East Meets West

facing challenges
making connections

ANSI
American National Standards Institute
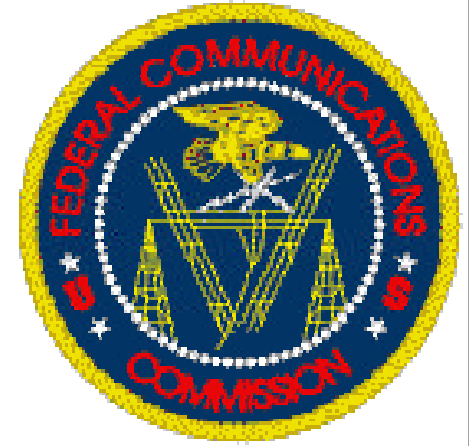
Telecom MRA
FCC Perspective

Presented by

Rashmi Doshi, PhD

Chief

FCC Laboratories

Telecom MRA – FCC Perspective

- Topics

  - Federal Communications Commission

  - Role of Deregulation

  - Telecom Mutual Recognition Agreements

  - FCC Experience

About the FCC

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency, directly responsible to Congress.

- The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable.

- The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions.

Federal Communications Commission

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates the private sector telecommunications industry, in the public interest
  - Establishes technical regulations
    - Transmitter and EMC Specifications
    - Test Methods
  - Administers equipment authorization program
    - Market compliance
    - Certification Programs

Equipment Authorization Program

- The FCC currently has four equipment approval programs
  - Verification
  - Supplier Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) (Part 68)
  - Declaration of Conformity (DoC)
  - Certification
- The product approval requirement is specified in the rule part under which equipment operates
- All four programs involve the use of the private sector to varying degrees

Deregulation – Use of Private Sector

- Speed at which technology is changing and shorter product life cycles require faster product approvals
- The private sector has the technical expertise and ability to certify equipment.
- Increase the resources performing conformity assessment
- Efficiencies in designing and approving product in the same geographic location
- Reduce uncertainty and delay in obtaining certification

