



**Asia-Pacific
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Overview of Conformity Assessment Approaches and Their Differences

Submitted by: Toy Industry Association (TIA)



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**OVERVIEW OF CONFORMITY
ASSESSMENT APPROACHES
AND THEIR DIFFERENCES**

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APEC TOY SAFETY INITIATIVE
REGULATOR TO REGULATOR DIALOGUE

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**Definition and Purpose of
Conformity Assessment**

*“Standards are just good ideas unless
products, processes, systems
and personnel conform to them.”*

(American National Standards Institute)

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The American Approach



- ❖ Sectoral
- ❖ Pre-market assessment
- ❖ Reliance on private sector programs

The American Approach (cont.)



- ❖ Self-assessment
- ❖ Second-party assessment
- ❖ Third party assessment
 - ❖ Accreditation of assessors
 - ❖ Mutual recognition of accreditation
- ❖ Role of government in enforcement
 - ❖ What is right for a product category?

The EU Approach



- ❖ Adoption of “New Approach”
- ❖ Presumed conformity
- ❖ CE mark implies conformity
- ❖ Member states obligation for post-market enforcement

The Asian Approach



- ❖ Substantial diversity
- ❖ National programs covering many products
- ❖ Emphasis on pre-market assessment
- ❖ Assessment work performed by government agencies

Common Elements

1. Should not create unnecessary obstacles to trade
2. Should be open and transparent
3. Conducted and based on appropriate standards
4. Driven by unique product characteristics and risks

Common Elements (cont.)

5. Information on requirements and procedures publicly available
6. Procedures completed promptly
7. Info requirements limited to what is necessary
8. Applicants treated equally regarding fees

Common Elements (cont.)

9. Sample selection procedures are appropriate, convenient, minimum cost
10. Expeditious notice of changes in requirements
11. Effective procedures for reviewing complaints

Common Elements (cont.)

12. Reasonable surveillance to ensure continued conformity
13. Bilateral or multi-lateral agreements should be sound, credible and open

Conformity Assessment Overview

Thank you!