**“Implementation of standards for trade facilitation:**

**Focus on conformity assessment systems”**

Date and location:

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Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC)

Arusha, Tanzania

Co-organized/sponsored by:

ARSO

PTB

The Standards Alliance, a public-private partnership between USAID and ANSI

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| 9:00 – 9:20am | **Opening remarks:**   * ARSO * ANSI * PTB |
| 9:20 – 10:45am | **“Technical regulations: elaboration and enforcement”**  Abstract:  In any given market, manufacturers and distributors cannot be given a free rein for their products, especially for those that may endanger the health and safety of consumers or damage the environment. Consequently, govern­ments intervene by establishing technical regulations to protect consumers as well as the environment and prevent market failure. However, technical regulations can impede trade if they are improperly prepared or established for illegitimate objectives.  There is thus a need for a framework to minimize obstacles that could arise from technical regulations in trade. This need is met by the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), which provides rules for the elabora­tion of technical regulations in a transparent manner. Technical regulations should, as far as possible, be based on international standards so that in principle the same product could get access to various markets.  This session will address the different points of view that public and private actors may take on technical regulations, highlight the main similarities and differences between technical regulations and standards, and discuss different methods for using and referencing standards in a legislative context. A further focus will be on good practices for the preparation and the enforcement of technical regulations, including effective market surveillance.   * Alex Inklaar, PTB * Q&A/discussion |
| 10:45 – 11:00am | **Tea/coffee break** |
| 11:00 – 12:10pm | **“Introduction to conformity assessment”**  Abstract:  The evolution of the global marketplace has made buyers and regulators increasingly dependent not only on standards but also on the methods used to ensure that products comply with the requirements of those standards. Conformity assessment activities therefore form an important tool in trade facilitation. During this session, presentations will provide an overview of the various types of conformity assessment, including sampling and testing, inspection, suppliers’ declaration of conformity, certification, registration, and accreditation. Speakers will also discuss the international framework for conformity assessment, including the role of international treaty organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), global networks of accreditation bodies such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and accreditation bodies, such as ANSI.  Speakers:   * Mr. Joe Tretler, Vice President , International Policy, ANSI   + “Introduction to the international framework and obligations for conformity assessment” (30 minutes) * Mr. Tim Brooke, Vice President of the Certification, Training and Proficiency Testing Division, ASTM International   + “Overview of conformity assessment programs and ASTM’s related activities” (30 minutes) * Q&A (10 minutes) |
| 12:10 – 12:45pm | **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: “ISO’s conformity assessment portfolio”**   * Mr. Kevin McKinley, Acting Secretary General, ISO * (30 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A) |
| 12:45 – 2:00pm | **Lunch** |
| 2:00 – 3:10pm | **“Developing a risk-based conformity assessment system”**  Abstract:  In a risk-based system, the level of risk should determine the rigor and independence needed in a conformity assessment system. The greater the perceived risk, the more oversight and independence the conformity assessment system should have. Presentations in this session will provide an overview of the various factors to consider in conformity assessment design and the importance of risk assessment. Case studies relevant to the U.S. and Africa of various products, services, processes and personnel, and what types of conformity assessment procedures are necessary for each, will be provided.  Speakers:   * Mr. Bruce McGill, Vice President, Global Communication, Intertek   + “Intertek perspectives on risk-based conformity assessment” (30 minutes) * Mr. Derek Greenauer, Director of Global Government Affairs, UL   + “UL perspectives on risk-based conformity assessment” (30 minutes) * Q&A (10 minutes) |
| 3:10 – 3:25pm | **Coffee/tea break** |
| 3:25 – 4:00pm | **“Conformity assessment in technical regulations”**  Abstract:  Governments may use conformity assessment in the regulatory process to help assure fair commerce and to protect safety, health and the environment. Presentations in this session will provide an overview of conformity assessment in U.S., and African (both regional and national) regulatory processes. Speakers will also discuss considerations such as good regulatory practice, cost, risk, competition, design and ownership, surveillance, access to competent resources and the public-private partnership involved throughout. Case studies based on specific sectors and regulatory agencies, relevant to U.S. and Africa, will be provided.  Speakers:   * Mr. Christopher Lindsay,Manager of Government Relations, IAPMO Group   + “IAPMO perspectives on conformity assessment in technical regulations”(30 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A) |
| 4:00 – 4:15pm | **Wrap up and closing remarks** |