# Alignment of Standards & Labels: Opportunities and Challenges

Presented by:

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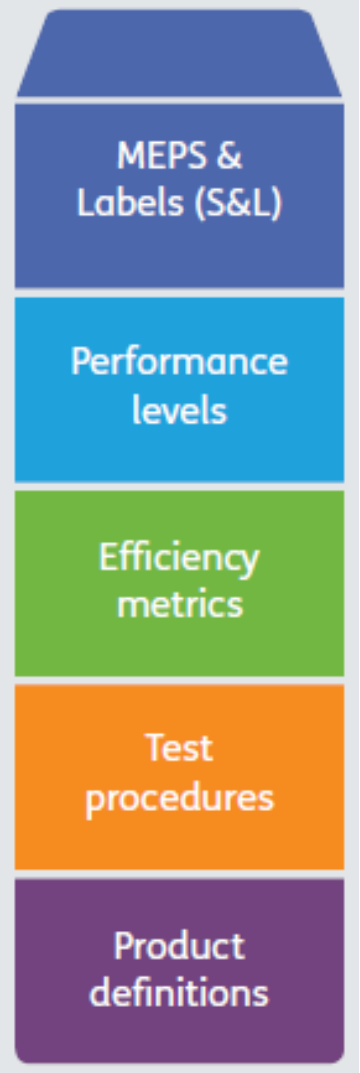
# Why Align?

- Makes results comparable
- Reduces policy development costs
- Allows for faster and less expensive testing
- Simplifies customs procedures among countries
- Facilitates the development of Mutual Recognition Agreements
- Reduces costs and compliance burden for manufacturers

Energy efficiency policies are aligned when test procedures used to measure the energy use of a product reference an internationally recognized test method.

