

## News in Brief

### August 2020

Dear reader

Another month has gone and also most of the summer, which hopefully has been good for most despite of the prevailing pandemic circumstances that seem to stay on with varying degree between different world regions, countries, towns and even between districts. Apart from the direct health-risks, certainly the devastating consequences for many trades and industries entail economic issues for individuals as well as for businesses and societies which for many are overwhelming. While waiting for an effective vaccine, one must try to hang on and do one's best to prevent risk of infection and spread, both regarding personal hygiene, social distances and other recommended means or public restrictions.

In any case, here follows the August 2020 issue of Nemko News in Brief, which hopefully is found to be of interest.

- **Planning to check consumer products in Europe for hazardous substances**
- **Recognized as Certification Body for wireless communication equipment in Japan**
- **Thailand implementing standard for plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes**
- **Status on European Cybersecurity Certification**
- **New telecom regulation in Congo (DRC)**
- **Coming events**

Wishing that you and yours will stay safe and healthy,

Best regards

*Trond Sollie*

Editor



### Planning to check consumer products in Europe for hazardous substances

At a recent meeting in Helsinki, Finland, the European 'Enforcement Forum' (a network of authorities responsible for enforcement of regulations for hazardous substances) agreed that its major enforcement project planned for 2022 (REF-10) will focus on integrated checks of products that control

several duties from different pieces of legislation, mostly related to articles. The majority of the products are expected to be consumer products.

Inspectors will check that the products comply with restrictions for selected hazardous substances under the REACH regulation, and whether complying with restrictions for the presence of persistent organic pollutants defined under the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation.

Specific substances to be covered by these checks will be decided in 2021 and could potentially include for example phthalates or PFOS.

Enforcers will also check REACH duties for substances in articles requiring that information on substances of very high concern in products is being communicated in the supply chain.

These duties under REACH and POPs will be checked for specific types of material such as rubber, plastic or textiles, which will broaden the scope of controls and strengthening the protection of EU citizens and the environment. This enforcement project will be prepared in 2021, with inspections conducted in 2022 and the report expected at the end of 2023.

Further information may be seen [here](#) .

## Recognized as Certification Body for wireless communication equipment in Japan

Under the terms of the Japan-USA MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement), Nemko has successfully been recognized as a Certification Body by MIC (the Japanese Ministry of Information & Communications).

Nemko's scope covers radio (wireless communication) equipment under MIC's defined scopes B1, B2 and B3, which allows Nemko to certify equipment with many different types of wireless communication technologies such as WiFi, Bluetooth and even higher power radios such as LTE transmitters.

The certifications will be processed within Nemko's Telecommunications Certification Body (TCB) which is already an industry leader in certifying wireless products for key economies like United States, Canada, EU/EEA, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

For further information, please contact [TCB@nemko.com](mailto:TCB@nemko.com)



## Thailand implementing standard for plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes

The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) is intending to enforce the standard TIS 166-2549:2006 *Plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes* in Thailand.

The standard applies to plugs and socket-outlets for alternating current (AC) with a rated voltage not exceeding 250 V and a rated current not exceeding 16 A, intended either indoors or outdoors at ambient temperatures not exceeding 40°C.

This standard also applies to plugs incorporated in cord sets, to plugs and portable socket-outlets incorporated in cord extension sets and to plugs and socket-outlets which are a component of an electrical appliance, unless otherwise stated in the standard for the relevant electrical appliance.

TISI made public notification through the WTO (as may be seen [here](#)) on 18 June this year. The period of 60 days given for commenting expired on 14 August. The planned date for entering into force is 11 November this year.

For further information, please contact [Tom.Tidwell@nemko.com](mailto:Tom.Tidwell@nemko.com)

## Status on European Cybersecurity Certification

Based on the European Cybersecurity Act 2019, a Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group (SCCG) has now been established to advise the European Commission and the European Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) on strategic issues regarding cybersecurity certification.

The SCCG is composed of representatives from 50 organisations, representing a broad range of interests.

The aim is to create market driven certification schemes and help reduce fragmentation between various existing schemes in the EU/EEA Member States.

**The European Commission's has already proposed a certification scheme** (in a document of about 300 pages) which has been out on hearing this summer. It entails mandatory certification based on the so called "Common Criteria" (contained in the ISO/IEC standards 15408 and 18045) and the use of a certification label on the product.

Nemko is today accredited according to the relevant standards and is also appointed by the national authorities for Common Criteria certification.

Although the details of the proposed scheme is somewhat different, Nemko is in a good position to deliver services according to the coming European scheme, which is expected ready by the end of this year

As reported in the July issue of this newsletter, Nemko is also now offering cyber security attestation/certification of connected devices (e.g. home appliances), according to the European standard ETSI/EN 303 645 'Cyber Security for Consumer Internet of Things' .

For information about this, please contact [Geir.Horte@nemko.com](mailto:Geir.Horte@nemko.com) .

## New telecom regulation in Congo (DRC)

The telecom authority ARPTC (Autorité de Régulation de Poste et de Télécommunication Congo) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Africa has announced a new national regulation for type approval of telecom equipment.

Approval of wired terminal equipment and wireless equipment is now granted for varying durations with equipment being classified into the following categories:

- Equipment connected to telecommunications networks and radio transmitters (Validity: 5 years)
- Landline and mobile phones. Low power equipment (Validity: 2 years)
- All other equipment different from the first two categories containing a radio module (Validity: 2 years)
- Receivers, reception decoders (Validity: 2 years)
- Antennas (Validity: 5 years)
- All other equipment not listed in categories 1-5 (Validity: 2 years)

The same conditions apply for renewal of approvals.

Also, the new regulation requires that the equipment carries an irremovable label with the following information :

- Approval number and date.
- Model identification + batch- or serial number.
- Identification of the responsible manufacturer/supplier.

Further information (in French) may be seen [here](#) .

## Coming events

3 September: Nemko Italy webinar on 'Certification of electronic products for the US' (in Italian)  
Registration can be made [here](#).

24 September: Nemko Germany webinar on 'How to prepare electronic products for IEC 62368-1' (in German)  
Registration can be made [here](#).

### **IEC Academy webinars**

Information about themes and times may be seen [here](#).

### **GSO courses in the Arabic Gulf Region during 2020**

Information about themes, places and times may be seen [here](#).

### **Receive invitations to Nemko webinars on current compliance matters**

The webinars will be conducted in English, and one will be able to access the recordings afterwards, for own use and sharing with others.

Please register [here](#).

