

This annex contains additional information for added reference for Sections 2-5. Below is a summary of the additional information for each section.

- **Section 2: Technical Barriers to Trade** Additional information includes reference links for the WTO TBT and SPS Agreements.
- **Section 3: Standards and Technical Regulations** Additional information includes overview of key international and regional standards organizations, as well as links to news, publications, and other reference information.
- **Section 4: Metrology** Includes overview of international and regional metrology organizations and some supplementary information.
- **Section 5: Conformity Assessment** Includes overview of international and regional conformity assessment organizations and some supplementary information.

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## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

**Reference Links: Official TBT documents from the WTO ([www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org))**

### The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

- **[The TBT Agreement](#)**: Main reference page.
- **[Technical Barriers to Trade - Third Edition \(PDF\)](#)**: This document provides an overview of the purpose and scope of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the types of measures it covers, and the key principles of the Agreement. Prepared by the WTO Secretariat, this new edition in the “WTO Agreements” series aims at enhancing understanding of the TBT Agreement.
- **[Facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation: The case of the WTO’s TBT/SPS Agreements and Committees \(PDF\)](#)**: The WTO plays an important role in supporting efforts to facilitate trade through regulatory cooperation. This publication highlights how the WTO’s Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the work of their Committees promote opportunities for regulatory cooperation among governments and ease trade frictions.
- **[National enquiry points by country](#)**
- **[Submission of notifications](#)**: The TBT Committee has adopted [Guidelines for Notification Procedures for Draft Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures](#) as well as a [recommendation](#) (PDF) on when to use which notification format. Governments can submit notifications to the WTO Central Registry of Notifications through the online notification submission system or by email.

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- [TBT Notification Submission System \(TBT NSS\)](#): For access, contact the TBT NSS team at [tbtnss@wto.org](mailto:tbtnss@wto.org).
  - Notifications can be submitted by email as an alternative to the Central Registry of Notification, at [crn@wto.org](mailto:crn@wto.org). [Please visit the WTO website](#) for the format for submissions.
  - [WTO ISO Standards Information Gateway](#): Includes information on TBT, on notifications from standardizing bodies under the TBT Code of Good Practice [including all the standardizing bodies](#) that have accepted the TBT Code of Good Practice, and other reference documents and links.
  - [TBT Official Documents](#): Working documents of the TBT Committee
  - [Electronic circulation of TBT Notifications](#): Sign up to receive TBT notifications by e-mail.
  - [Technical Assistance related to Technical Barriers to Trade](#): Technical Assistance related to Technical Barriers to Trade is essential to the participation of developing and least developed countries in the multilateral trading system. It allows them to effectively implement as well as benefit from the TBT Agreement.
  - [Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations](#)

## General documents of the TBT Agreement in relation to Technical Assistance

- [Transparency provisions of the TBT Agreement](#) (MS Word)
- [Databases on TBT-related technical assistance](#)
- [Technical cooperation programme of the TBT Committee](#)
- [WTO Events, Workshops, and Training on TBT](#)

## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

- [Understanding the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#): Introduction to SPS measures
  - [How to apply the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement](#) (PDF)
  - [The full text of the SPS Agreement](#)
  - [SPS Handbook Training Module](#)
  - [Members' Transparency Toolkit on Work in SPS](#)
  - [Operating the SPS notification authority](#)
  - [A practical manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and SPS National Enquiry Points](#) (PDF)
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## SECTION 3: STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### International, Regional, and National Standards Organizations

A wide array of organizations participate in the coordination, harmonization, and development of international standards. This section provides a brief introduction to a few of the main players in this field.

#### International Standards Organizations – National Bodies Membership

The following are international standards organizations whose main members are official national standards bodies or organizations.

#### The International Organization for Standardization [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

ISO is the world's largest (over 20,500 standards) developer and publisher of International Standards. ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 162 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.

