

THE ROLE OF TESTING IN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTING MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE IN THE CONTEXT OF AfCFTA

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Consignment Based Conformity Assessment

The process of conformity assessment demonstrates whether a product meets the relevant requirements. Such requirements are stated in standards, regulations, contracts, programmes, or other normative documents.

Conformity assessment is an integral part in the administration of technical regulations, as an instrument for verifying compliance to the essential requirements. Technical regulations are notified to fulfil regulatory objectives that may address human health and safety, consumer protection against deceptive practices, environment protection etc.

The objective of CBCA is to

- Ensure that imported products meet quality, safety, health, and environmental standards by verifying their compliance before they arrive at the destination country, effectively protecting consumers from dangerous or substandard goods
- Facilitating trade by minimizing unnecessary testing upon arrival; essentially, it aims to safeguard both the consumer and domestic industry from non-compliant products by conducting pre-shipment checks on goods.
- Assist trade facilitation, through streamlining compliance goods through customs clearance procedures and reducing delays at the border.

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Conformity Assessment play a key role in supporting Sustainability development encouraging companies to develop more sustainable products to ensure compliance.

Some of the considerations linking Sustainable Development and Trade Conformity Assessment are as follows:

- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Material Selection:
- Energy Efficiency
- Waste Minimization:

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

- Shipment inspection
- **Testing in accredited labs**
- Witness Testing
- Verification of Manufacturer's testing
- Factory Audit
- Registration and licensing
- Art-work verification



THE ROLE OF TESTING IN PROMOTING MARKET ACCESS WITHIN AFCFTA

This is driven by

- National Regulatory requirements to address health, safety or environmental issues
- Continued Consumer demand for safety, performance and quality assurance
- Private and public authorities scrutiny of imported/exported goods for compliance
- Producers increasing need for reputable evidence that their products and services meet regulatory, technical and other requirements.

African countries, would be confronted with the main challenge of the need to improve the quality of regulation to remove the (NTMs) None Tariff Measures (TBTs) in goods, and to deliver competitive markets, while achieving essential public policy objectives relating to issues such as health and safety, and environmental protection.

With the introduction of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, Africa has established one of the largest free markets across 55 African countries. It is meant to increase intra-Africa trade among State Parties.

AfCFTA has already outlined the importance of Conformity Assessment activities, with the AfCFTA agreement and the MOU with ARSO . It has recognized the importance of the quality infrastructure in promoting trade in goods and services

THE ROLE OF ACCREDITED TESTING LABORATORIES

Accreditation provides impartial assurance that a laboratory's Test methods and results can be relied on and demonstrates a commitment to quality.

- Accuracy and reliability based on Verified test methods
- Calibrated equipment
- Qualified and competent staff
- Promoting Traceability Chains on Cross Border trade
- Providing authenticity and validity of Test Reports/Certificates

THE CHALLENGES

- Lack of Sufficient In-Country Testing Laboratories
- Limited Scope of Testing
- Costs of Testing
- Differences in Standards and technical regulations
- Falsification of Test Reports



OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

- Facilitate trade by the elimination of unnecessary and unjustifiable technical barriers to trade through:
- Adoption of ARSO Standards and Promoting the use of relevant international standards as a basis for technical regulations;
- Identifying and assessing instruments for trade facilitation such as harmonization of standards, equivalence of technical regulations, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment.
- Strengthen cooperation and identify priority areas for harmonization
- Develop and implement capacity building programmes to support the implementation
- Collaboration with 3rd Party Conformity Assessment Bodies
- Establish mechanisms and structures to enhance transparency in the development and implementation of standards, technical regulations, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment procedures;
- Promote mutual recognition in conformity assessment.
- Harmonization of Marks of Quality
- Cooperation on Accreditation