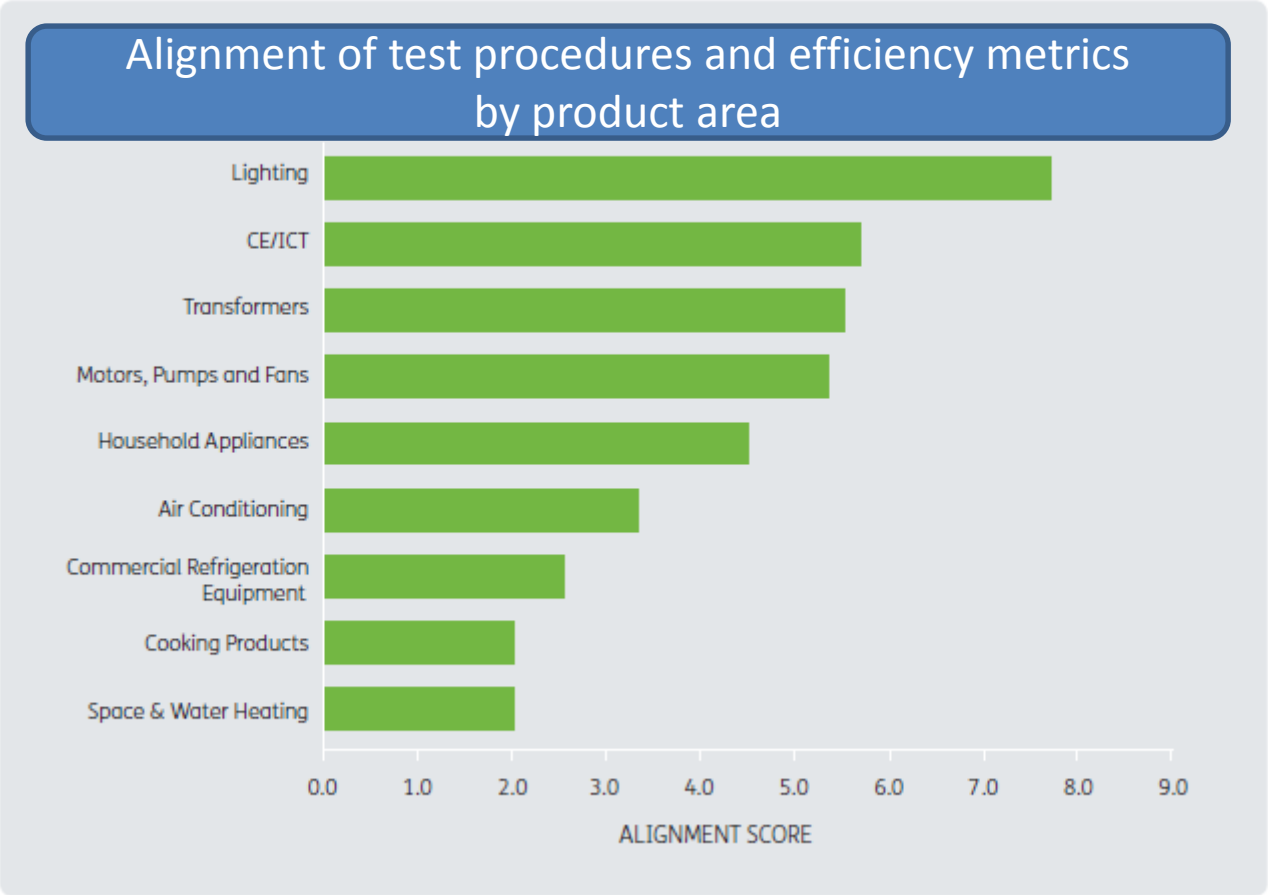
# S&L Policy Components




*CLASP, Improving Global Comparability, 2014*

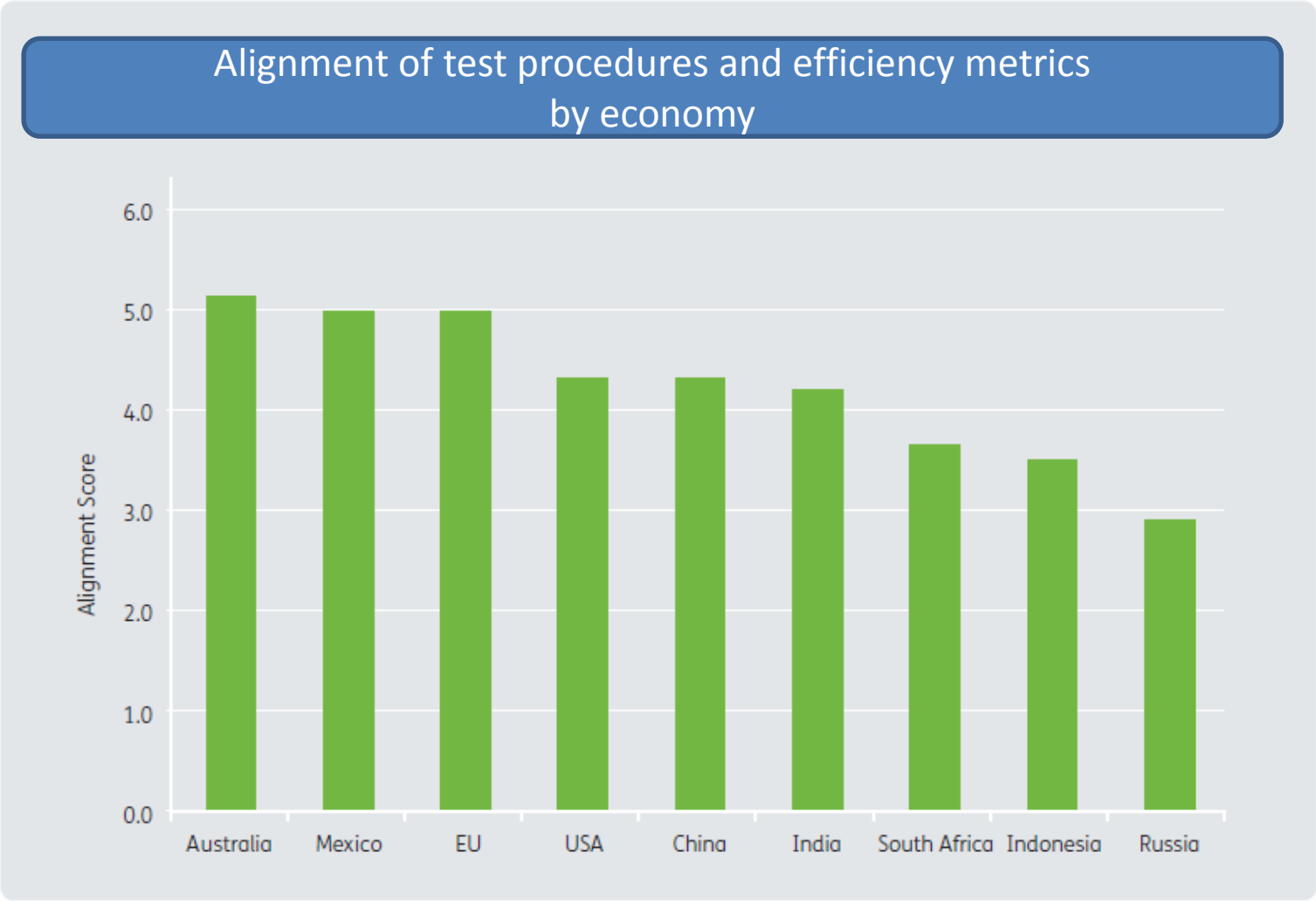
- **MEPS & Labels (S&L)**: Regulations include all components described below.
- **Energy performance levels**: Thresholds that a product's efficiency metric must meet
- **Efficiency metrics**: Translation of test procedure results into an energy performance indicator
- **Test procedures**: How to determine the energy consumption of a product
- **Product definitions**: Define what is included in regulations for a specific product.

