q. Why did we choose ANSI as our accrediting body?**

A. As a national coordinator, ANSI assists organizations involved in standards development, including both IKECA and NFPA, to reach agreement on needs for codes and standards, establish priorities, plan to meet identified needs, and avoid duplication of effort. ANSI also offers code- and standard-developing organizations, such as IKECA, NFPA, ASHRAE, ICC, and more than 200 other standards developers, a neutral forum for resolving differences and provides procedures and services to help them use their resources effectively.

### **Q. Why did IKECA need to write a cleaning standard?**

A. The short answer is because a cleaning standard was needed. Although standard-writing bodies, such as NFPA and I-codes, go into great detail about the construction and installation of kitchen exhaust systems, they do not go very far in the direction of the cleaning and maintenance of them. As the leading association of kitchen exhaust cleaning professionals, IKECA recognized the need for the standard and believed that, as a nonprofit association that exists to improve the industry, we should lead the effort.

### **Q. Why does it cost so much to write a standard?**

A. Although there are membership fees associated with being

an accredited ANSI standard-developer organization, such as IKECA, and other audit fees connected to filing and maintaining a standard through ANSI, the bulk of the expense comes from administrative costs. The IKECA staff has to dedicate time to act as a liaison with ANSI and the IKECA consensus body; to coordinate committee activities; and to monitor the development, approval, and maintenance processes of the cleaning standard as well as the forthcoming inspection and user-maintenance standards.

### **Q. What does the standard-writing process entail?**

A. In the interest of time, both yours and mine, we will stick to the basic points in answering this question.

First, you have to form a consensus body that represents the various interest categories. The consensus body then writes official procedures, which must agree with ANSI's essential requirements. The essential requirements are the rules the consensus body will follow to help ensure fairness while developing the actual standard.

Once ANSI approves the consensus body procedures, the consensus body then files a project initiation notification system (PINS) notice. The PINS lets other standard-writing bodies know we intend to develop our standard. If there are no objections to our notice, the consensus body then begins to draft the standard.

When the consensus body has an acceptable draft of the standard, it is submitted for both consensus body and public comment. People from the general public, usually those who will be affected by the new standard, make change suggestions to the standard for consensus body consideration. Once the long public approval process is completed, the consensus body then revises the draft according to its procedures, and it submits the final draft to ANSI.

ANSI then reviews the process and documentation by which the final draft was approved by the consensus body. If ANSI is satisfied that we have followed our procedures, it approves the standard. We have left out quite a bit of detail, but as you can see, it is a lengthy and involved process.

### **Q. What is a consensus body?**

A. The consensus body is a group of people set up to develop the standard and uphold the essential requirements due process. The consensus body is comprised of people from various industries and sectors in order to maintain transparency in the standard-development process. IKECA's consensus body has kitchen exhaust cleaning, manufacturing, insurance, food ser-

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vice, fire suppression, fire protection, and several other industries represented.

**Q. Who are the people on IKECA's consensus body, and what do they represent?**

A. The consensus body is comprised of various interest categories: cleaning contractor, HVAC contractor, fire-suppression contractor, food-service industry, fire-analysis expert, designer, manufacturer, fire-prevention authority, and insurance. We are currently soliciting more members in the areas of food service industry, fire-analysis expert, designer, manufacturer, fire-prevention authority, and insurance. Please contact [information@ikeca.org](mailto:information@ikeca.org) if you are interested.

The current consensus body members are

- Chair: Bernard Besal, CECS, CESI; Besal Services Inc.
- Vice chair: Nelson Dilg, CECS, CESI; Nelbud Services Group Inc.
- Mark Ashley; Franke Foodservice Systems Inc.
- Joel Berkowitz, CECS; Fireproofing Corp. of America
- Marty Burns; Component Hardware Group
- Gary Cox; Air Scrubbers Inc.
- John M. Egnor; JEM Associates
- Jesse Getz, CECS; Getz Fire Equipment
- Neal A. Iorri Jr., CECS, CESI; Olympia Maintenance Inc.
- Russ Lewis; Gaylord Industries
- Jeffrey Morris, CECS, CESI; Western Commercial Services
- David Nowack, CECS; Fat Free Inc.
- Donald Pfleiderer, CECS, CESI; Enviromatic Corporation of America
- Patrick C. Pritchett, CSP; Nationwide Insurance
- James Roberts Jr., CECS, CESI; Derby Fire and Safety
- Robert D. Schuler, CECS, CESI; Bentley Resources Inc. dba Roof Top
- Brad C. Schmoll, CFPS; Minneapolis Fire Department
- Jamie Swenor; Globe Technologies Corporation
- James Francis Valentine; Valentine & Associates
- Michael L. Watz Jr., PE; Greenheck Fan Corporation

**Q. What will the ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 standard do for IKECA?**

A. The C10-2011 standard establishes IKECA as a leader among those seeking to improve the fire-prevention and life-safety effectiveness of the kitchen exhaust cleaning industry.

**Q. What will the ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 standard do for my company?**

A. As a member of IKECA, you are identified as part of the IKECA mission of "cleaning to a higher standard." More tangibly, you

receive updates and continuing education on the standard from some of the leading experts who helped develop it.

**Q. Has ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 been adopted by anyone yet?**

A. It is proposed as an addition to the appendix of NFPA 96's next release in 2014. In addition, there is a proposal under consideration by the International Code Council to reference ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 in Section 609.3.3.2 of the International Fire Code. Finally, as you will read in this issue of the journal, it will also be referenced in the code of the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Q. Now that ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 is complete, can it be altered?**

A. Yes. In fact, ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 will never actually be "complete." Like NFPA 96, ANSI/IKECA C10-2011 is a living document and will be revised to keep up with new technology and methodology.

**Q. Where can I get more information on IKECA's standards activities?**

A. The IKECA's website, [www.ikeca.org](http://www.ikeca.org), has a "standards" page with more information.

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**Derek Breedlove  
704-716-7645**

[Derek.Breedlove@fleetmatics.com](mailto:Derek.Breedlove@fleetmatics.com)  
[Fleetmatics.com/IKECA](http://Fleetmatics.com/IKECA)

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