Avoiding multiple certification & testing through multilateral schemes

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1.
The IEC and conformity assessment (CA)
To achieve its mission, the IEC works
- through its National Committee members,
- through cooperative agreements, and
- directly

The IEC offers both standards development and conformity assessment services

IEC standards are suitable for 1st, 2nd and 3rd-party CA

The IEC ... promotes use by industry and recognition by regulators of the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems
Goals of IEC CA

- One test, one certification, one mark (where relevant)
- Remove delays and costs of multiple testing and approval
  - Industry can get its products to market more quickly and with less expense
- Reduce trade barriers caused by different certification criteria in various countries and help industry to open up new markets
- Help to ensure a fair global trading system in accordance with WTO
Structure of the IEC

IEC COUNCIL
Full Member National Committees

COUNCIL BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(IEC Officers)

STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT BOARD (SMB)
Management of consensus International Standards work

MARKET STRATEGY BOARD (MSB)
Technology watch / market priorities

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BOARD (CAB)
Management of conformity assessment policy and Systems

IECEE
IECEX
IECQ

Management Advisory Committees

Technical Committees
Technical Advisory Committees
Strategic Groups

Central Office (The Executive)

Legislative
Decision-making
Executive
Advisory
Structure of IEC Conformity Assessment

IEC Conformity Assessment Systems

IECEE
System for conformity testing and certification of electrotechnical equipment and components

IECEx
System for certification to standards for electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres

IECQ
Approval and certification system for electronic components

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BOARD
• Policy
• Strategy
• Projects

Working groups
2. The IEC Conformity Assessment Systems
Avoiding multiple certification & testing

- Test reports and certificates of conformity accepted by all members of a System
- Conformity assessment reports issued by National Certification Body (NCB) in one country accepted by NCBs in other member countries for purposes of national certification

Resulting in:
- Reduced testing and certification costs
- Capacity to eliminate multiple national certifications
- Portable conformity assessment
Neither IEC nor the Systems carry out testing or issue certificates

Testing is carried out by testing laboratories accepted by the Systems

Certificates are issued by certification body members of the Systems

The Systems provide an ordered framework in which certification bodies and testing laboratories operate

Acceptance into the Systems of certification bodies and testing laboratories is by peer assessment

IEC exercises oversight of the operations of the Systems
The Systems are

- Product-based, not system-based, although IECQ has a system component
- Users of IEC international standards but structured to accommodate national differences
- Membership organizations
- Governed by the members
- Self-financing
- Managed by IEC staff
- Overseen by the IEC Conformity Assessment Board
Principles

- **Openness**
  - All may use the Systems (like IEC Standards)
  - All who undertake to follow rules may become members
  - Transparent, democratic
    - All decisions are taken by members
    - All rules are written down, approved & published

- **Mutual recognition**
  - Also called “reciprocal acceptance”

- **Peer assessment**
Principle: Openness

- **Use: requesting certification**
  - Open to any manufacturer anywhere in the world
  - Non-IEC-member country is OK too
- **Membership: implies mutual recognition, allows co-decision**
  - Open to any certification body
  - Open to any testing laboratory
  - Non-IEC-member country is OK too
Each member *commits* to:
- Recognizing all the others’ certificates or test results
- Publishing national differences
- Declaring what equipment is covered

No member may require re-testing
- Hence money is saved

Confidence and reliability are needed
- Else no-one would recognize your tests
- Else you wouldn’t be able to rely on the others’ tests – *see Peer Assessment*
Principle: Mutual Recognition 2

**Bilateral recognition**

- n(n-1)/2 relations
- 1260 assessments
- 630 agreements

**Multilateral agreement**

- n relations
- 36 assessments
- 1 agreement

Example:

N = 36
Principle: Peer Assessment

- Assessments are essential
  - To demonstrate competence
  - To ensure quality
  - To create and keep mutual confidence
  - *See Mutual Recognition 1*

- Carried out by peers
  - Other cert. bodies, other laboratories
  - Competitors, but they are in same situation
  - Similar experiences, training, competence

- Another assessment method is *accreditation*
Thank you.