

News in Brief

July 2020

Dear Reader,

Summer is upon us. For many, it is time for summer vacation, which, however, is this year also affected by the current Corona pandemic situation. For people who are or having been quarantined or otherwise isolated, vacation may be out of the question. For most others, travel restrictions prevent going outside one's own country or region.

So, as for industries and businesses turning from 'globalization' to 'localization', vacation at home or nearby are generally the only option, but may perhaps be found better than expected.

Regardless of situation, it is hoped that you stay healthy and safe, and will have a good continuation of the summer, and that you will find this July-issue of our News in Brief to be of interest.

- **Offering Cyber Security Assurance services**
- **Wi-Fi developments for faster wireless connectivity**
- **Substances registration in Europe becoming more complex**
- **Acceptance by Russian Customs authorities of EAEU certificates**
- **Expansion of environmental testing services**
- **Disruptive wireless charging may revolutionize ferry transportation**
- **Coming events**

Best regards

Trond Sollie

Editor



Offering Cyber Security Assurance services

Data attacks are currently one of the biggest threats in today's society. The threats come in various forms; from targeted attacks on specific companies or industries, to automated systems that search the web for vulnerabilities, or send out millions of fake emails. In the same way that the threats are different, the solutions also consist of many elements that must work together.

For contributing to cyber security assurance for products that are connected on internet, often referred to as Internet of Things (IoT), Nemko has now established a scheme with attestation- and certification services. The services are based on the European standard ETSI/EN 303 645 'Cyber Security for Consumer Internet of Things', the scope of which includes connected devices, such as -home appliances (e.g. Washing machines and refrigerators), -TVs and speakers, -Smoke detectors, door locks and window sensors, -Home automation and alarm systems, -Base stations and hubs for multiple devices.

The services are offered to manufacturers (or their authorized representatives), with no geographical limitations.

One can choose between **Product Attestation** or **Product Certification**.

In both cases; upon successful evaluation of a product sample (and its associated systems/functions) according to the above-mentioned European standard, Nemko issues either an **Attestation** of Conformity or a **Certificate** of Conformity.

An **Attestation** will cover the evaluated product sample only, but not further manufactured products.

This solution is suitable for manufacturers producing a one-off batch of products, e.g. tailor-made for one purpose or one buyer.

For a **Certificate**, in addition to product evaluation, an audit of the manufacturer's quality system is performed. Then, the manufacturer can make certain changes to the product with the certification remaining valid. The changes will be reviewed during annual surveillance audits at the production site. This solution is suitable for manufacturers expecting changes to their products, e.g. for adjustments to the needs of different buyers.

The manufacturer can then document towards the market and concerned authorities that third-party professional evaluation has determined that the product complies with a relevant European standard. This solution may be most useful towards buyers with limited expertise in cyber technology

At the same time, it may be noted that the EU (and UK !) have now sent out their cybersecurity requirements for such products on hearing.

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Wi-Fi developments for faster wireless connectivity

One obvious impact of the Corona pandemic is how reliant we have all become on connectivity, particularly wireless connectivity. For most of us, the combination of a fast broadband connection along with a solid Wi-Fi wireless network inside our home has become a must for being able to work, attend classes, as well as for access to vital information and entertainment.

Significantly more attention is therefore being placed on connectivity overall these days, within all of our different devices.

We are now entering a new era of wireless connectivity with launch of 5G networks and the growing availability of lower-cost 5G-capable devices. At the same time, there has also been some important Wi-Fi developments, namely what is referred to as 'Wi-Fi 6E'.



Some experts claim that the 'Wi-Fi 6E' advancements could prove to give significantly faster connection speeds than even the best that 5G has to offer, especially in confined areas like homes, offices and conference centers. However, to get this advantage, one needs to have both routers and devices which support that standard.

Apparently, the US is in the forefront of this development, and after the authority [FCC](#) recently gave approval for a major extension of the Wi-Fi radio spectrum in the 6 GHz band in the US, one expects a significantly improved range of wireless networking options quite soon.

However, other countries are soon following, such as Korea, where the authorities ([MSIT / RRA](#)) have now announced that the new 6GHz band for WiFi will be open as unlicensed frequency, and will revise the existing radio technical criteria accordingly.

So despite other challenges one faces these days, it may be a good year for wireless. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).



Substances registration in Europe becoming more complex

As mandated under the updated European Waste Framework Directive ([WFD](#)) 2018/851, the European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#)) has developed and will maintain a database of information on products containing harmful substances. The data base is denoted [SCIP](#) ('Substances of Concern In articles or Complex Products'), and the submission deadline is 5 January 2021.