Role of Accredited Labs

- The FCC requires the use of accredited laboratories for the following programs:
  - Declaration of Conformity
  - Products subject to certification must be tested by either an accredited laboratory or a listed laboratory
  - TCBs must be accredited to perform a minimum set of "core tests"
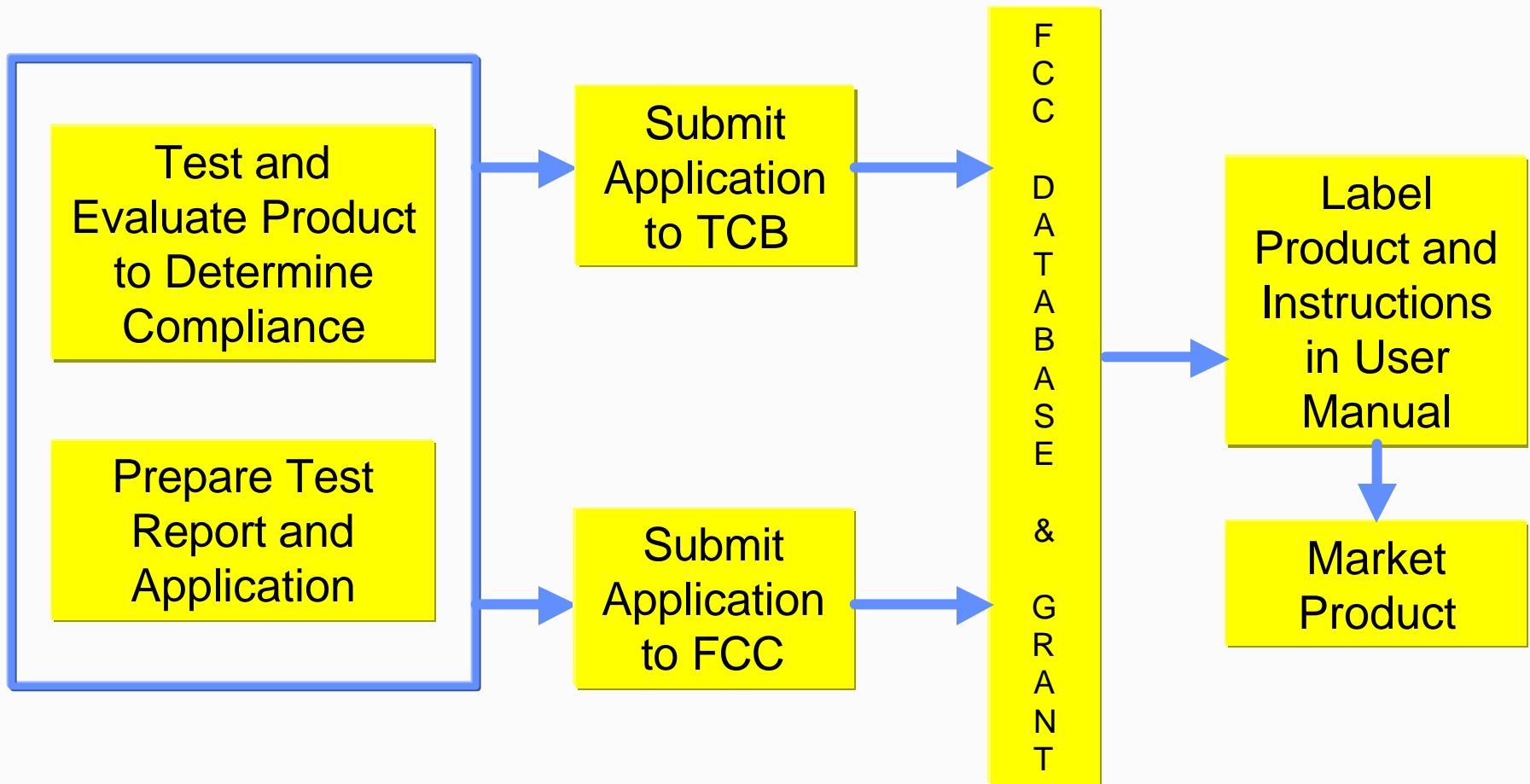- Laboratory accredited by recognized accreditation body to ISO/IEC 17025

Telecommunications Certification Body

- Telecommunication Certification Body:
  - Accredited to ISO/IEC Guide 65 (by recognized body)
  - Designated by the FCC
- Recognized TCBs have rights and responsibilities
  - May review and approve equipment subject to certification on behalf of the FCC
  - Must provide equitable treatment of applicants,
  - Audit through sampling of equipment on market
- Foreign entities may become a TCB
  - According to terms of a government-to-government Mutual Recognition Agreement/Arrangement.

Certification Options

```
Test and
Evaluate Product
to Determine
Compliance
```
→
```
Submit
Application
to TCB
```
→

FCC DATABASE & GRANT

```
Prepare Test
Report and
Application
```
→
```
Submit
Application
to FCC
```
→

→
```
Label
Product and
Instructions
in User
Manual
```
↓
```
Market
Product
```

Mutual Recognition Agreements

- A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is a government-to-government agreement
- Facilitates trade by allowing Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB) in one country to test and/or approve products to the Technical Regulations of another country
- Fosters regulatory changes and liberalization of foreign conformity assessment programs
- Reduces time, costs, and associated uncertainties of getting products to market

United States and MRAs

- The US Government has agreed to participate in three separate MRAs:

    - European Union MRA

    - Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation Tel MRA (APEC)

    - Inter-American Commission for Telecommunications (CITEL MRA)

US-EU MRA

- A multi-sector, bilateral agreement that went into effect 12/5/98
    - Telecom
    - EMC
    - Pharmaceuticals
    - Electrical Safety
    - Medical Devices
    - Recreational Crafts

- Purpose: To facilitate trade by promoting acceptance of each party's conformity assessment procedures