Through its international membership, ISO coordinates standards development. To develop a standard, each ISO member elects to nominates technical experts to participate in a given technical committee, who will work to develop a draft standard(s) to meet a specified market need. Following initial development, draft standards are shared for a period of comment and discussion, which is preceded by a voting process which seeks to gain consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the draft will be further amended before returning to the voting process. This process generally lasts three years from proposal to finalization of a new ISO standard.

ISO through the activities of DEVCO, (ISO Committee on developing country matters) have been providing assistance to developing countries for nearly fifty years. The web site highlights the numerous ways in which [ISO helps developing countries](#) to participate in international standardization activities. Technical assistance is a pivotal element of DEVCO's work, and training is recognized as one of the key components. Users will find information covering the broad spectrum of DEVCO's technical assistance activities and details of ISO's training services. In addition to information on relevant publications, the publications and resources page gives links to download or obtain the individual documents.

Examples of technical assistance include Seminars, Workshops, Training courses, Training-of-trainers programs, Fellowships, Training materials, and reference publications, including e learning.

#### The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

The IEC is a global organization that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic, and related technologies (over 10,000 standards). Similar to ISO, the IEC promotes international cooperation on all questions of electrotechnical standardization and related matters. IEC standards cover a vast range of technologies and includes participation from 173 countries.

Members to the IEC are represented by technical experts who are nominated by and represent their respective national committee. Together, nearly 20,000 experts from industry, government, testing and research laboratories, academia, and consumer interest groups support the development of IEC standards.

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IEC standards are developed over seven stages beginning with the preliminary stage, in which future projects are considered for development and working toward final approval (stage 6) and publication (stage 7). Between these stages, members assemble relevant technical committees (TC) to develop a working draft of newly proposed standards before sharing an approved draft with the full TC of observing (O) and participating (P) national committee members for comment and approval.

In the IEC, it is important to note the respective roles of P-members and O-members. These distinctions refer to member country status in a TC. P-Members can send national experts to participate in technical work in the development and approval of a standard, while O-members only retain observer status.

## **The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)**

ITU is the leading United Nations (UN) agency for information and communication technologies. As a UN agency, it serves as the global focal point for governments and the private sector in helping the world communicate across its three, core sectors: radio communications, standardization, and development. Since its establishment in 1865, ITU has led contribution and consensus-based standards development or ITU-T Recommendations.

The ITU standards development process begins with membership as member organizations can submit information and communication technologies (ICT) issues that they have identified as in need of standardization. Following submission of an inquiry, a Study Group is assembled to assess and approve further development of a draft Recommendation (draft Rec) by a Working Party (WP). A mature draft Rec is forwarded to the Alternative Approval Process for review and consideration by members. At this stage, draft Recs enter a comment process before a final ITU-T Recommendation is approved.

## **Codex Alimentarius Commission [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius)**

Codex is an intergovernmental body with over 170 members within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Program established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with the purpose of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. Codex Alimentarius (Latin, meaning Food Law or Code) is the result of the Commission's work: a collection of internationally adopted food standards, guidelines, codes of practice, and other recommendations.

## **Regional Standards Bodies**

**[African Organisation for Standardisation \(ARSO\)](#)** facilitates inter-African and global trade through harmonized standards and conformity assessment procedures.

In Africa, the increased reference to standardization in trade and economic policies and as a regulatory instrument and development tool is a clear indication of the future prospects of Africa's sustainable development, and the eminent role of ARSO and the [Pan African Quality Infrastructure \(PAQI\)](#) in general.

PAQI are the overarching quality institutes for the African continent. These institutes were developed as part of the African Union Commission to increase continental coordination in the

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area of standards, conformity assessment, metrology, and accreditation. PAQI is comprised of four organizations: ARSO, the African Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC), the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), and the Intra-African Metrology System (AFRIMETS).

The [European Committee for Standardization \(CEN\)](#), the [European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization \(CENELEC\)](#), and the [European Telecommunications Standards Institute \(ETSI\)](#) are all officially recognized European Standards Organizations.

