

# *Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP. 6)*



# Why is the UN here?

- The UN aims at protecting the safety of workers, citizens, consumers
  - Repeated testing means that safe and reliable equipment will become unaffordable for some of the countries that need it the most
- The UN promotes the participation of developing countries and countries in transition in international trade
  - Barriers to trade are lost opportunities for our membership

# UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP. 6)

## What we are:

- Intergovernmental body
- Participation by: authorities, regional & int'l organizations, business, standards-setting bodies, certification bodies, test houses, civil society
- 1970 – 2010: 40 years

## Our mandate:

- Forum for dialogue on:  Standardization  Technical regulations  Conformity assessment  Accreditation  Metrology  Market surveillance

## Our activities:

- Share info & best practice
- Capacity-building
- Develop and maintain a set of recommendations
- Implement a set of initiatives on specific industrial sectors

# Main areas of work

## Sectoral initiatives:

- Develop & implement a common regulatory framework in specific sectors
- So far: Telecommunications, Earth-moving equipment, ExEquipment

## Market surveillance:

- Develop and share best practice/Recommendations
- New recommendation on “Market Surveillance Policies”
- Develop a common terminology
- Advisory services/technical assistance
- Worldwide database of market surveillance authorities

## Risk Management:

- Best practice/Recommendation on using risk management tools in developing and implementing regulations
- New: 2 Recommendations on “Crisis Management” and “Risk management in Regulatory systems”

# In practice:

- Authorities decide to work together on a specific sector
- They agree on CROs
- They transpose the CROs into national technical regulations
- Then, when products have been assessed in the exporting country as compliant with the CROs they can automatically be sold in other markets with no further assessment.

# PRODUCT LIFE-CYCLE



**Product  
design**

**Production**

**Distribution**

**Harmonization  
of regulations**

**Conformity  
assessment**

**Market  
surveillance**



# REGULATORY DIALOGUE

# Status of the initiative

- Started work in 2007
- Developed a questionnaire about regulatory in ex on major markets
- Collected replies from Australia, Brazil, the European Union, the Russian Federation, United States
- CROs approved by the Working Party in November 2010, published in March 2011
- See website:  
<http://live.unece.org/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/EquipmentForExplosiveEnvironment/SIEEE.html>

# Next steps

- National contact points – build a group
- Further develop the CROs – work on coordination of market surveillance activities
- Promotion activities in cooperation with IECEX
  - 2012 IECEX International Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 20-21 March 2012
  - Petroleum Chemical Industry Committee for Europe (PCIC Europe) Prague on 19-21 June 2012
  - Meeting in Singapore, IECEX meetings, 2012



# Next session

## 30 October – 2 November

### Workshop on “Traceability: a tool x managing risks”

#### 31 October – 1 November

- Traceability in regulatory work (different sectors/countries)
- Does traceability help to achieve regulatory goals?
- Options for CABs and MSAs

### Panel session on “Standards and regulations to promote sustainable development: Preparing for Rio + 20

- UN system initiatives
- Initiatives by standards bodies
- Promoting better understanding

### Regular session

- Review of year-round activities
- Approval of three recommendation
- Presentation of the MS Glossary
- Advance presentation of a publication on « Risk Management in Regulatory

# Sectoral Initiatives

- CROs (common regulatory objectives) address legitimate government concerns (public health, safety, protection of the environment, interoperability, etc)
- Reference to international standards
- Define:
  - how compliance is assessed
  - which conformity assessment bodies are recognized as competent,
  - what competence criteria are to be fulfilled
  - other flanking issues

