

Questionnaire

CONFORMITY AND INTEROPERABILITY ASSESSMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS:

Collaboration among Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Establishing a Common Conformance and Interoperability Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements

This questionnaire has been devised to capture critical country-specific information needed to understand the frameworks and context for telecommunications/ICT equipment conformity in the Caribbean, with a view to proposing a Common Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) and/or the establishment of regional test centers, as appropriate.

The questionnaire comprises two main sections. Section One focusses on understanding the regulatory framework and infrastructure, along with the provisions that have been established for accreditation and certification in each Caribbean country. In Section Two, general sector, demographic and economic information is requested on each country, in order to provide an appropriate context for the review process and for a common C&I Regime that will be proposed.

Instruction: Please answer all questions.

SECTION ONE

1. Regulatory Framework and Institutions (Per Country)

- ❖ Is there any regulatory framework and regulation which establishes technical requirements for products and services to be legally imported and deployed in the marketplace?

If yes, what products/services/areas does it cover? (indicate all that apply)

	Service/product/areas covered	YES	NO
1	ICT/telecom products and services (i.e. network and terminal equipment)		
2	Electrical/electronic apparatus		
3	Environmental requirements		
4	Other		

- ❖ If yes, indicate the Conformity Assessment Schemes adopted for market entry (check all that apply)
 - Certification
 - self-declaration
 - third party declaration (through conformity assessment body)
 - labelling
 - Use of proxies such as IEC, FCC, ETSI, etc
 - others (specify)_____
- ❖ Are these Conformity Assessment Schemes based on the ISO/CASCO set of Guidelines and standards?

- ❖ If there is legislation and regulation dealing with ICT and telecom products and services and related areas such as electrical safety and environmental issues, how is it applied? Is it compulsory or voluntary?
- ❖ Where such legislation and regulation exists does it permit delegation of authorities to foreign entities under arrangements such as Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on Conformity Assessment e.g. for certification?
- ❖ Is there a national standards system and national standards development organisation (SDOs)? (indicate YES/NO in the following table)

	YES	NO
National standards system		
SDO		

- ❖ Where such SDOs exist are they committed to adoption of international standards wherever possible rather than developing national standards which may deviate from the international ones?
- ❖ Is there Metrology legislation and any National Institute of Metrology responsible to maintain the national measurement standards in the country; to establish and maintain their metrological traceability to the units of the International System of Units (SI)?

	YES	NO
Metrology legislation exists?		
National Metrology institute for national measurement and their traceability to international units		

- ❖ If Metrology legislation exists in your country does it permit delegation of authorities to foreign entities under arrangements such as MRAs e.g. for calibration of equipment?
- ❖ Is there any Institution responsible for the Development of conformity assessment programs?
- ❖ If, YES, which areas of conformity assessment does it cover? (indicate all areas that apply)

	Areas covered by conformance assessment programs	YES	NO	M*	V^
1	Products				
2	Processes				
3	Services				
4	Personnel				

* indicate whether conformance assessment in this area is mandatory (M)

^ indicate whether conformance assessment in this area is voluntary (V)

What are these Institutions involved in the development of conformance assessment programs?

- ❖ What are the possible resources from National/Regional/International Funds to assist private and public sector to invest in infrastructure, e.g., Labs and human resources? (list all)
- ❖ Is there legislation and regulation which establishes importation requirements for products and services such as ICTs including telecom products, electrical safety and environmental aspects
- ❖ How is importation control of the products entering the country/region enforced e.g. at point of entry, spot checks and post market surveillance?
- ❖ Is there a post market surveillance, audit and enforcement regime established for products entering the country/region, and deployed in the country/region, and a schedule of punishments for infractions?
- ❖ What actions, if any, are undertaken to identify counterfeit products and what actions are taken to remove such products from the marketplace and to deal with parties responsible for bringing them into, or deploying them in the country/region?
 - *counterfeit products are identified by (list all means):*
 - *the actions taken to remove counterfeit products include (list/state all):*
 - *action taken against parties that bring into and deploy counterfeit products include (list all action):*

2. Accreditation

- ❖ Is there any Accreditation Body (ISO/IEC 17011) (not only in ICT)?
- ❖ In which field/s does it accredit organisations and with what scopes?

	Accreditation body	Field (e.g. telecom)	Scope (e.g. products/ services/personnel etc)
1			
2			
3			
4			

3. Laboratories

- ❖ What are the Laboratories identified in the country/region and what service levels do they provide (e.g. 1st, 2nd and 3rd party testing)?
- ❖ Are they (Labs) Accredited (ISO 17025) or is there any kind of peer evaluation of the lab?
- ❖ What are the fields and scopes of such Labs?
- ❖ How is the laboratory funded? (by Government, Organisations and Individuals). Indicate all that apply

4. Certification Bodies And Marking

- ❖ What Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17065) are in the country, where are they located?
- ❖ What are the fields and scopes of the Certification Bodies? (eg ICTs and Telecom)
- ❖ What Marks of conformity are on products in your country/region that are trusted – i.e. trusted Marks e.g. EU, FCC, IEC etc

SECTION TWO

5. General Sector Information

- ❖ To what extent is your country's telecoms sector liberalised?
- ❖ What segments of the telecoms market are regulated?
- ❖ What segments of the telecoms market are unregulated?
- ❖ Is telecoms equipment manufactured (or assembled) locally? If Yes, what are the devices and what standards are followed?
- ❖ How many telecoms/ICT equipment vendor/supplier are there in the local market?
- ❖ Are there any controls or requirements for an entity to be a vendor/supplier of telecoms/ICT equipment in your country?
- ❖ What volume of telecoms/ICT equipment imports – in terms of number of devices and/or value – was reported in 2013 in your country?
- ❖ To what extent is telecoms/ICT equipment (a) repaired, (b) re-purposed and (c) recycled, in your country?
- ❖ What happens to telecoms/ICT equipment at end of life in your country?

6. Demographics

- ❖ Population (Total):
- ❖ Official Languages:

7. Economy

- ❖ Gross Domestic Product (GDP):
- ❖ Main industries:
- ❖ Exports (value):
- ❖ Export Goods:
- ❖ Main Export Partners:
- ❖ Imports (value):
- ❖ Import Goods:
- ❖ Main Import Partners:
- ❖ Foreign Direct Investment (value):
- ❖ Gross External Debt (country specific):
- ❖ Public Debt (country specific) :
- ❖ Foreign Reserves (country specific):