The formation of the single market in Europe has, as one of its objectives, the elimination of barriers to trade between the Member State countries. Differences between national laws, standards, and conformity assessment procedures made trade between the countries difficult, contentious, and expensive. In order to eliminate these barriers, a new legislative technique and strategy was instituted. The new approach was designed to envelop, or “harmonize,” the health, safety, and environmental requirements of Member States into one European-wide legislative package. The new approach to lawmaking, or “harmonization,” was a new set of laws that emanated from the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. They are called the New Approach Directives. In each case, one new approach directive replaced existing legislation with the same scope in the fifteen-member nations. Member States were required to adopt the new harmonized laws.

[“New Approach” Directives](#) (or Community Law) set out the essential requirements, for example on safety, written in general terms that must be met before products may enter the market in the European Community. European harmonized standards provide detailed technical information enabling manufacturers to meet these essential requirements. The directives also explain how manufacturers are able to demonstrate conformity with the essential requirements. Products that meet the essential requirements are to display the CE marking, as described in the particular directive, which means that the products can be sold anywhere in the Community. However, some Directives do not require CE Marking. These directives cover a very wide range of product areas (except food, which is covered in the old approach). Third party testing can be mandatory, but not always. Nonetheless, false claims of compliance face prosecution.

It is important to note that non-EU members that have significant trade with the region have begun to adopt and implement the New Approach Directives as national technical regulations. This concept eliminates the need for developing countries to create their own technical regulations and standards, and simplifies trade between the developing country and EU member states. CEN-CENELEC members are able to access the European standards.

[Association of Southeast Asian Nations Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality \(ASEAN ACCSQ\)](#) is a committee within ASEAN established to facilitate trade in the region. Recognizing the contribution of standards and conformity assessment as two “pillars” that facilitate and liberalize trade and investment in the region, ACCSQ seeks to harmonize national standards with international standards and implement mutual recognition arrangements on conformity assessment, striving for its end goal of “One Standard, One Test, Accepted Everywhere.”

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**Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) of the Commonwealth of Independence States (CIS)** is an intergovernmental body for formulation and implementation of coordinated policy for standardization, metrology, and certification. Members of the EASC are the national metrology and standards bodies of the former USSR. The Interstate Council was created in accordance with the “Agreement on realization of coherent policy in the field of standardization, metrology, and certification of the 13 of March, 1992.” The Agreement supports coordination in the field of national quality infrastructure (NQI) and provides a framework for standardization, metrology, certification, and accreditation in specified fields.

**Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)** was formed in 1972, when standards body representatives from Pacific Rim countries met in Honolulu, USA to create a program leading to the development of a voluntary, independent organization for the area national standards organizations. In 1973, the first meeting, which then assumed the name PASC, met again in Honolulu. The members of PASC have adopted a number of important resolutions concerning international standardization, the work of ISO and IEC, and communication and interrelationships among PASC members. PASC is concerned not only with standards preparation but also with conformance to standards.

**Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC)** assists the Committee on Trade and Investment to achieve the standards and conformance-related components of APEC’s trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda. This agenda includes the reduction of negative effects on trade and investment flows caused by differing standards and conformance arrangements in the region. The agenda also involves developing open regionalism and market-driven economic interdependence through a number of activities including encouraging alignment of APEC Member Economies’ standards with international standards and liaison with international standards organizations.

**CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ)** was established in 2003 by a Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) Community treaty as an Intergovernmental Organization and the regional center for promoting efficiency and competitive production in trade and services, through the process of standardization and the verification of quality. Located in Barbados, CROSQ is the successor to the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council and supports the CARICOM mandate for intra-regional and extra-regional export of goods and services. CROSQ is mandated to represent the interest of the region in international and hemispheric standards work, to promote the harmonization of metrology systems and standards, and to increase the pace of standards development in the region, as it facilitates the resolution of CARICOM trade disputes where standards are involved.

