ASHRAE’s fundamental principles for guiding the identification and selection of interest categories for any PC align with ANSI Essential Requirements on balance: “The interest categories appropriate to the development of consensus in any given standards activity are a function of the nature of the standards being developed. Interest categories shall be discretely defined, cover all materially affected parties and differentiate each category from the other categories.” In defining the interest categories appropriate to a standards activity, consideration shall be given to at least the following:

a) **Producer**
b) **User**
c) **General**

Where appropriate, additional interest categories should be considered to ensure consensus of directly affected and interested parties related to a particular TPS. Further interest categories that may be used to categorize directly and materially affected persons consist of, but are not limited to, the following: a) Consumer; b) Directly affected public; c) Distributor and retailer; d) Industrial/commercial; e) Insurance; f) Labor; g) Professional society; h) Regulatory agency; i) Testing laboratory; j) Trade association.

Appropriate representative user views shall be actively sought and fully considered in standards activities. Whenever possible, user participants shall be those with the requisite technical knowledge, but other users may also participate. User participation should come from both individuals and representatives of organized groups. There are several user categories as examples:

1. **User-Consumer**: Where the standards activity in question deals with a consumer product, such as window room air conditioners or residential/commercial dehumidifiers, an appropriate consumer participant’s view is considered to be synonymous with that of the individual user – a person using goods and services rather than producing or selling them.

2. **User-Industrial**: Where the standards activity in question deals with an industrial product, such as chillers used for process cooling, an appropriate user participant is the industrial user of the product.

3. **User-Government**: Where the standards activity in question is likely to result in a standard that may become the basis for government agency procurement or a regulation applicable to government buildings, an appropriate user participant is the representative of that government agency.

4. **User-labor**: Where the standards activity in question deals with subjects of special interest to the employee/worker, such as products used in the workplace, an appropriate user participant is a representative of labor.

**INTEREST CATEGORY DEFINITIONS**

**Interest**: the perspective of a member of a project committee, as judged by his or her present and past sources of income, fees, or reimbursements of related expenses, in the context of the purpose and scope of the project committee. The perspective may also be judged by the recorded views of the individual, or of any organization he/she is employed by or of which he/she is a member.

**Interest categories**: the principal (top) tier of interest classifications. For some standards projects, it may be appropriate to designate subcategories of one or more interest category.

**DEFAULT INTEREST CATEGORIES**

**Producer**: A member who represents the interest of those that produce materials, products, systems, or services covered in the project scope.

**User**: A member who represents the interest of those that purchase or use materials, products, systems, or services other than for household use covered in the project scope.

**General**: A member who cannot be categorized in any other approved interest category covered in the project scope.

**OTHER PROJECT COMMITTEE SPECIFIC APPROVED INTEREST CATEGORIES** *(Project Committee #)*

**Analytical or Consulting Services**: - A member who provides analytical or consulting services relative to specifications in the standard (approved by SPLS 8.2.2012) 188

**Appliance, Residential Automation, and Consumer Electronics Producer**: Those directly concerned with the production or distribution of products or services involved with residential appliances, or energy control applications in residences, including industry associations representing producers or distributors, or those receiving substantial support from a producer directly concerned. 201

**Compliance**: Persons primarily interested in compliance with the standard. A person in this category would make their living from developing regulations, enforcing the requirements of the standard, developing programs tied to the standard, or advocating the standard. Example members of this category would be building code officials, building code organizations, state energy offices, and other local, state, and federal officials. 90.1, 90.2, 189.1

**Commercial/Institutional/Industrial Producer**: Those directly concerned with the production or distribution of the products or services used in commercial, institutional, or industrial facilities, including industry associations representing producers or distributors, or those receiving substantial support from a producer directly concerned. 201

**Consumers – Residential, Commercial, and Industrial**: those who use the product or service involved, or those who receive substantial support from a user directly concerned, but are not involved with its production or distribution. This reference is not to users of the standard, but to users of the product or service covered by the standard. 201

**Consulting Engineer/Contractor/Architect**: Professionals involved with the design and installation systems containing refrigerants. 34

**Designer**: A designer of buildings, building systems or subsystems (including envelope, HVAC, lighting). A person in this category would make their living from designing buildings and systems that are impacted by the standard. Example members of this category
would be architects, design firms, consulting engineers, lighting designers and employees of energy consulting firms. 15, 90.1, 90.2, 110, 189.1, 189.2

**Designer:** A person that designs hospitals and does not work for a hospital. 170

**Designer/Builder:** Those who provide building design and construction services, including consulting engineers, HVAC and general contractors, design/build contractors, or representatives of associations of these types of professionals. 62.1, 62.2

**Flight Personnel:** Individuals who are employed by the airlines as part of the aircraft crew (pilots and flight attendants) or individuals employed by the airlines to maintain the aircraft, and organizations that represent these individuals. 161

**General (Default Definition):** A member who cannot be categorized in any other approved interest category covered in the project scope.

