

## News in Brief

October 2019

Dear Reader,

The undersigned is just back from a week in Shanghai, China, which appears more fascinating than ever. It somehow feels like looking into the future. This time, the occasion was the big annual IEC General Meeting. Needless to say, today's focus in such an event in the electrotechnical area is directed towards digitalization and environmental protection, regarding both standardization and conformity assessment. Certainly, the new digital technologies/applications under development (5G, AI, VR, IoT, Block Chain etc, and not least the need for Cyber Security) are all largely depending on what IEC is all about, namely electricity! More about this event follows below together with other articles, which are hopefully found to be of interest.

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Best regards  
[Trond Sollie](#)  
Editor



### Drastic new European requirements for electrical equipment

#### **EU Commission shocks the manufacturers of electronic displays and TVs**

The new [Regulation with ecodesign requirements](#) issued by the European Commission 1 October, implements a total ban in Europe of halogens in TV's, Displays and Signage Displays in both enclosures and stands from 1 March 2021.

The reactions to this decision are quite divided:

- The International Bromine Council (BSEF) strongly opposes the "arbitrary and discriminatory" ban on halogenated flame retardants in the EU Ecodesign Directive's requirements for electronic displays. It is the first time an entire class of chemicals has been banned under the Directive.

- The European environmental [NGOs](#), however, are strongly favoring this drastic decision, which they see as a big step towards a more circular economy and hope that other parts of the world will be inspired to do the same.

They also expect EU decision-makers to replicate this approach to many other products, and notably electronic products such as smartphones and computers, to minimize their environmental impact.

For more information, please contact [Jonlvar.Tidemann@nemko.com](mailto:Jonlvar.Tidemann@nemko.com)

## New requirements for repairability of electrical household appliances

An annex to the amended Regulation issued by the European Commission on 1 October introduces revolutionary new requirements to repairability of electrical household appliances

From 1 March 2021, manufacturers, importers or authorized representatives of household washing machines and household washer-dryers must, amongst other, make available to professional repairers essential spare parts for a minimum period of ten years after placing the last unit of the model on the market.

The detailed list of parts provided includes e.g.:

- motor, motor brushes and pumps.
- shock absorbers and springs.
- heaters and heating elements.
- printed circuit boards.

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

## The 83rd IEC General Meeting hosted in Shanghai

On 21-25 October, the 83rd annual [IEC](#) General Meeting took place in Shanghai, China, hosted by the Chinese National Committee of the IEC, c/o SAC (*the Standardization Administration of China*).

This was the biggest of such events ever, being attended by nearly 4000 people, representing industry and relevant bodies in the 86 IEC member countries and the 87 affiliate member countries.

In addition to the statutory managerial meetings, it was also the venue of more than 100 meetings of Technical Committees and their sub-committees.

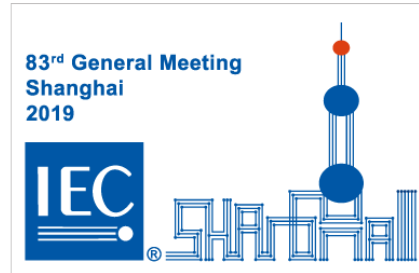
Nemko was represented in several of the technical committee meetings, including TC108 (*Standards for IT/AV & Communication equipment*), TC61 (*Household appliances*), TC34 (*Lighting equipment*), TC66 (*Measurement equipment*), TC62 (*Medical devices*) and TC111 (*Environmental*) as well as in managerial meetings, including the high-level IEC-CAB (*Conformity Assessment Board*). More information is available at <https://qm2019.iec.ch/>

In addition, opportunity was taken for various bi-lateral discussions and consultations with managers of standards organizations and product approval bodies in various countries worldwide.

The editor also took part in the *Affiliated Countries Forum* and the *WIC (Workshop of Industrializing Countries)*. Amongst IEC's four Regional Centers, the [AFRC](#) for Africa is based in Nairobi, Kenya, and is actively working for the use of the IEC standards in African countries, and to take advantage of the IEC Conformity Assessments Systems, especially the [IECEE/CB](#) scheme. It was also understood that [AFSEC](#) (*the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission*), which is now based in Cairo, Egypt has undertaken to make an overview/guide about market access requirements for electrical products in the different African countries.

