Conformity Assessment
Threat or Menace?

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Conformity Assessment Basics

- Conformity assessment enables buyers, sellers, consumers, and regulators to have **confidence** that products sourced in domestic and foreign markets meet specific requirements.
- Governments may **mandate** conformity assessment procedures – such as testing, sampling, and certification requirements – to ensure that the requirements they have established in standards or regulations for a product, process, system, person, or body are fulfilled.
- Yet, the costs and delays attributable to **unnecessary, duplicative, and unclear** conformity assessment requirements are frequently cited as a key concern for U.S. exporters.

Quotes from the 2014 Report on Technical Barriers to Trade – United States Trade Representative
The regulation provides for Mandatory Certification of the products listed above in a bid to further **assure the health and safety** of consumers, **preservation of the environment**, and prevention of the influx of sub-standard goods which pose a number of risks. The regulation mandates that the listed products whether manufactured locally or imported shall undergo the process of Certification and bear the Mark of Conformity or the Standard Mark before being allowed to be displayed for sale.
Key Principles – The Good Stuff

• Use of International Standards
• Mutual Recognition
• Transparency
• Clarity
• Reasonable
Key Principles – The Dark Side

- National Deviations
- Local Testing
- Per Factory Certification
- Lack of clarity
- Commitment to local prosperity
- Labeling
Regulatory Labeling

• Marks on a product show compliance
• Every program and agency wants their own Mark
• Marks are beautiful
• Challenge for global products
• Advances in Labeling
  – Electronic
  – Other ideas
### Complexities of Certification Applicable to a Notebook Computer

#### Sample of 5 Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>NRTL</td>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>CE – Low Voltage Directive</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMC</td>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>CE – EMC Directive</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>EPEAT</td>
<td>EPEAT</td>
<td>EU RoHS</td>
<td>China RoHS</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>CVAA and ADA Section 508</td>
<td>Canada Human Rights Act</td>
<td>Not Yet</td>
<td>None (yet)</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radios</td>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>CE – RE Directive</td>
<td>MIIT</td>
<td>TRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batteries</td>
<td>NRTL</td>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>CE - LVD</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adapters</td>
<td>NRTL, FCC</td>
<td>SCC, IC</td>
<td>CE – LVD, EMC</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Cords</td>
<td>NRTL</td>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>CE - LVD</td>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

• Harmonized Standards
• Data Acceptance
  – IECEE CB Scheme, Mutual recognition
• Transparency
  – Opportunity to comment
  – Reasonable implementation timelines