# Alignment and comparability vary by product area




Improving Global Comparability (2014), Summary for Policy Makers

# Alignment also varies by economy



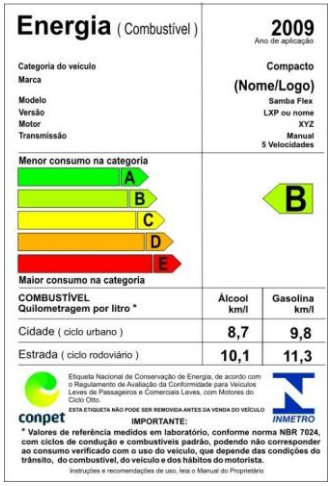

Improving Global Comparability (2014), Summary for Policy Makers

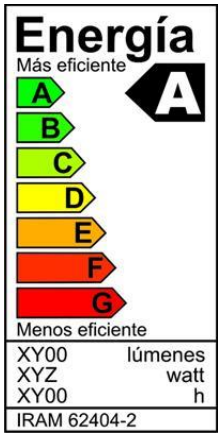
# Alignment in Latin America

- S&L programs in Latin America
  - Mexico
    - Focus is on minimum energy performance standards
    - Standards, test procedures, and label design are well aligned with the US
    - Model for Central American programs
  - South American countries
    - Started with voluntary /mandatory labelling schemes
    - MEPS have been introduced more recently
    - Most countries' label designs are similar to the EU categorical label
    - Most national standards are well aligned with ISO and IEC

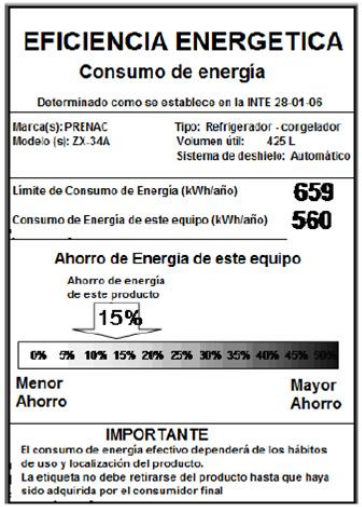
# Alignment in Latin America

- Test standards used in the region include:
  - Normas Brasileiras (NBR);
  - US Department of Energy;
  - Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOM);
  - Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT);
  - Other international, regional and national standards







# Why not align?

Alignment is not always practical or feasible. Some important differences among economies contribute to variations in policy coverage and stringency, such as:

- ✓ Climate conditions
- ✓ Energy prices
- ✓ Product ownership
- ✓ Product usage patterns

The performance of air conditioners varies across climatic conditioners. Test procedures may diverge to reflect local or regional conditions.

