ITI advocates for public policies that advance innovation, open markets, and enable the transformational economic, societal, and commercial opportunities that our companies are creating.

Our members represent the entire spectrum of technology: from internet companies, to hardware and networking equipment manufacturers, to software developers.
Trade of ICT products is especially affected by standards and conformity assessment requirements, because ICT products typically:

- Are designed for the global market
- Have a large number of components and rely on global supply chains
- Are constantly evolving in response to user demands and technological advances
- Are deployed in a wide and varied array of scenarios and sectors
- Are highly configurable. (One product family can have hundreds of different configurations.)
Manufacture a single product for the global market.

+ Test one time to a globally recognized standard.

+ Meet conformity assessment requirements that are risk-based and least trade restrictive to meet legitimate regulatory objectives.

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Over 80 countries have product regulations for safety, electromagnetic compatibility (interference), telecom, and environmental approvals.

- Most countries reference international standards/specifications. Some have national standards with significant deviations.
- Many accept test results from any competent (e.g. accredited) lab. Others require testing be performed by local designated labs.
- Many accept Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity. Others require third-party certification by designated bodies.
- Some require factory audits and accept results from other certification bodies. Others require that they conduct the audits themselves.
- Many conduct market surveillances. Many others do not.

The result: A patchwork of regulations (duplicating, conflicting, diverging) that work counter to having an efficient and effective program that maximizes worldwide leverage and minimizes cost.

The Reality: A Complex Challenge
The ITI Model

• Work directly with all stakeholders, including regulators, trade officials, et al.
• Public consultations (national and international)
• Work within and across industries, when appropriate
• Leverage regional and technical expertise with global oversight and consistency
Approaches to CA

- **Multilateral**
  - Public (Trade agreements, NAFTA, TPP, Pacific Alliance, MRAs)
  - Private (IECEE CB Scheme, ILAC)

- **Bilateral**
  - Similar to above, but must be repeated to create economies of scale and global consistency

- **Unilateral**
  - (Unique requirements OR accept established CA from elsewhere)
Recommendations

- Determine need for voluntary or mandatory requirements
- Seek alignment of requirements worldwide
- Seek input from industry and other stakeholders
- Understand and take into account the global nature of the ICT industry and its products
- Consider timelines for adoption, implementation, and transitions
- Follow a risk-based conformity assessment model
- Leverage existing international resources and agreements
- Set minimal marking/labeling requirements

Bottom Line: Both industry and economies have much to gain or lose.
Where we go from here…

- Keeping CA relevant and up-to-date
- Emerging technologies (IoT, cyber…)
- Product testing and certification???
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