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News in Brief

December 2019

Dear reader

A new year and even a new decade ahead. The past decade may in history perhaps be remembered as “the communication age”, while the “digitalization age” might be a suitable name for the next. How fast new digital technologies and applications will be ‘common place’ will be interesting to see.

In the meantime, however, we shall pass into the new Roman year and those marking that, are wished a good celebration and Happy New Year.

But here follows now the last issue of this newsletter in this decade, which you hopefully find of interest.

[Trond Sollie](#)

Editor

Contents

- The ‘European Green Deal’ launched**
- About the Japanese regulation for electrical products**
- TCO certification for data center products**
- Nemko USA approaching ITAR accreditation**
- Being updated on Mexican market access conditions**
- Coming events**



The ‘European Green Deal’ launched

On 11 December, a new overall strategy denoted [European Green Deal](#) was launched by the European Commission in Brussels.

It covers all sectors of the economy, is based on the realization of being in a climate and environmental emergency, and represents a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas.

According to President Ursula von der Leyen; *it shall make Europe a global leader by moving first and*

moving fast, for the sake of this planet and life on it. One wants to show the rest of the world how to be sustainable and competitive and convince other countries to move along.

To meet the objectives of this new overall strategy, a series of concrete key actions are planned, as can be seen [here](#). This will require significant investments and mobilization of both the public and private sectors. The Commission will early 2020 present a ‘Sustainable Europe Investment Plan’ to help meet investment needs.

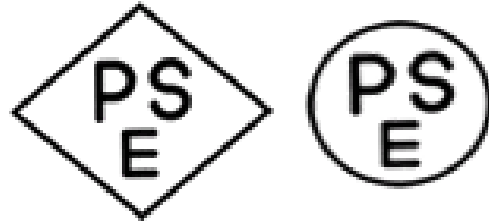
It is intended that at least 25% of the EU's long-term budget should be dedicated to climate action, and the European Investment Bank ([Europe's climate bank](#)), will provide further support. For the private sector to contribute to financing the green transition, the Commission will present a *Green Financing Strategy* in 2020. More information is available at [this link](#).

About the Japanese regulation for electrical products

The Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI) has announced some distinctions for certain types of products in the scope of the [Electrical Appliances & Materials Safety Act](#) (DENAN).

Basically, this regulation comprises two categories of products:

- Category A, with currently 116 "Specified Electrical Appliances & Materials" (as especially liable to cause hazards and disturbances) which require certification of conformity by a designated body and use of the above shown [Diamond-PSE mark](#).
- Category B, with currently 341 "Non-specified Electrical Appliances & Materials," for which conformity can be self-declared and the above shown [Circle-PSE mark](#) shall be applied.



Nemko's Japanese partner Cosmos Corp. is registered by METI as a *Conformity Assessment Body* for handling conformity assessment of products as basis for PSE-mark.

Mainly due to developments in product variety and functions, for some product types, determination of scope limits and distinctions have appeared needed. Amongst the recently announced matters are:

- For portable lithium-ion batteries, which have required PSE-mark since 1 February this year, when the battery is integrated in a housing and cannot be taken out or off, [Circle-PSE mark](#) applies, (whereas separately, the housing is out of the PSE scope).
- Bluetooth speakers and USB terminals with rating AC100-240V, 50-60Hz and electricity consumption 150W, (USB output voltage DC5V, and max. 3A output current of USB terminal) are considered combination equipment of "Power supply" and "Other audio product". Such equipment is subject to either [Diamond-PSE mark](#) or [Circle -PSE mark](#) depending on the specification.
- For wiring device with Wi-Fi switch ON/OFF function AC100V, 50/60Hz, 15A, 1500W IEEE802.11b/g/n is determined as "Other plug-in connecting equipment" for which [Diamond-PSE mark](#) applies.

Full information (in Japanese only) is available at [this site](#).

For more information or assistance with certification for Japan, please contact Lars.Hjerpseth@nemko.com

TCO certification for data center products

On 12 December, [TCO Certified](#) extended the scope of its scheme for 'sustainability certification for IT products' to cover the following three product categories: Network equipment, Data storage products and Servers, which are amongst the most important components of data centers.

The extension is denoted 'the 8th generation' of this scheme and implies the publication of particular criteria for such products.

IT products in data centers are connected to both social and environmental sustainability risks throughout their life cycle. The environmental impact of data usage is seen to be growing fast. The decision to include data center products is apparently also based on an increasing demand from purchasing organizations as they move toward a more holistic approach to sustainable IT.

According to TCO Certified, the new criteria involved cover a wide range that are designed to promote a circular approach to IT products and for brand owners be a tool to help validating sustainability progress and claims in environmental responsibility. More information is available at [this site](#).

The Nemko laboratories in Taiwan and China are approved by TCO to perform testing for their certification.

For further information and/or application for testing and assistance with TCO certification, please contact Tangey.Chen@nemko.com





Nemko USA approaching ITAR accreditation

Serving the compliance needs of the US defense industry is a major opportunity for conformity assessment services.

Nemko's laboratory in San Diego, California in USA has now passed a major milestone towards its goal of becoming a laboratory that is compliant with the United States [International Traffic in Arms Regulations](#) (ITAR).

The ITAR is a regulatory regime to restrict and control the export of defense and military related technologies to safeguard U.S. national security and further foreign policy objectives.

Defense-related articles and services on the [United States Munitions List](#) (USML) are covered by the

regulations, which implement the provisions of the [Arms Export Control Act](#) (AECA). The Department of State [Directorate of Defense Trade Controls](#) (DDTC) interprets and enforces ITAR. The [Department of Defense](#) is also involved in the review and approval process

Having been granted an ITAR registration number, one can proceed to build the infrastructure and standard operating procedures necessary to ensure that security expectations are met for projects requiring ITAR compliance. While Nemko cannot currently scope or initiate ITAR projects with clients in the defense industry, receiving ITAR registration is a major step forward towards that.

For further information or any questions, please contact Jose.Elias@nemko.com

Being updated on Mexican market access conditions

As earlier announced in this newsletter, since early this year [NOM](#) certification is required for electrical and electronic products to get access to the Mexican market. Nemko is authorized by the *Mexican General Directorate of Standards (Dirección General de Normas, DGN)* to issue certificate for NOM-mark for electronic IT and household products. More than 30 Nemko NOM certificates have already been issued this year.



From its office in San Diego, California, quite close to the Mexican border, Nemko is in good position to follow up on the development of relevant requirements/conditions in Mexico and keeping close ties with relevant authorities as well as partner labs and local reps.

During a recent trip, staff from Nemko USA met with the *Mexican Accreditation Entity (EMA)* and the *General Directorate of Standards (DGN)* to learn more about changes coming to the Mexican NOM standards, and how Nemko's scope can continue to evolve to meet the clients' needs.

Meetings were also held with the local partner laboratories *Canieti*, *Labotec* and *All About Compliance* to discuss how the cooperation can be utmost efficient.

For more information or application for NOM certification, please contact imap@nemko.com or Luis.Gonzalez@nemko.com

Coming events

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](#).