The **Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT)** is a private, non-profit association that promotes standardization and related activities for member bodies of the Americas. The objective of COPANT is to promote the development of technical standardization and related activities in member countries with the aim of stimulating commercial, industrial, scientific and technological development. These objectives benefit the economic and commercial integration of the region, while facilitating cooperation in the intellectual, scientific, economic and social spheres.

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## News and Publications

- **[ASTM Standardization News \(sn.astm.org\)](https://sn.astm.org)**: The official bimonthly covering ASTM's international standardization work, development of ASTM standards, professional perspectives, and the benefit of ASTM standards for governments, industries, consumers, and global trade.
  - **[Standards and Competitiveness—Coordinating for Results](#)**: Removing Standards-Related Trade Barriers Through Effective Collaboration, produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC).
  - **[Codex Alimentarius Publications](#)**: Codex Alimentarius is the preeminent international organization dealing with food safety and fair practices in the food trade. Its food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice contribute to international food trade safety, quality and fairness.
  - **[ISO Focus](#)** and **[ISO News](#)**: ISO regularly publishes articles and special features on a wide array of international standardization topics.
  - **[National Standards Strategy for the United States](#)**: The United States Standards Strategy (USSS) reaffirms the U.S. commitment to a sector-based approach to voluntary standardization activities, both domestically and globally. It established a standardization framework, built upon the traditional strengths of the U.S. system — consensus, openness, and transparency — while emphasizing speed, relevance, and meeting public interests and needs.
  - **[The Economic Value of Standardization](#)**: This report examines the impact of standardization on the Canadian economy and was produced by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). The study involved a review of the standards-oriented economics literature, an empirical analysis of their impact on Canadian labor productivity, a series of interviews, and two case studies.
  - **[The WTO eLearning Series](#)**: Online courses on the founding of the WTO, its structure, and agreements.
  - **[ISO and Small & Medium Enterprises](#)**: Information hub on how ISO International Standards can help businesses of any size and sector reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets.
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## SECTION 4: METROLOGY

### International Metrology Organizations

#### **Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) [www.bipm.org](http://www.bipm.org)**

The task of the BIPM is to ensure worldwide uniformity of measurements and their traceability to the International System of Units (SI). It does this with the authority of the Convention of the Metre, a diplomatic treaty between fifty-one nations, and it operates through a series of Consultative Committees, whose members are the national metrology laboratories of the Member States of the Convention, and through its own laboratory work. The BIPM is an intergovernmental organization established by the Metre Convention, through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards. The mission of the BIPM is to ensure and promote the global comparability of measurements, including providing a coherent international system of units for:

- Scientific discovery and innovation,
- Industrial manufacturing and international trade,
- Sustaining the quality of life and the global environment.
- The unique role of the BIPM is based on its international and impartial character enabling it:
  - To coordinate the realization and improvement of the worldwide measurement system to ensure it delivers accurate and comparable measurement results.
  - To undertake selected scientific and technical activities that are more efficiently carried out in its own laboratories on behalf of Member States.
  - To promote the importance of metrology to science, industry and society, in particular through collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations and international bodies and in international forums.

#### **International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) [www.oiml.org](http://www.oiml.org)**

An intergovernmental treaty organization whose membership includes Member States and Corresponding Members (observer countries). The OIML was established in 1955 to promote global harmonization of legal metrology procedures.

#### **NCSL International (NCSLI) [ncsli.org](http://ncsli.org)**

The world's premier technical organization dedicated to the fields of metrology and conformity assessment. NCSLI currently boasts over 1,200 member organizations. Its mission is to advance technical and managerial excellence in the fields of metrology, measurement standards, conformity assessment, and instrument calibration, as well as test and measurement.

### Regional Metrology Organizations

#### **Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS) [www.afrimets.org](http://www.afrimets.org)**

Harmonizes metrology activities in Africa. AFRIMETS represents 37 countries in Southern, Eastern, Central, Western and Northwestern Africa. In addition, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire participate as individual (Ordinary) members.