APEC Tel MRA

21 Economies

Australia
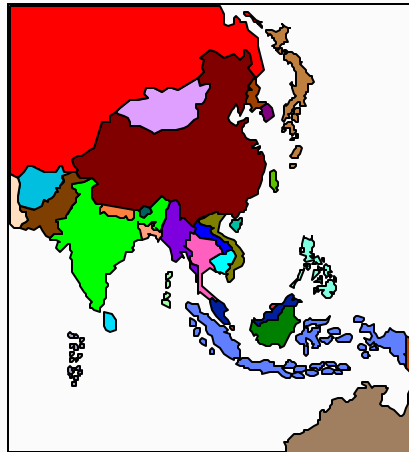
Brunei

Canada

Chile

China

Chinese-Taipei

Hong Kong, China

Indonesia

Japan

Mexico

Malaysia

New Zealand

Papua New Guinea

Peru

Philippines

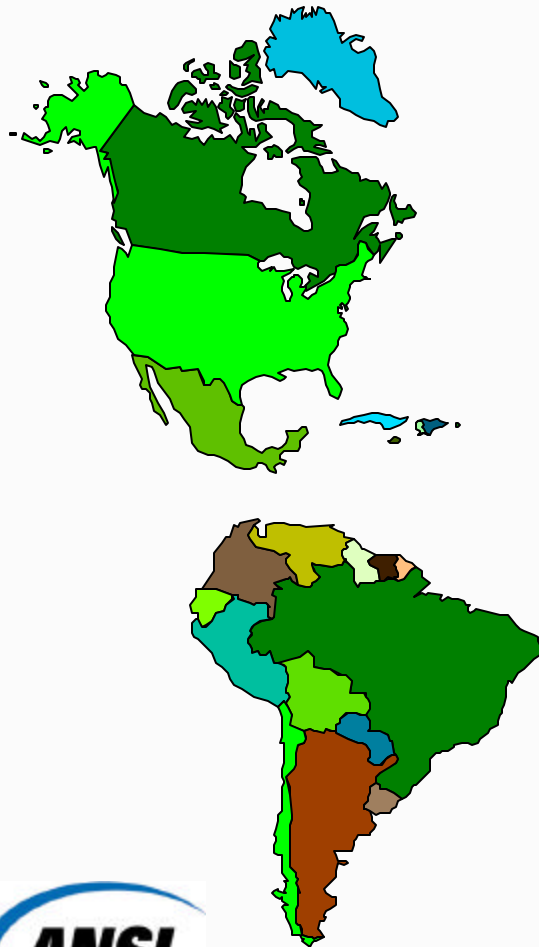Russian Federation

Singapore

South Korea

Thailand

United States

Vietnam

CITEL MRA

34 Countries

- Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States (OAS)

- North America, Central America, and South America

APEC and CITEL MRAs

- Multilateral, Single Sector Arrangement
- 21 Participating Member Economies
- Allows CABs in participating economies to
  - Test (Phase I)
  - and/or Approve (Phase II)
- Telecom products to the mandatory technical requirements of the importing economy

MRA Implementation

- ## US-EU MRA
  - 74 US and 65 CABs
    - 48 US Competent Bodies and 54 EU accredited test labs under EMC Annex
   - 26 US Notified Bodies and 11 EU TCBs under Telecom Annex
- ## APEC Tel MRA
  - Canada
    - Phase I – 33 US and 9 Canadian Accredited Labs
    - Phase II – 9 US and 1 Canadian Certification Bodies
  - Singapore
    - Phase I – 24 US and 2 Singapore Accredited Labs
    - Phase II – In process of accredited Certification Bodies
  - Taiwan (Phase 1 signed)
  - Australia (Phase 1 signed)
  - Japan (Phase 2 pending)
  - Korea (Phase 1 and 2 pending)
  - Hong Kong (Phase 2 pending)

