Codes & Standards Advocacy

CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH LEADERSHIP IN NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PHYSICAL ASSETS

Plant Operations continues to lead the nation in leveraging the economic footprint of the $300 billion US education facilities industry to add value to campus infrastructure at all State of Michigan campuses and every educational institution and university-affiliated health care system in the United States. These results owe much to its mastery of the American national standards development process; coordinated with a growing number of like-minded institutions. Beginning with a single vote on the National Electrical Code in 1997 a network of nearly 100 subject matter experts has grown to respond smartly to new regulatory concepts and to drive new concepts of its own into infrastructure markets where our industry is a significant stakeholder. The financial success of this enterprise is summarized in the figure below.

These results find their inspiration in the thousands work points for which Plant Operations is responsible—backflow prevention; emergency eyewash and showers, fire dampers, integrated fire protection and smoke control systems, sprinkler system construction, steam traps, carpet cleaning, material recycling, illumination safety, elevators, electro-mobility, emergency generators, electrical wiring, and power system reliability, and in many other technologies. The trend will continue to accelerate as we persist in driving safety and sustainability concepts into the product, installation, operations and maintenance standards governed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Two advocacy achievements during the past year are noteworthy:

- Success in changing the 2014 National Electrical Code so that less electrical energy is brought into every building. This drives down the first cost of constructing the entire electrical power chain and reduces operational hazards significantly.
- Success in catalyzing the creation of an American national standard for the custodial industry that will result in significant reduction to the total cost of ownership when benchmarks have a national standard in support of public health and workplace safety.

UM is now the only university in our industry with a member appointed to the National Fire Protection Association Research Foundation—one of the highest positions of influence in our industry. This position gives the University a leading voice in the direction of safety and sustainability research in the US. A workgroup is now in action to discover the degree to which the University of Michigan may strengthen its leadership in infrastructure standards by engaging proactively with all ANSI members that are stakeholders in our industry. The gains to the University will accumulate in all dimensions of value delivery.