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## **Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) [www.sim-metrologia.org](http://www.sim-metrologia.org)**

The Inter-American Metrology System, SIM is the regional organization for metrology in the Western Hemisphere, and consists of the national metrology institutes from 34-member nations represented at the Organization of American States, which acts as its Executive Secretariat.

SIM coordinates its functions based on an organization of five sub-regions that corresponds to the five main economic and commercial groups in the region: NORAMET (North America), CAMET (Central America), CARIMET (the Caribbean), ANDIMET (Andean Group), and SURAMET (South America).

## **Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET) [www.coomet.org](http://www.coomet.org)**

Founded in 1991 as the regional organization for countries of Central and Eastern Europe and renamed “Euro-Asian cooperation of state metrology institutions” in May 2000. COOMET members include the metrology institutions from Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany (associate member), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, DPR of Korea (associate member), Cuba (associate member), Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.<sup>1</sup>

## **European Cooperation in Legal Metrology (WELMEC) [www.welmec.org](http://www.welmec.org)**

WELMEC was founded in June 1990 for the countries of Western Europe. Today, WELMEC extends beyond Western Europe and includes representatives from Central and Eastern Europe. Its aim is to establish a harmonized and consistent approach to European legal metrology.

## **European Association of National Metrology Institutes [www.euramet.org](http://www.euramet.org)**

The Regional Metrology Organization (RMO) for Europe. Its members are the European NMIs.

## **Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions [www.coomet.net](http://www.coomet.net)**

COOMET is a joint forum of metrologists of Euro-Asian region, steadily and effectively working regional metrology organization which successfully fulfils its tasks. Cooperation within COOMET and its results allow its Member Countries to successfully solve metrological issues, which national economies face under the conditions of market globalization.

## **The Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) [www.apmpweb.org](http://www.apmpweb.org)**

Primarily responsible for developing international recognition of the measurement capabilities of the region’s national and territorial measurement laboratories in the Asia-Pacific. It is the oldest continually operating metrological grouping in the world.

## **The Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) [www.aplmf.org](http://www.aplmf.org)**

A grouping of legal metrology authorities representing 20 economies from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and across the Pacific Rim. The group aims to coordinate on the development of legal metrology and to promote free trade in the Asian Pacific region by removing technical or administrative barriers in the field of metrology.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (2021). COOMET. Retrieved from <http://www.coomet.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (2021). APLMF. Retrieved from <https://www.aplmf.org/>

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## Supplemental Resources

### **NCSL International: Metrologist quarterly magazine** [www.ncsli.org](http://www.ncsli.org)

The NCSL International's publication focusing on people, networking, and members. It includes sections on Learning and Development, an Educator's Corner, Education Outreach, Scholarship Promotion, Lab Tours, Accreditation, and Publication Reviews and Summaries.

### **A2LA/WorkPlace Training (computer-based, interactive metrology training)** [www.A2LAWPT.org](http://www.A2LAWPT.org)

Workplace Training offers a series of computer based interactive training courses. Their goal is to improve measurement quality by increasing the calibration knowledge infrastructure in developing countries. All of the following courses come with complete testing and documentation in the form of a Certificate of Competency.

### **CALAB – The International Journal of Metrology** [www.callabmag.com](http://www.callabmag.com)

This quarterly published magazine is a resource of current metrology information that contains technical articles, calendar of metrology events, industry and research news, and new products and services.

### **International Vocabulary of Metrology – Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms** [www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jcgm/publications](http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jcgm/publications)

This document is a terminological dictionary containing designations and definitions from the field of metrology. It covers the basic principles governing quantities and units.

### **The International Vocabulary of Terms in Legal Metrology (VIML)** [viml.oiml.info/en/index.html](http://viml.oiml.info/en/index.html)

Jointly prepared by seven international organizations (BIPM, the International Electrotechnical Commission [IEC], the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), ISO, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and OIML). This document identifies general concepts in metrology that form the basic terminology common to various technical disciplines.

