

## News in Brief

September 2019

Dear Reader

We are certainly living in interesting times. It is now political chaos in two of the corner-stones of the Western Hemisphere, i.e. the US and the UK, due to apparent misbehavior by their top leaders.

What will be the next? Whatever the political climate, however, here follows the September 2019-issue of Nemko News in Brief, which hopefully will be found to be of interest.

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Best regards

*Trond Sollie*

Editor



### Great Britain quo vadis?

Whether or not the UK will step out of the EU on the current target date 31 October this year, without a deal, is still not at all settled. Prime Minister Boris Johnson managed to get the Parliament suspended, which, however, the Supreme Court since

established being illegal and hence to be repealed. So, the chances for those who want to force through a so called "No-deal Brexit" or "Hard Brexit" seem to be slim now.

In the case of a Hard Brexit, EU laws and regulations would cease to apply in the UK on 31 October 2019. On the other hand, EU law would not be binding in UK territory. This means that UK export and import will be regulated as for any other country outside the EU/EEA. UK importers of products from third countries would no longer be able to act as an importer to the EU or as an Authorized Representative for the EU, due to the requirement of being established within the community. UK manufacturers selling into the EU/EEA would need an importer in the receiving country, with the contact details labeled on the product.

Should there be no other agreement between the UK and EU in place, manufacturers that have used UK-based Notified Bodies for their conformity assessment will need to update their documentation and choose non-UK Notified Bodies. This applies for example to manufacturers of medical devices, products for explosive environments and some radio products.

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

## Nemko expanding in the Middle East

During the past 10 years, the Arabic Gulf region has become increasingly important as regards product certification for market access. In order to be represented in this region, Nemko entered into a partner agreement with the local agency Moayana already in 2013. The partnership has developed successfully over the years, helping Nemko customers with market access to Middle East countries, primarily Saudi Arabia.



Both parties see the region as a big potential in support of a growth strategy. Nemko is now in the process of establishing its own company, Nemko Middle East, based in Jordan. On 11 September, Moayana and Nemko signed an extended Service Agreement which strengthens the relation between Moayana and Nemko Middle East with the aim to further expand in the region.

The photo above shows at left Nemko's CEO, Mr. Per Ove Øyberg, and at right Moayana's CEO, Mr. Hatim Afaneh during the signing ceremony at the Norwegian Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

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

## Proposal for "High Priority" chemicals in the US

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to designate 20 chemical substances as 'High-Priority Substances' for upcoming risk evaluations. Several of the proposed chemicals are relevant to the manufacture of electrical and electronic products, particularly phthalates, flame retardants, and formaldehyde.

The EPA is asking for comments on the proposed designations by 21 November and the affected industry is expected to make coordinated responses.



Relevant trade associations, such as the international IPC, are now actively working on this.

The proposed designation of the chemical substances as a High-Priority Substance is not a finding of unreasonable risk, rather this designation will initiate a risk evaluation for the chemical substance. The risk evaluation will determine whether the chemical presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under the conditions of use. Risk evaluations will inform risk management actions that impose restrictions on the chemicals.

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

## Will the US ENERGY STAR program change?

The ENERGY STAR® program in the US is voluntary and was established via legislative action in 1992 as a means of reducing energy waste and lowering energy costs for consumers and businesses. It is a joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE).



Since 2011, when the EPA revised the program to require third-party conformity assessment, several initiatives have been proposed to enhance or modify the program. These include:

- Moving management of the program from EPA to DOE.
- Removing the requirement for third party conformity assessment
- Providing waivers for 'good actors,' i.e. industry participants that have not experienced a non-compliance over a given amount of time.

In July 2019, the [Energy bill S. 2137 "Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019"](#) was introduced and is currently moving through the legislative process. The bill would lower the bar for certain

sectors of manufacturers in the ENERGY STAR® program, which some fear will create imbalance between participants that would impact the value of the program and reliability of the ENERGY STAR® label. A new provision would allow for creation of a 'good actor' incentive for those manufacturers seeking ENERGY STAR® approval for consumer, home, and office electronic products. It would include the waiver of certification requirements, thus prohibiting the EPA from requiring third-party certification. Within the industry, there are both supporters and strong opposition towards making such drastic changes to the program.

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



## Increasing certification in East Africa

A workshop was recently arranged by Nemko in Kampala, Uganda with representatives from some 15 enterprises in the East Africa region. They were mainly from IT related companies, some of which were just Nemko-certified and some recently re-certified.

Nemko has been present in this region since 1998 and has to-date certified more than 200 enterprises in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia and Madagascar to international management system standards; mostly ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO14001 for environmental management.

At present, auditing of the first company for certification to the standard ISO27001 for information security is in process. The type of companies seeking certification covers a wide range. The left photo above is from a poultry breeding company, while the second photo shows hand-over of certificate to an IT- company. Uganda is now preparing for future oil- & gas exploration and production. Companies being suppliers to this industry are generally required to be certified to ISO 9001 as a minimum.

Having a local presence also means possibility to offer support for Nemko's market access services to exporters of electrical/electronic products to countries in this region.

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

## Coming events

### **22-24 October: Featuring at the SMAU 2019 Tradeshow in Milan, Italy.**

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

### **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)

### **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](#).

