



## Technical Data

# Industry Standards – Wiring Device Standards

sold and used in countries B through to Z. IEC's standards are vital since they also represent the core of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), whose 100-plus central government members explicitly recognize that international standards play a critical role in improving industrial efficiency and developing world trade.

### **The National Electrical Code® (NEC®)**

The NEC is developed by NFPA's Committee on the National Electrical Code®, which consists of 19 Code-Making Panels and a Technical Correlating Committee. Work on the NEC is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NEC is approved as an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). It is formally identified as ANSI/NFPA 70.

First published in 1897, the NEC is updated and published every three years. The 2011 edition will be published in October 2010. Most states adopt the most recent edition within a couple of years of its publication. As with any "uniform" code, a few jurisdictions regularly omit or modify some sections, or add their own requirements (sometimes based upon earlier versions of the NEC, or locally accepted practices). However, the NEC is the least amended model code, even with it setting minimum standards. No court has faulted anyone for using the latest version of the NEC, even when the local code was not updated to the most recent edition.

### **National Electrical Manufacturers Association**

**(NEMA®)** An organization of over 450 manufacturers of electrical equipment, including, but not limited to, wiring devices, wire and cable, conduit, load centers, pressure wire connectors, circuit breakers, fuses, etc. NEMA is the "voice" of the electrical industry, and through it standards for electrical.

Generally these standards promote interchangeability between products of one manufacturer with like products made by another manufacturer. In some cases, standards relating to product "performance" are also formulated by NEMA but these are the exception rather than the rule.

NEMA standards are not compulsory, but generally are accepted by those manufacturers that help to

write them as a way of making their products more saleable and acceptable. However, many NEMA standards, such as ANSI/NEMA WDL, are approved by the American Standards Institute and referenced by mandatory UL and CSA product standards. NEMA standards are utilized by many consumers in writing specifications for the materials they purchase. NEMA does not evaluate or certify products or enforce regulations.

### **General Services Administration Federal Supply Service (GSA) Federal Supply Service (FSS)**

provides federal customers with the products, services, and programs to meet their supply, service, procurement, vehicle purchasing and leasing, travel and transportation, and personal property management requirements. Hubbell offers devices listed by UL as FED SPEC and can be found throughout this catalog.

### **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

is a branch of the US Department of Labor which was created to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women. OSHA uses regulations from the Federal Register, NFPA and the National Electric Code to establish and enforce safety standards for the workplace. It is important to note: OSHA does NOT approve products. OSHA enforces existing safety regulations.

### **Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (CEC)**

The CEC is developed by the Committee on CE Code, Part I, composed of members representing inspection authorities, manufacturing and utilizing industries, utilities and allied interests. The Committee meets annually to address reports submitted by 43 Section subcommittees. Work on CE Code, Part I is sponsored by Canadian Standards Association. CSA Standards comprise the Canadian Electrical Code, Part II.

First published in 1927, the CE Code, Part I, is updated and published every three years prior to 2006 every four years. The 2011 CE Code, Part I, is the latest edition. As with any "uniform" code, provinces and a few jurisdictions regularly modify or add their own requirements.