# Examples of International Alignment

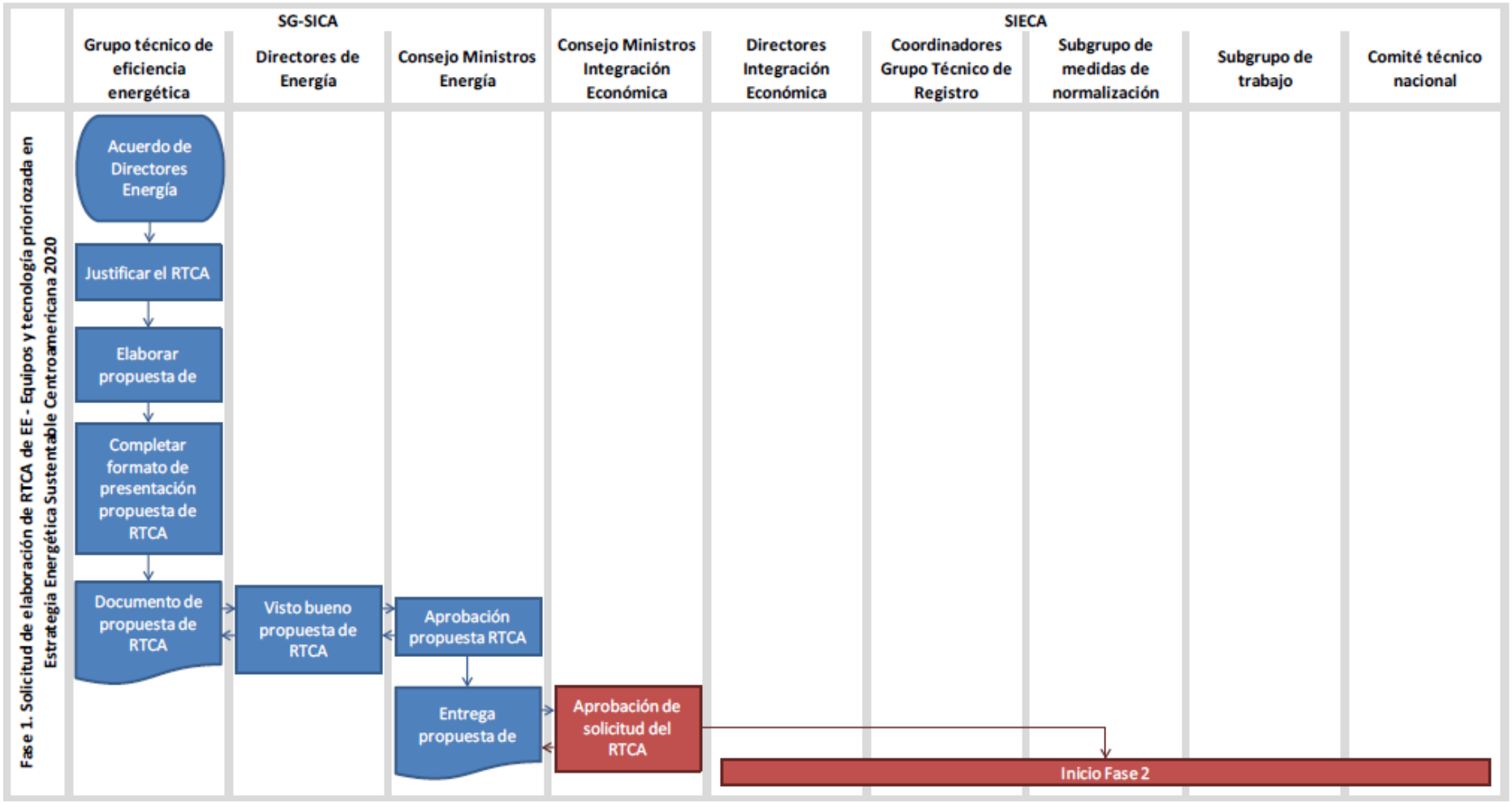
- Motors
  - IEC 60034-30 standard establishes efficiency tiers
  - Countries can easily increase stringency to accommodate changes in market and technologies
  - Standards are comparable across economies