So, already from 5 January 2021, companies supplying articles containing substances of very high concern (SVHCs) on the Candidate List of the European [REACH-regulation](#) in a concentration above 0.1% 'weight by weight' (w/w) on the European market have to submit information on these articles to ECHA.

The SCIP database ensures that this information is available throughout the whole lifecycle of products and materials, including the waste stage. The information in the database is then made available to waste operators and consumers.

Reporting into the SCIP database will be substantially more complex and time consuming. For instance, it will require a declaration for materials and articles at every level of manufacture and distribution across the supply chain, whereas REACH only requires a single declaration at the article level. Companies will be expected to submit the same data points they already collect for REACH, in addition to several others.

To meet the deadline, companies should immediately begin reviewing their data requirements, educating their supply chains (especially suppliers located outside Europe) and acquiring data. A deep understanding of what information to request from suppliers, and in what format, is crucial to efficient data collection.

Companies outside Europe are currently not within the legal scope of WFD, but to maintain market access, they should support their European importing partners by diligently responding to data requests. The first importers in Europe are responsible for submitting this data.

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Acceptance by Russian Customs authorities of EAEU certificates

According to Nemko's partner in Belarus, BELLIS, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) has now officially re-confirmed that, in accordance with its earlier Resolution (ref. EEC Letter No.: *ГБ-635/25 dated 19.03.2020*), customs authorities in all the EAEU member countries (i.e. Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kirgizstan), must accept regional EAC Certificates and Declarations without requesting any additional documentation.



Exporters of electrical/electronic equipment have earlier experienced issues with this at Russian borders. However, it is now reported that EAC Certificates issued by legitimate certification bodies in the other EAEU member countries, such as BELLIS in Belarus, are without restrictions accepted by Russian customs authorities for release to the Russian market.

In case additional documents are still requested by some Russian customs officers, it is an undisputable violation of the EAEU legislation. Such an unlikely incident should be promptly reported to the issuing Certification Body, who shall immediately provide a letter confirming the validity of the Certificate together with an official copy of it.

For more information, please contact Lars.hjerpseth@nemko.com.



Expansion of environmental testing services

The environmental testing capacity of Nemko in Norway has been expanded after recently acquiring a nearby environmental testing lab, which for many years have been used for development purposes by some companies in the oil & gas exploration industry. Nemko will run the lab at the existing premises, which is located in Asker, a 10 mins. drive from Nemko's headquarter labs outside Oslo.

The lab set-up extends Nemko Norway's current scope of environmental testing capabilities. It includes chambers for humidity-, temperature- and

UV exposure testing, as well as equipment for vibration- and shock testing, tensile strength measurements and an advanced digital microscopy. Not least, it includes equipment for HALT/HASS testing (*Highly Accelerated Life Test / Highly Accelerated Stress Screen*), making Nemko the only commercial lab to provide HALT / HASS testing in Norway.

It also allows performing un-accredited testing at customer's request.

A total package of such services can now be offered to both existing and new customers in the maritime and offshore markets, as well as offering opportunities for new business in the military-, automotive- and R&D markets.

For more information, please contact Tore.Ledaal@nemko.com

Disruptive wireless charging may revolutionize ferry transportation

The maritime industry is actively exploring how new technologies can help to reduce adverse effects of using fossil fuels.

A long-time Nemko customer, **Wartsila** in Finland, is actively involved in development of smart technologies and complete lifecycle solutions for the marine and energy markets. One of their recent achievements is a wireless inductive charging system for battery-powered ferries.

Rechargeable lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery technologies are ideal for ferries, since they typically operate on routes with limited duration and possibility for frequent recharging.

In Norway, ferries with rechargeable battery-powered propulsion system are expected to represent more than a third of Norway's ferry fleet by 2022. Being recharged by hydroelectric electrical power, the environmental benefits are obvious.

Nemko was engaged to test the system's magnetic field and acoustic noise characteristics to determine whether charging at the required level could have an adverse effect, on the ferry's critical systems and/or on the ferry's crew and passengers.

After successful testing, the charging system was installed on the ferry *M/F <>Folgefonn*, operating in the West coast fjords in Norway, making it the world's first battery-powered commercial vessel with wireless charging technology.



For more information, please contact Sindre.Brelum@nemko.com.

Coming events

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](#).

Recent past event: The proceedings of Nemko's international customer webinar in June is available from [this link](#).

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](#).

