



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/012

Agenda Item: 6d

Proposal for JRAC Project for 2018 - High Risk Product Co-operation

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: New Zealand



**22nd Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Meeting
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
20 August 2017**

High Risk Product Co-operation

Background

The principal function of regulations for electrical safety is to facilitate compliance of electrical or electronic equipment (EEE) with a benchmark, usually a Standard.

This is achieved by making the supplier (manufacturer or importer) subject to controls which typically cover testing, certification, declarations, registration or quality control.

The Regulations can also require guidance on safe use or installation, and these are often provided as instructions provided with the equipment. In most applications however, the risks associated with use are difficult to effectively regulate, especially with domestic appliances and equipment.

Regulatory systems

Compared with the European Union, which operates an SDoC regime that applies to all low voltage EEE, the majority of APEC member economies operate regulatory systems that are focussed on products that have been recognised to create risks.

The more common Regulatory interventions used in the APEC region are type 1 and type 5 (ISO/IEC Guide 17067) systems, however, the range of products vary as does the number of different products specifically Regulated. Some member economies operate Regulatory regimes with more than one level of intervention.

While these different regimes generally reflect a risk based architecture and their use of IEC Standards to establish benchmarks, these different systems typically do not work well for information interchange, a fundamental strength of the EU regime.

New Zealand is proposing a project to explore whether a focussed information interchange system could be set up to focus on the higher-risk EE equipment in the region.

WTO

In accordance with WTO principles, the Regulation of EEE should reflect risk management principles. The challenge for APEC economies comes from the broad range of risks that the various member economies encounter and are expected to manage.

Risk

Risk is internationally recognised as being a function of probability and consequence therefore any strategic approach to improving safety and trade needs to identify both factors.

The project

New Zealand proposes to request its member economies consider the range of domestic and similar products (Both LV and ELV EEE) that are on sale in their market and consider the risks that these products create and what factors they believe contribute to that risk. We are proposing that member economies provide information on the “top 20” products that they assess to create the most risk to their population as a result of non-compliance with a relevant Standard.

This information need not reflect the current regulatory controls but should reflect the knowledge of their regulatory agency including those industry experts that provide advice on safety to the safety agency.

Member economies are encouraged when preparing the list to also think about products under development or likely to exist in the future.

For each of these types of equipment, member economies are requested to provide up to three factors that significantly contribute to the probability of non-compliance and up to three factors that significantly contribute to the consequence of non-compliance.

Member economies are requested to exercise care when preparing the list so as not to identify equipment that presents a risk simply because of its use, such as cooking appliances that often cause fires from misuse.

Analysis and Reporting

New Zealand will then undertake an analysis of the information, and report back to the next JRAC meeting on whether a list of equipment types could be created where regulatory cooperation and consistency, as an additional step to information exchange, would benefit the APEC member economy’s populations as a whole.

Example of table for submitting information for the analysis

#	EE Equipment type	Consequence 1	Consequence 2	Consequence 3	Probability 1	Probability 2	Probability 3
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							