



SESSION TITLE:

Striking A Chord: What are the best examples of standard harmonization for nations to emulate and at what point is one needed?

SPEAKER SUMMARIES:

Roland Risser, Director, Building Technologies Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy

- Introduced the purpose of the panel: to explore government efforts to collaborate internationally on the development and implementation of labeling, testing protocols, and minimum energy efficiency performance standards for appliances and equipment.

John Cockburn, Director, Equipment Division, Office of Energy Efficiency, Energy Sector; Natural Resources Canada

- Mr. Cockburn described Canada's active standards-setting program and strong compliance program which include marketplace audits. Canada has aligned 31 out of its 35 standards with the U.S. but there are a few necessary differences due to climate and other factors. Canada is also evaluating the potential for other harmonization on products that are traded internationally, such as electronics.

Jennifer Kim, Energy Specialist at Energy Efficiency Standardization & Certification Center, Korea Energy Management Corporation

- Ms. Kim noted that Korea's standard-setting agency has adopted international energy efficiency standards (ISO or IEC) for various products, including refrigerators and televisions. Korea is also involved in other international collaborative efforts, like Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and International Energy Agency, on energy efficiency for appliances and equipment.

Evan Gaddis, President & CEO, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

- Mr. Gaddis explained that NEMA is a standards-writing organization with a main focus on North America, though the organization also works on international standards. In order to accelerate smart grid deployment, NEMA developed a smart grid standard in 90 days in 2009. This expedited standard was necessary to overcome a threatened halt to U.S. smart grid projects by regulators who believed that a standard was a necessary prerequisite to deployment.

Stephen Pantano, Sr. Director of Global Programs, Collaborative Labeling & Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)

- Mr. Pantano explained that the CLASP organization is supporting the Super Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial. This initiative includes 16 countries interested in developing collaborative efforts on harmonization. Seven collaborative efforts have been developed, including TVs and solid-state lighting. The countries are sharing technical information, pursuing joint research, and establishing a community of practice around policy and implementation.

SESSION WRAP-UP

The panel focused on efforts for governments to collaborate internationally on issues involving appliance and equipment testing, labeling, and/or minimum performance standards. The participants emphasized that "harmonization" does not mean that all countries should be required to do the same thing, and they pointed out that climate differences and other factors drive legitimate differences in performance standards. However, they agreed that harmonization at various sublevels, such as product definition and testing standards, could provide significant benefits.



Panel members also emphasized that two product categories should receive a high priority in harmonization efforts: air conditioners and LEDs. Finally, the panel highlighted the importance of the work of the Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment Initiative (SEAD) of the 16 countries involved in the Clean Energy Ministerial.

ACTION ITEMS & TAKEAWAYS

- Air conditioning was cited by some panel members as the highest priority for harmonization because of rapidly increasing global demand and the challenging issues that arise because of differing climates. Solid-state lighting was also cited as a priority area.