- **General:** Members indirectly involved in the equipment supply chain, mostly consultants, independent test labs, etc. G23
- **General:** Those who have interests other than those described elsewhere, and may include consulting engineers or employees of appropriate government agencies, nationally recognized testing laboratories or educational institutions, and codes-oriented individuals. 201
- **General:** All others not considered Producers or Users, including primarily preparers and executors of DDC specifications such as HVAC design engineers, independent control system designers, and commissioning agents. (Approved by SPLS January 2004) G13

**Industry:** Construction firms or manufacturers, producers, or distributors of products or systems that would be installed in buildings. A person in this category would make their living from constructing buildings or producing or distributing products impacted by this standard or representing groups of manufacturers impacted by this standard. Example members of this category would be contractors, manufacturing firms, assembly firms, distributors and wholesalers, and industry trade associations that represent these groups. 90.1, 90.2, 189.1, 189.2

**Infection Control Practitioner:** Works for a hospital or health care organization but may be an independent contractor in the business of infection control. 170

**Manufacturers:** Employees or representatives of manufacturers, distributors or trade associations of HVAC equipment, HVAC controls, and equipment designed to enhance indoor air quality (e.g. air cleaners). Also, individuals associated with products used in the construction of buildings (e.g., finishes, wall and floor coverings, wood products) and used within buildings by occupants (e.g., furniture and furnishings, tobacco products, appliances, office equipment). 35, 62.1, 62.2, 110, 161, 164, 184

**Manufacturer:** A member who produces equipment used in building water systems that are affected by compliance with the standard (approved by SPLS 8.2.2012) 188

**Manufacturer/Filter:** Individual is employed by a company that produces finished air filtration products using base air filtration media as one of the components. 52.2

**Manufacturer/Media:** Individual is employed by a company that produces base air filtration media only. 52.2

**Operator:** Individuals employed by a commercial passenger airline in a management or technical support role. May also include trade associations representing commercial airlines. 161

**Owner/Operator:** Employees or representatives of building owners, managers, engineers, or campus type facility owners, and managers or engineers who specialize in working in existing buildings. These individuals are frequently involved in modifications or upgrades to existing buildings or facilities, and may be involved as an owner in the construction of new buildings. 15

**Owners/Operators/Occupants:** Employees or representatives of building owners/managers, building engineers, facility managers, and consultants who specialize in working in existing buildings (as opposed to those who design and construct new buildings), as well as representatives of building occupants. 62.1, 62.2

**Passenger:** Individuals who pay to ride on aircraft, and the organizations that represent these individuals. 161

**Producer (Default Definition):** A member who represents the interest of those that produce materials, products, systems, or services covered in the project scope.

**Producer:** Anyone representing a manufacturer of equipment used for smoke management. (Approved by StdC NYC) G1.5

**Producer:** Manufacturers, distributors, or installer of products that are specified in a DDC specification, including control systems, sensors, actuators, valves, and front-end or 3rd party software. (Approved by SPLS January 2004) G13

**Producer/Refrigerant:** an individual who represents a company that produces or sells refrigerants used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems (approved by SPLS 6.26.15) 34

**Supplier:** Employees of firms that provide maintenance services for HVAC systems owned by others. This would include engineers and consultants with a primary job scope of specifying or supervising maintenance of HVAC systems owned by others. It would especially include contractors and technicians who actually perform HVAC system services for hire. This group may also include representatives of associations the membership of which falls in this category. G1.2, G13, G20, 63.1, 191

**Supplier:** Members who represent major components and completed HVAC equipment suppliers. G23

**Tester:** A member who is employed by an independent test laboratory concerned with testing the specific type of components or systems covered in the project scope. It is important to note that anyone classified in this category cannot be employed by a manufacturer of the system or component being tested. If that is the case, that person needs to be reclassified as Producer, as he/she represents the interest of the employer. (Approved by SPLS Dallas 1/2013) 110
**User:** Users of buildings and building systems and subsystems. A person in this category would make their living from owning or operating buildings. Example members of this category would be building owners and operators (private and governmental), tenants, and trade associations or organizations representing these groups. 189.1

**User (Default Definition):** A member who represents the interest of those that purchase or use materials, products, systems, or services other than for household use covered in the project scope.

**User:** Anyone using the document for commissioning smoke management systems, including designers of smoke management systems who specify commissioning methods appropriate to the design of the system. (Approved by StdC NYC) G1.5

**User:** Party for whom the DDC specifications are written, including building owners, plant engineers, energy services companies, and general contractors and other contractors other than the controls contractor or installer. (Approved by SPLS January 2004) G13

**User:** Members who build and supply completed rail transit vehicles and who purchase and apply HVAC systems to the vehicles. G23

**User/Components:** an individual who represents a company that manufactures or sells components that are used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems that use refrigerants (approved by SPLS 6.26.15) 34

**User/Systems:** an individual who represents a company that manufactures, assembles or sells air conditioning and refrigeration systems that make use of refrigerants (approved by SPLS 6.26.15) 34

**Utility:** Those who provide energy services to buildings impacted by this standard. A person in this category would make their living from providing energy services to a building impacted by this standard. Example members of this category would be electric, gas, steam, or other utility and trade associations or organizations representing these groups. G1.2, 90.1, 90.2, 189.1, 201

**Vehicle Buyer/Operator:** Members who represent rail transit operating authorities (e.g. Amtrak, WMATA etc) who specify and purchase completed transit vehicles.

**Water Treatment Provider -** A member who provides treatment of building water systems that are affected by compliance with the standard (approved by SPLS 8.2.2012) 188