# Conformity Assessment: An Industry Perspective

Presentation by Josh Rosenberg

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

- o Our members represent the entire spectrum of technology: from internet companies, to hardware and networking equipment manufacturers, to software developers.

# The Global Voice of the Tech Sector

# Conformity Assessment: The Impact on Trade in ICT

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.)

# The Goal: A Simple Equation

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.

**=**

# The Reality: A Complex Challenge

- 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 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…

o Keeping CA relevant and up-to-date

o Emerging technologies (IoT, cyber…)

o Product testing and certification???

# Thank You

Contact Information:

Josh Rosenberg
Director, Global Policy
Information Technology Industry Council
jrosenberg@itic.org
+1.202.626.5738