The ITU Conformity & Interoperability Programme

**Training Course on C&I for AFR
Tunis 28 October – 1 November 2013**

ITU C&I Programme Pillars
3 and 4

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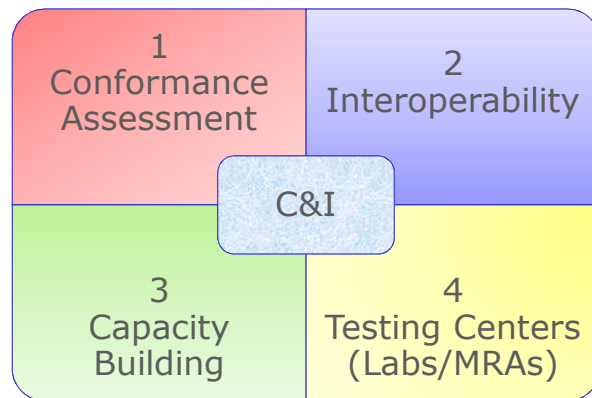ITU-BDT, riccardo.passerini@itu.int

C&I Programme

- To tackle different obstacles to the achievement of conformity and interoperability, expressed by member states in ITU`s Decisions.

C&I Task Force

Regional Presence

"The four Pillars"

1 Conformance Assessment	2 Interoperability
3 Capacity Building	4 Testing Centers (Labs/MRAs)

C&I

Background and Context

- **ICT users have certain expectations regarding interoperability of products and services (regardless of who is the manufacturer or service provider)**

- **International Standards, national regulation and compliance**

- **Conformance assessment increases the probability of interoperability**

Problems faced

- **Lack of performance and of compliance to conformity and interoperability requirements**

- **Market with large percentage of counterfeit products**

- **Developing Countries linked to one vendor; poor market competition and lack of technology neutrality**
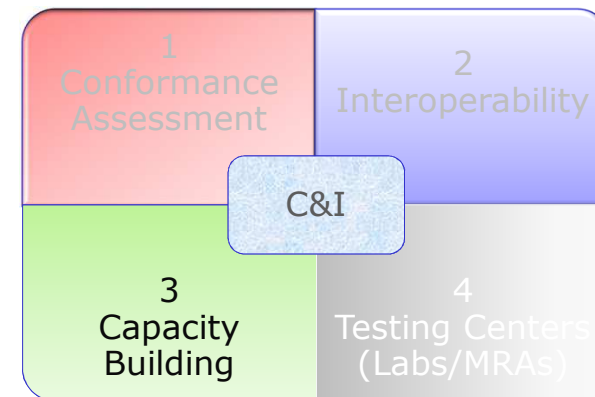
Conformity Assessment benefits

- **Conformity assessment builds consumers' trust and confidence in tested products and consequently strengthens business environment and, thanks to interoperability, the economy benefits from business stability, scalability and cost reduction of systems, equipment and tariffs.**

- **While economically Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) increase market opportunities, encourage trade and technology transfer and contribute to the removal of technical barriers, they socially help spreading ICT services availability and affordability to all people at a good level of quality.**

ITU's Decisions – C&I Action Plan

- **Resolution 177** ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-10)

- **Resolution 47** ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-10)

- **Resolution 76** ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-12)

- **Resolution 62** Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-2012)

- **ITU Council Decisions** (2009, 2010, 2011,2012, 2013)

Pillar 3

Training Goals

- The ITU Training on C&I – is a capacity event in the framework of the Conformity and Interoperability Programme that has as objective:

  - ➤ **Improve knowledge** of participants through the presentation of up-to-date information/technologies

  - ➤ Contribute to **increase awareness** on the relevance of C&I testing

  - ➤ Provide the necessary tools for participants to **replicate knowledge in their country**, taking into consideration national specificities

  - ➤ **Promote experience-sharing** on Certification/Homologation process, Lab. Accreditation and testing among the participants from different countries in Conformance and Interoperability field

  - ➤ Present a practical learning on **standards**, **regulations**, **real Lab experience** and **accreditation procedures**.
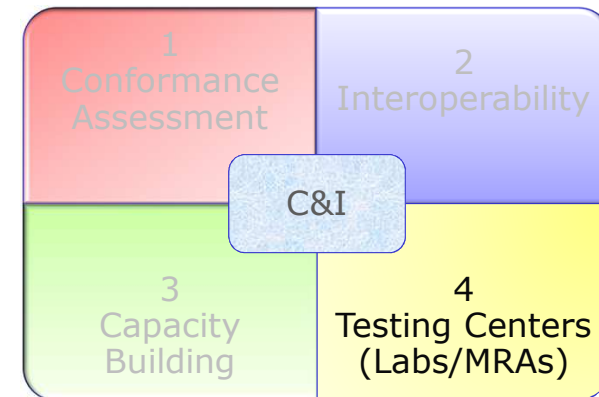
Training on C&I

Capacity Building Events (2013)