- ENERGY STAR
  - A voluntary endorsement label established by the US EPA and has been adopted by Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Taiwan.
  - Reduces burden for private sector participation

# Regional Energy Efficiency Standards (RTCA) in Central America

- The USAID Clean Energy Regional Initiative prepared a roadmap towards regional harmonization of EE standards, for:
  - specifications,
  - labeling, and
  - conformity assessment procedures
- Workplan
  - **Phase 1: Request to elaborate a RTCA**
    responsibility of a Technical Group to be assigned by the Energy Directors with the approval of the Council of Ministers of Energy under the Central American Integration System (SICA)
  - **Phase 2: Preparation and promulgation of the RTCA**
    responsibility of the Council of Ministers of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA, in Spanish, *Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana*)

# Phase 1 - Request to elaborate a RTCA



# Strategic Framework for the Harmonization of EE Standards for ACs in ASEAN

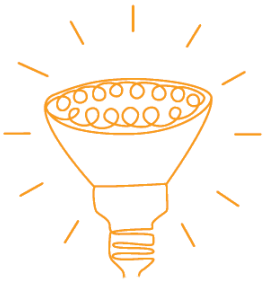
## Action Plan

- **WP1**: Establishment of the EU-ASEAN Energy Efficiency Standards Harmonization Initiative
- **WP2**: Harmonize standards for testing methods (Co-funding by APEC)
- **WP3**: Recommend MEPS and HEPS and develop regional policy roadmap
- **WP4**: Develop national policy roadmaps for MEPS and HEPS
- **WP5**: Capacity building for testing laboratories
- **WP6**: Capacity building for AC manufacturers
- **WP7**: Consumer awareness

Source: ICA Asia

# Lighting

Lighting products are generally globally traded, including general service lamps, high-intensity discharge lamps, linear florescent lamps, and LEDs. This makes them a good candidate for global harmonization.



## Alignment Opportunities

- Align generic performance levels as part of an international standard
- Create aligned quality characteristics to ensure customer satisfaction in the transition to energy efficient lighting technologies
- Leverage international partnerships (i.e. en.lighten)

# Key Takeaways

- Harmonization reduces trade barriers and can lower the costs of implementing an S&L program
- Harmonization is not always feasible or desirable due to differences in climate conditions, culture, or energy prices
- Regional harmonization can help address barriers such as small markets and limited institutional capacity.

# Discussion Questions

- How do you choose what test procedures to align national standards to?
- What challenges have you faced when trying to align local test procedures to international test procedures?
- How do you engage with international standards bodies? How is this engagement relevant to energy efficiency policy?
- How can you integrate more countries in alignment efforts?
- Would the CARICOM or other regions consider using a regional approach to alignment S&L policies?
- How do you prioritize products for alignment?

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# Thank you!

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# Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

- MRAs simplify cross-border trade in products that must be tested and inspected.
- Intergovernmental MRAs
  - Cover products regulated by the government sector
  - Can be bilateral or multilateral
  - Example: APEC Electrical Mutual Recognition Agreement
- Technical MRAs
  - Establish technical equivalency among bodies in different countries
  - The agreements can cover laboratory accreditation, inspection accreditation, and testing certification.
  - Technical MRAs eliminate the need for retesting a product in a foreign country.
  - Example: EU and US