While in Shanghai, the editor also had the honor of being one of the expert panelists during a major symposium on conformity assessment in the electrotechnical field arranged on 18 October by the Chinese organizations [CCIC](#) and [CQC](#).

For further information, please contact the [editor](#).



## Outcome of the GSO Notified Bodies' meeting in Turkey

The 6th meeting of the '[GSO](#) Notified Bodies Cooperation Group for Low Voltage Electrical Equipment' (GNBCG) took place in Istanbul, Turkey 16-18 September. (This group comprises the bodies authorized to provide G-mark certification of electrical household products for the Arabic Gulf region).

Nemko was at this meeting represented by Ms. Yasaman Vadoudi, who has reported on the following being amongst the main outcomes:

- The validity of G-mark certificate is maximum 3 years, but may be less if new standard versions are implemented. To renew a certificate, one can apply 6 months before the expiry date (early renewal), or within 3 months after (late renewal).
- In order for products with G-mark certificate to get market access to Saudi Arabia under [SASOs SABER system](#), after 1 October, the Notified Bodies must register the distributor's name, address, and commercial registration in the *GSO Conformity Tracking System* (GCTS)
- After a reported case of refusal of G-Mark certificate by customs in Qatar, it was ensured by the Qatar representation in the meeting that valid G-Mark certificates are accepted provided the valid rating for Qatar is shown on the product (220-240V, 50 or 60Hz. Alternatively, 240V, 50Hz)
- GSO plans to establish an e-certificate generator to be in function from next year.
- Implementation of new GCTS rules and transition period for product QR code. After 1 May this year the Notified Body's id.number shall no longer be on the on the product QR code, and the transition period for existing products ends 31 December 2020.

For further information and/or application for G-Mark certificate, please contact [Yasaman.Vadoudi@nemko.com](mailto:Yasaman.Vadoudi@nemko.com)

## Active promotion in South China

### New “Star Ferry” campaign in Hong Kong

Nemko is once again one of the sponsors to a campaign in Hong Kong for influencing consumers to ensure that the products they buy are compliant with applicable safety standards, as well as convincing suppliers and retailers to verify that consumer products they offer for sale are compliant.

The title of this campaign is “Emily goes shopping”. It is organized by the Dutch company [ProductIP](#), which has developed a comprehensive product compliance knowledge and collaboration platform for non-food products.

The campaign includes various posters at strategic locations at the port stations of the “Star Ferry”. This traditional ferry system in Hong Kong carries thousands of people every day across the strait between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, including the visitors to the many trade shows at the Wan Chai exhibition center.

For more information about the campaign, please contact [Jumang.kang@nemko.com](mailto:Jumang.kang@nemko.com)



### Featuring at the 39th Hong Kong Electronics Fair

Nemko China was also this year exhibiting at the autumn edition of this major electronics fair in Hong Kong, which took place 13-16 October.

It is an excellent opportunity to meet both existing and new customers for promoting testing, certification and market access services, and for further increasing the awareness of the Nemko brand in the electronics industry both within China and internationally.

Hong Kong Electronic Fair is organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. It is an international trade fair that is held twice each year and is daily visited by more than 60000 people from countries worldwide. The exhibitors are mainly from mainland China, Hongkong and Taiwan.

For further information and/or contact with Nemko's regional office for South China, please contact [amy.huang@nemko.com](mailto:amy.huang@nemko.com)



## Coming events

**7 November: Nemko webinar on Mandatory RoHS compliance in the EAEU from 1 March 2020**

Registration can be made [here](#).

**11-12 November: Featuring at the IEEE SPCE 2019 Tradeshow in Austin, Texas, USA.**

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

**IEC Academy Webinars:**

**-12 November: *The importance of terminology and 10 practical tips.***

Registration for 9 a.m. CET [here](#). Registration for 3 p.m. CET [here](#)

**-26 November: *Harmonizing International and European Standards - The Frankfurt Agreement.***

Registration for 9 a.m. CET [here](#). Registration for 3 p.m. CET [here](#).

**-10 December: *Conformity Assessment and Standards Development*.**

Registration for 9 a.m. CET [here](#). Registration for 3 p.m. CET [here](#).

**Receive invitations to Nemko webinars on current compliance issues**

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](#).

