How Regulators in Asia Pacific leverage the MRA and accreditation to reduce NTBS on ICT products: Successful story: APEC TEL MRA

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Typical NTBs on ICT products

Individual AB and regional/international cooperation provide total solutions

Why is APEC TEL MRA successful?

Successful story: APEC TEL MRA Introduction
APEC Primary goal: to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

MRA Task Force formed in 1998, participating regulators: AITI (Brunei); IC (Canada); MIIT (China); OFCA (Hong Kong); MIC (Japan); KCC (South Korea); NCC (Chinese Taipei); IDA (Singapore); FCC(US); MIC (Vietnam); etc.

Past leadership: Canada, Australia, US, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei.

Missions:
• For AP regulators gather regularly to discuss regulation conformity issues.
• Discuss conformity assessment procedures, regulations/standards, market surveillance practices
APEC TEL MRA

• Scope (to ICT products) includes:
  – Electromagnetic Compatibility
  – Telecommunications regulations
  – Electrical Safety/SAR
  – Cyber security (TBD)

• MRAs to conformity assessment procedures (MRA-CA)
  – Phase I (testing); Phase II (certification)

• Equivalence of Technical Requirements (MRA-ETR)
  – Harmonize standards/regulations
  – Clarify national deviations
TEL MRA Stakeholders and Functions

Regulatory Authority, RA

Recognition

Designating Authority, DA

Regulators

Accreditation Body, AB (Check CAB competence)

Accreditation

Conformity Assessment Bodies, CABs
- Testing Laboratory
- Certification Body

Conformity Assessment: Testing/Inspection/Certification

Manufacturer, Retailors (Sale)

Consumers (buyer/user)

Sale
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Phase II</th>
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<td>NCC, BSMI</td>
<td>NCC, BSMI</td>
<td>TAF</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>NIST</td>
<td>Phase I: A2LA, NVLAP, ANS, L-A-B, A-Class</td>
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Different economies have different schemes for conformity assessment, which is permitted under the terms of the APEC Tel MRA.

### Economy A (US)

- **RA (FCC):** regulatory & recognition
- **DA (NIST):** designation
- **AB:** accreditation
- **CAB:** testing & certification

### Economy B (Australia)

- **RA (ACMA):** regulatory, designation & recognition
- **AB:** accreditation
- **CAB:** testing & certification

### Economy C (Chinese Taipei)

- **RA (NCC):** regulatory, designation & recognition
- **AB (TAF):** accreditation
- **CAB:** testing & certification

**RA -- Regulatory Authority**  
**DA -- Designating Authority**  
**AB -- Accrediting Body**  
**CAB -- Conformity Assessment Body**
How is APEC TEL MRA-CA Implemented?

- Authority to implement obligations
- Agreement on Scope
- Govt to Govt MRA in place
- Define applicable technical regulations
- Exchange letters detailing agreement
- Train stakeholders in responsibilities.
- Develop/adopt training program to train CABs
- Notify TEL Chair of participation
- Develop/adopt procedures for all stakeholders
- Monitor & enforce program
- Develop/Implement audit/surveillance process
How is the TEL MRA-ETR Implemented?

APEC TEL MRA TF Chair

Show interest

Requesting RA

Economies Participating MRA ETR

Economies NOT Participating MRA ETR

Justification

Requesting Entities Technical Analysis (From Industry)

Submit request

ETR

RA

Submit request

RA

Full equivalency

Partial equivalency Not Accepted

notify

notify
How do Regulators leverage TEL MRA?

- **Regulatory Authority** (Technical Requirements and Recognition)
  - Designating Authority (Designation)
  - Accreditation Body (CAB competence)
  - Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)
    - Testing Laboratory
    - Certification Body

- **Manufacturers/retailors (Sale)**
- **Consumers (buyer/user)**

Regulators

Technical support

Accredit

feedback
Reliable Accreditation system
create trust

Traditional Arrangements

Regulator → Accreditation Body → Exporting Economy → Don't trust → Importing Economy → Accreditation Body → Regulator

APEC TEL MRA

Regulator → Accreditation Bodes MRA(APLAC/PAC) → Exporting Economy → Importing Economy → Marketing

Build trust! Reduce risk!!
Regulation/requirement: Criteria of providers

- Manufacturer
- Service provider
- Testing/Inspection/Certification
- Certification: demonstrating product or service meets the expectations/Criteria

- CAB (LAB/IB/CB)
- National AB
- APLAC/PAC MRA: Peer evaluation
- Cross Frontier
- Regulators
- Buyers
- International bodies
- Sampling/Surveillance
- (Post-market surveillance)
- G- to-G MRA
- Regulators
- National AB
- Accreditation: endorsement of CAB’s competence
- (Pre-market management)
- National AB
- Post-market management
Why is APEC TEL MRA Successful?

Balance

- Regulators
- Industry/Market
- Consumer
Reduce burdens of Regulators

• Difficulty of managing Conformity Assessment Scheme
  – Fast growing ICT industry
  – Emerging new ICT technologies
  – Digital convergence
  – Limited Government Resources
  – Limited Technical knowledge/Government rotation

• TEL MRA leveraged the resources from ABs
• Information/Knowledge of foreign technical regulations
• Flexibility of regulators
Demands from Market/Customer

• Strong/fast demands from Industry/Consumer for ICT products in Asia Pacific Region

• Specific characteristic of ICT equipment
  – Short life time cycle
  – Complicated/Complex testing requirement
  – Long testing/certification time
  – Relatively low-risk to consumers

• Global trend of Harmonizing ICT standards

• CABs provide knowledge to regulators
• APEC TEL MRA could:
  – Reduce the burden of regulators
  – Reduce fixed cost of new ICT products
  – Reduce Risk
  – Reduction of testing costs
  – Shorten the time to the market
  – Making product standards/technological requirements more transparent
  – Raise Trade volume
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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