1. Training on Conformance and Interoperability for Arab Region (Tunis, 2-6 April 2013)
2. Training on Conformance and Interoperability for Americas Region (Campinas, 24-28 June 2013)
3. Forum on Conformance and Interoperability for Asia-pacific Regions/APT (Myanmar, 25-27 November 2013)
4. Training on Conformance and Interoperability for Africa Region (Tunis, 28 October - 1st November2013)
5. Subregional Workshop for SADC (Southern African Development Community) - Harmonized C&I programmes (16-20 December 2013)
6. ITU Academy – C&I training

Link: Training details and previous events

Pillar 4

1
Conformance Assessment

2
Interoperability

C&I

3
Capacity Building

4
Testing Centers
(Labs/MRAs)

C&I Guidelines

1. **Guidelines for developing countries on Establishing Conformity assessment Test Labs in Different Regions (2012)**

2. **Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of mutual recognition arrangements/agreements (MRAs) on conformity assessment (2013)**

3. **Feasibility Study for the establishment of a Conformance Testing Centre (2013)**

4. **Guidelines for establishing a Conformance and Interoperability Regimes for Developing Countries (2014)**

C&I Guidelines

1. **Guidelines for developing countries on Establishing Conformity assessment Test Labs in Different Regions (2012)**

This set of guidelines is the first publication on C&I, its valuable content includes information concerning:

- The process required for building testing labs

- A site analysis (e.g. existing testing labs, know-how)

- Collaboration mechanisms;

- Best practices;

- Reference standards and ITU Recommendations.

- And more… *access to the Guideline here*

C&I Guidelines

2. **Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of mutual recognition arrangements/agreements (MRAs) on conformity assessment (2013)**

- These guidelines aim at promoting the understanding and establishment of MRA, known also as efficient tools to promote regional integration.

- Through the share and efficient use of Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) infrastructures – as laboratories, accreditation bodies and regulatory practices – technical requirements can be harmonized and the transit of ICT goods and services can be facilitated, increasing trade and regional development.

access to Terms of Reference here

C&I Guidelines

3. **Feasibility Study for the establishment of a Conformance Testing Centre (2013)**

This feasibility study describes environments, procedures and methodologies to be adopted to establish, manage and maintain a testing center covering different kind of conformance and interoperability testing areas. Different Type Approval Testing domains (e.g. electromagnetics, safety, fixed and mobile networks, broadcast) will be considered.

The feasibility study address all necessary aspects: i) Implementation; ii) Functional Model of Type Approval Institution; iii) Sustainability of operations; iv) Pricing policies; v) Proposal of the Organization Scheme; vi) Technical requirements for Type Approval Laboratories; vii) Staff requirements; viii) Project Implementation Recommendations; and ix) Investment costs estimation.

Link to Terms of Reference here

C&I Guidelines

3. **Feasibility Study for the establishment of a Conformance Testing Centre (2013)**

Preview: *Steps to an ISO 17025 Compliant Test Lab*

- **ISO 17025 establishes a set of management requirements and systems**
- **Lab requirements, test methods and procedures, audits, equipment handling, technical competence**
- **Document control, calibration records and staff records**
- **Handling of test reports and calibration certificates**
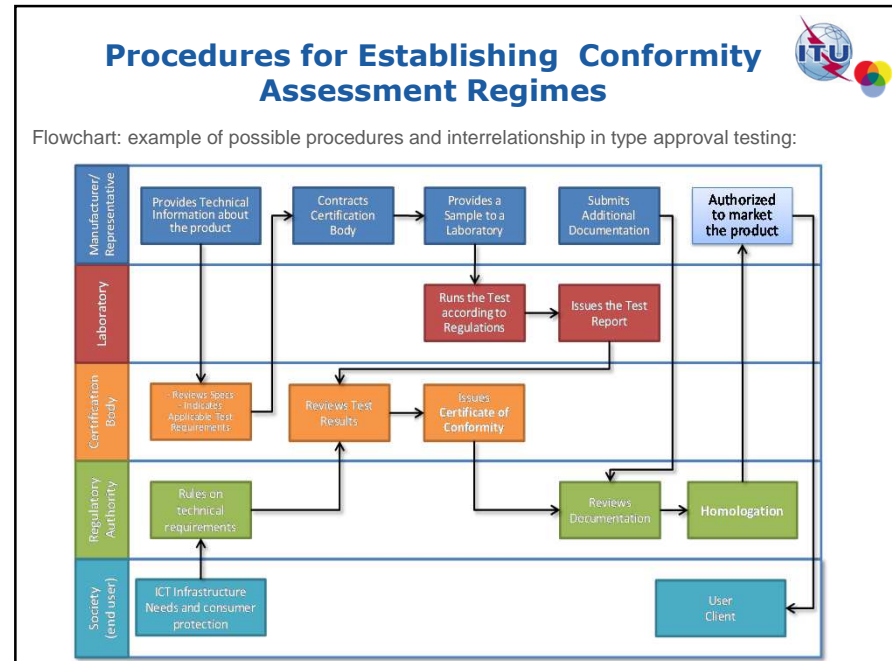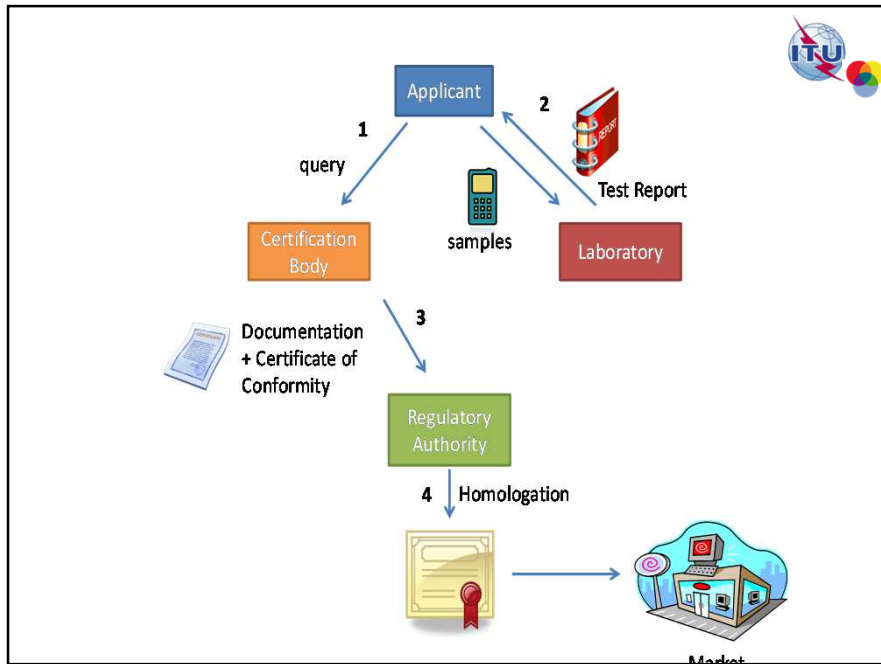- **Service to customers and handling of complaints**