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## SECTION 5: CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

### International Conformity Assessment Organizations

#### **International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)** [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is an international cooperation of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies. ILAC produces a series of publications, all of which can be viewed and downloaded via their website.

#### **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** [www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu)

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of quality management systems, products, services, and personnel. IAF produces reference documents and guides that can be viewed and downloaded via their website. Listed below is a sample of the publications that are available.

### Regional Conformity Assessment Organizations

#### **The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)** [www.sanas.co.za](http://www.sanas.co.za)

The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) is recognized by the South African government as the single National Accreditation Body that gives formal recognition that laboratories, Certification Bodies, Inspection Bodies, Proficiency Testing Scheme providers and Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) test facilities are competent to carry out specific tasks.

#### **Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA)** [www.sadca.org](http://www.sadca.org)

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation (SADCA), as a regional accreditation structure of SQAM (Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Metrology), was tasked with defining a suitable accreditation infrastructure, enabling organizations in the SADC Member States to access accreditation services from internationally recognized National Accreditation Bodies within their countries, or to from a regional accreditation service called SADCAS.

#### **African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)** [www.intra-frac.com](http://www.intra-frac.com)

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies, sub-regional accreditation cooperations, and stakeholders whose objective is to facilitate trade and contribute to the protection of health, safety, and the environment in Africa and thereby improve Africa's competitiveness.

#### **Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)** [www.apac-accreditation.org](http://www.apac-accreditation.org)

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) was created in 2019 by the amalgamation of two former regional accreditation cooperations – the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). APAC manages and expands MRAs among accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific Region. Members include accreditation bodies, accreditation focal points, and other stakeholders interested in accredited conformity assessment results.

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## The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) [www.iaac.org.mx](http://www.iaac.org.mx)

The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) is an association of accreditation bodies and other organizations interested in conformity assessment in the Americas. IAAC's mission is to promote cooperation among accreditation bodies and interested parties in the Americas, aiming at the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes, and services.

## The European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) [www.european-accreditation.org](http://www.european-accreditation.org)

The European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) was established in 1997 as a result from the merger of the European Accreditation of Certification (EAC) and the European Cooperation for Accreditation of Laboratories (EAL). EA is the European network of nationally recognized accreditation bodies based in the European geographical area.

## Supplemental Resources

**[U.S. Conformity Assessment System: Introduction](#)** The USCAP articulates the principles for U.S. conformity assessment activities that will allow consumers, buyers, sellers, regulators, and other interested parties to have confidence in the processes of providing conformity assessment, while avoiding the creation of unnecessary barriers to trade.

**[ISO Guide to Good Practice \(PDF\)](#)** This document was developed by ISO to assist regulators and market surveillance authorities. It is especially intended for developing regions, to design market surveillance systems that conform to modern good practice criteria and that make the best use of the "CASCO Toolbox" of International Standards and other deliverables that have been developed to support good regulatory practice.

**[ISO - Building Trust - The Conformity Assessment Toolbox](#)** A comprehensive, user-friendly handbook covering all aspects of conformity assessment and its role in international trade, and will be useful for business managers, regulators and consumer representatives. It is part of a series of joint publications issued by ISO and UNIDO.

**[ILAC Reference Documents and Guides](#)** ILAC has created a series of promotional materials to support awareness and understanding of accreditation. This link includes additional publications and resources for download.

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### CONTINUE READING HANDBOOK ▶

STANDARDS, METROLOGY, & CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT:  
TOOLS TO FACILITATE TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

**INTRO & GLOSSARY ▶**

**SECTION 1: AN OVERVIEW OF NQI ▶**

**SECTION 2: TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE ▶**

**SECTION 3: STANDARDS & TECHNICAL REGULATIONS ▶**

**SECTION 4: METROLOGY ▶**

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