INTERTEK ROLE

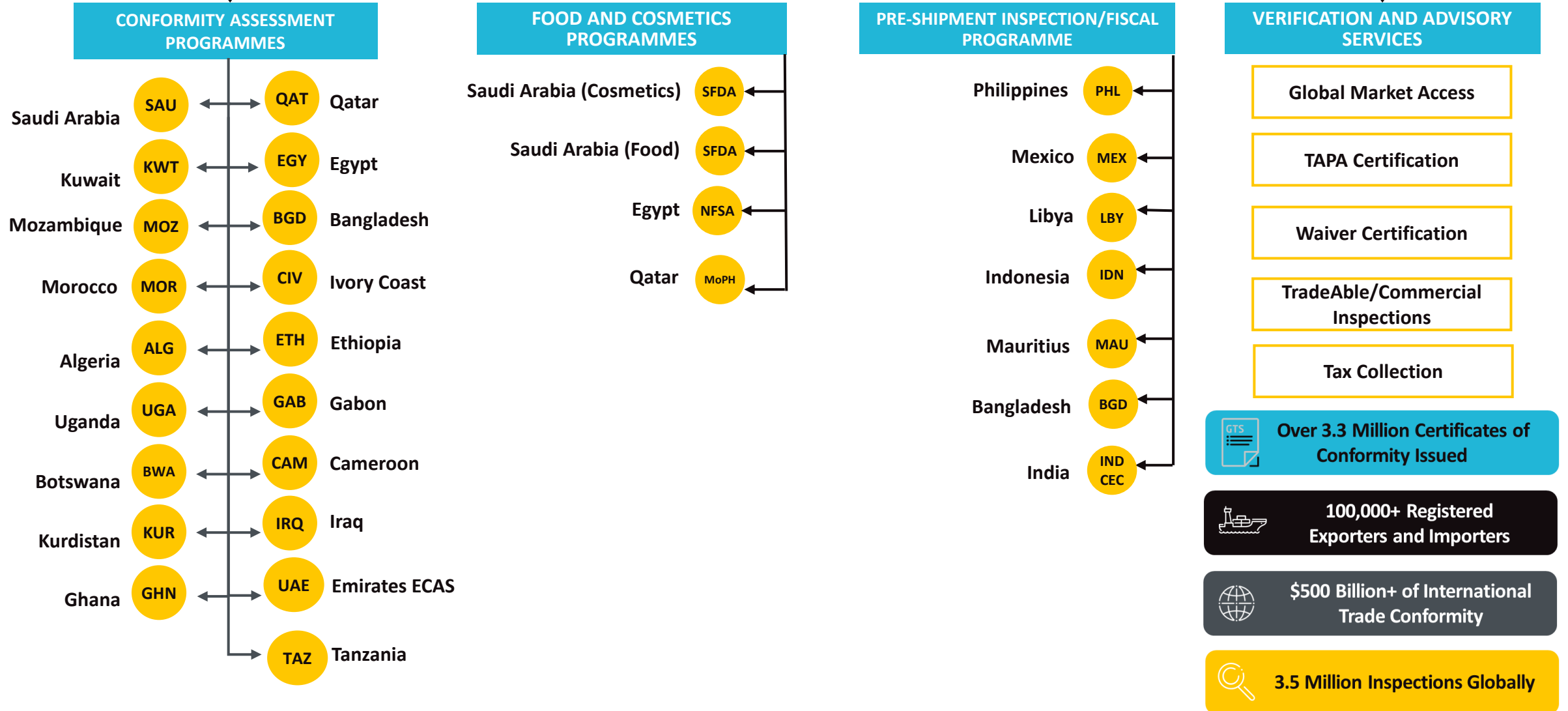


As Intertek presently plays a key role in Africa, with 12 programmes on the Continent, we are supporting Govt's with their Conformity Assessment needs, ensuring that these needs are inline with their respective commitments to AfCFTA. It is also critical that we support exporters with a clear understanding of the respective regulatory requirements. We have therefore developed our Global market Access Portal, which assists in expediting product market access, through providing global compliance information, based on product type for more than 40 global markets.

Our role at Intertek GTS is to provide assurance to governments on the quality of their imported shipments and products through conformity certification matching country or international standards. We at Intertek understand and partner with our Govt Clients to ensure we are able assist them in uplifting the quality assurance infrastructure, as needed.

Conformity Assessment Practices supports developing Countries in creating a level playing field for trade and prepare them for AfCFTA.

INTERTEK GOVERNMENT AND TRADE SERVICES (GTS) - TRADE WITH ASSURANCE



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Systemic approach to Quality and Safety



44,000+ EMPLOYEES

GLOBAL MARKET LEADER IN ASSURANCE

3,000 AUDITORS

90,000+ AUDITS

100+ COUNTRIES

GLOBAL MARKET LEADER IN TIC

1,000+ LABS & OFFICES

80+ LANGUAGES

Our Sectors



Products



Trade



Resources

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

