



ANSI Committee on Education
Standardization Case Studies
ACCOMPANYING QUESTION AND ANSWER WORKSHEET

As appropriate, please suggest recommended study, test or quiz questions / answers to accompany the case study proposed above.

Proposed Question	How can an industry trade association affect the lives of parents and children on an everyday basis by helping develop and promoting codes and standards for a common household product?
Proposed Answer	Members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) addressed the problem of electrical shocks to children by promoting and advocating the adoption of codes and standards for tamper-resistant receptacles in homes. At the present time, more than 50 percent of the U.S. states have adopted the 2008 NEC standard requiring tamper-resistant receptacles in new home construction and other locations where children live and play. On an everyday basis, their actions protect small children from electrical injuries.

Proposed Question	What is one of the main obstacles to overcome for the introduction of a new product or feature when it is part of the overall electrical infrastructure?
Proposed Answer	Producing and installing a new or untested solution at very large product volumes creates uncertainty for manufacturers and for future compliance by large numbers of builders and end-users.

	Standardization and certification of the product by leading industry trade associations and testing organizations provides credibility for the product and ensures the proper use and adoption of the product.
--	--

Proposed Question	Why would it be difficult even for a very large company to promote by itself a new product/feature affecting the national infrastructure?
Proposed Answer	The lack of supporting codes and standards would make it difficult for any one company to affect the national infrastructure. Codes and standards developed in an open, consensus-based process are the key to wide-spread adoption and success. The standardization process also removes proprietary technology issues that may be associated with just one company. A joint effort by trade associations and testing organizations representing the overall industry is needed for supporting it through the entire codes and standards adoption process.

Proposed Question	Why is code approval so important in introducing new product/features affecting the infrastructure?
Proposed Answer	The entire process of code and standards approvals validates the solution and includes product testing. The review process by the industry helps gain and support approval and implementation of the code. Most importantly, once approved

	at state and municipality levels, the code commonly becomes the law mandating the usage of the product/features.
--	--