FCC Equipment Grants - Trend

Equipment Grants
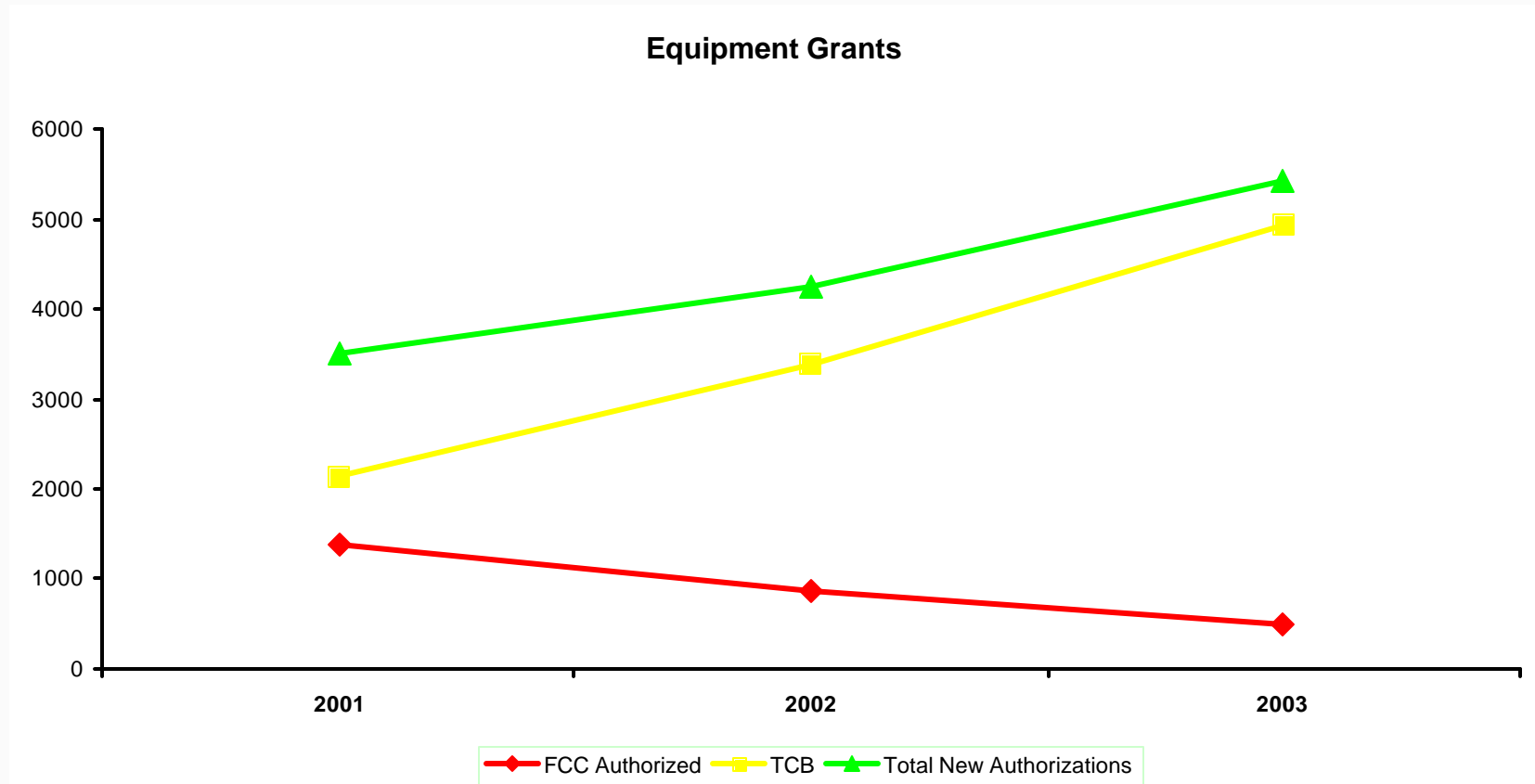
Future Trend - Telecom Growth

- Telecom equipment and services widely recognized as vitally important to all economies
- Equipment and services must be available at reasonable costs in a timely manner
- Administrations recognize important of free trade and market access for telecom services and equipment
- Manufacturers require reduced time to market and certainty of process
- The old method of each economy establishing its own technical standards and approval requirements may no longer be practical due to the global telecom market

FCC Experience

- Successful deregulation of certification program

- Significant shift of work to external certification bodies (TCBs /CABs)

- Reduced time for processing of application – significant advantage to the industry

- Ongoing success depends on:
  - Maintaining consistency of processes
  - Market compliance and auditing programs
  - Ensuring familiarity with rules and interpretation