

THE EIGHT COMMANDMENTS FOR STANDARDIZATION

At the Philadelphia (USA) General Meeting in 1954, a small group of delegates wrote down a few points summarizing their collective experience of standardization work. These have become known, in lighter vein, as the "Eight Commandments for Standardization" and have been both widely circulated privately and published in a number of magazines. Since many present-day participants in IEC meetings may not have seen them, we are taking the liberty of distributing them once again for their delectation!

. STANDARDIZATION MEANS SACRIFICE.

Do not enter here with the intention that all your own ideas will be realized.

. "THIS IS OUR STANDARD PRACTICE" IS NO ARGUMENT.

The practice in other countries may be equally good.

. EACH PROPOSAL HAS TO BE JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

Experience and unbiased judgement must be taken fully into account.

. IF THE IDEAL SOLUTION CANNOT BE REACHED AT THIS MOMENT, WE MUST ADOPT THE BEST COMPROMISE.

This is better than no decision at all.

. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE A DECISION FOR YOUR OWN COUNTRY, DO NOT CONDEMN THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.

It may conflict with your own national regulations but internationally be of great help. Perhaps in the future it may be adopted also in your own country.

. DO NOT INSIST ON DISCUSSING MATTERS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE.

We have no time to spare.

. DO NOT TRY TO CHANGE THE SEQUENCE OF PARAGRAPHS OR ARGUE ABOUT EDITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Editing Committee will be glad to correct any errors or to consider major rearrangements in the next edition.

. STANDARDIZATION MEANS CO-OPERATION.

If we now succeed, all parties will have great moral and material profit.