C&I Guidelines

4. **Guidelines for establishing Conformity and Interoperability Regimes for Developing Countries (2014)**

Typical procedures used worldwide are going to be addressed. Any country may use as guidelines and tailoring/adapting such procedures to the existing national regulation and rules:

A. Query for new products to be homologated (accepted)

B. Import procedures for testing proposals

C. Reference Standards for conformance testing

D. Issuing and validating the Type Approval Certificate

E. Homologation (acceptance)

F. Suspension and Withdrawal of the Homologation Certificate

G. Performing the Tests and Test Reports acceptance

H. Conformance Assessment Management System

I. Monitoring, Enforcement, Counterfeit, Sanctions and Post-Market Surveillance

Procedures for Establishing Conformity Assessment Regimes

Flowchart: example of possible procedures and interrelationship in type approval testing:

Assessment Studies

The Assessment Studies looks for promoting the establishment of Harmonized C&I Programmes, when possible.

It will collaborate to improve **regional integration** and foster the availability of highly qualified institutions (as Laboratories, Certification and Accreditation Bodies)

In an overall analysis, the Assessment Studies contributes to:

- Bridging the Standardization Gap,

- reducing the Digital Divide, and

- as is inherent to ICT technologies development, strengthens business environment for global players.

Assessement Studies

- **C&I infrastructure in regions/sub-regions/countries are being assessed**

- **Analysis of the status in the regions are being conducted**

- **Looking for promoting regional agreements about possible locations for resources (Labs), agreements and testing capabilities**

- **Close collaboration with regional experts in addressing capacity building activities, accreditation and type approval testing.**

- **Moving forward to establishing regional test centers**

Assessment Studies

Roadmap

- Conformity Assessment Bodies will contribute with an orderly telecom apparatus market place

- Once standards and test suites are in place, test labs can check equipment for compliance

- Sharing test labs resources amongst countries and regions lowers overall costs while continues addressing regional priorities

- Setup of a robust framework (base on international procedures – ITU, ISO, IAF, ILAC, etc.) needed for trust and confidence in test results and among test labs

Assessment Studies

Calendar

- Assessment Studies for SADC Region
  - ➢ The results of the first assessment will be presented during the Subregional Workshop for SADC (Southern African Development Community) (16-20 December 2013, venue to be confirmed soon)

  - ➢ Studies for AMS, ARB and ASP are planned for 2014

Direct Assistance

A number of countries have expressed strong interest and requested direct assistance (e.g. Sri-Lanka, Kiribati and Mongolia) in establishing C&I infrastructure.

The Direct Assistance provided through the Regional Offices will provide support taken into consideration all C&I aspects, as:

- Regulatory framework
- Institutions roles and typical procedures
- Mutual Recognition Agreements
- Funding
- regional test centres and harmonized C&I programmes.

Partnership and Collaboration

The ITU Secretariat signed MoUs with:

- CERT (Research and Studies Telecommunication Center, Tunisia)
- CPqD (Brazil)
- Sintesio (Slovenia)
- Tilab (Telecom Italia)
- ZNIIS (Russia)
- International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and
- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- International Standardization Organization (ISO)
- UNIDO

Thank you!!

C&I Portal

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