CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

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Topic Map

- Value of the conformity assessment (CA) infrastructure
- Use of the CA infrastructure in the US
- A walk through the CA infrastructure
Value of the conformity assessment infrastructure

• Confidence
  • Products conform to requirements (standards)
  • Evidence of conformance (test results)
  • Attestation of conformance (supplier or certifier)
  • Attestation of competence of tester or certifier (accreditation)

• Current and ongoing

• Evidence and attestations can be leveraged for different markets and economies
Use of the CA infrastructure in the US

• US industry has a rich history of developing conformity assessment programs to meet society’s needs
  • safety, quality, interoperability, security, and more

• US agencies use the CA infrastructure to meet conformity requirements for regulatory and voluntary programs
  • NTTAA for voluntary standards consideration
  • OMB A119 for CA (NIST to help reduce duplication burden)
  • NIST emphasized risk-based approach; emphasis on using CA infrastructure
    • CPSC (toys), HHS (health records), EPA (WaterSense), NIST (crypto)
A Walk Through the CA Infrastructure

- The US has a healthy market for conformity assessment bodies
  - Testing labs
  - Inspection bodies
  - Audit bodies
  - Certification bodies
  - Accreditation bodies
  - Organizations issuing SDOCs – numerous in many markets

- Surveillance activities

- Leveraging results for use in other markets & economies
  - Test results, inspection results, attestation, accreditation
  - Lessens burden on supplier and conformity assessment body
Confidence at Each Layer

Signatory status to MRA for region/international use

Accreditor

Certifier Inspection Body, or Laboratory

Manufacturers

Listing

Scheme Owner

Policy, oversight, communication
## Conformity Assessment - ISO Guides and Standards

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<td>Accredited testing and calibration laboratories (ISO 17025)</td>
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The CA Infrastructure