News in Brief

for May 2021

Dear Reader,
During May, some of the major global headlines have highlighted:
-The Indian pandemic situation gone from very bad to extremely bad and can apparently only be saved by
vaccination.
-Good news is that the large pharmaceutical industry has agreed to release Covid-19 vaccine patents, allowing production and distribution by anyone and anywhere.
-China's population has passed 1.4 billion, but growth is low and worrisome wrt. growing shares of elderly people (presently nearly 1/5) and people living in cities (presently nearly 2/3).
-Once again escalation of the never-ending tragic Israeli/Palestine conflict, with devastating outcomes on both sides.
-Cyberattack on the control center for a US oil pipeline, causing critical shortage of fuel for East Coast regions.
Yet another reminder of how dependent we all are on cyber security in our time, which is also the theme in one of the articles below.

-Update on market access conditions in South Korea.
-Published UK Regulation for cyber security of IoT.
-Saudi Arabia expanding the scopes of mandatory certifications.
-The 9th generation of TCO Certified being introduced.
-New marketing manager for Asia.
-Coming events.

Hoping that you and yours continue staying safe and healthy,
Best regards
T.Sollie
Editor

P.S. If you know of colleagues or others you think should get this monthly newsletter, please refer to this link for Registration.

Update on market access conditions in South Korea

Some countries with mandatory certification of electrical/electronic products have EMC requirements in addition electrical safety requirements. This is also the case for the mandatory KC-mark certification in Korea.
The Korean standards for EMC (and Radio) have now been renamed and must from 8 May this year be referenced in reports and certification applications with the standards' new names. The technical content in the standards remains the same.

Part of the change is that the edition year shall be shown after the standard number, e.g. *KS 61000-6-1 (the Korean generic standard for immunity in residential, commercial and light industrial environments)*, is now denoted *KS C 9610-6-1:2019.*

Regarding telecom/communication equipment, countries typically have their own certification systems with different testing/certification procedures and methods. As this is a significant barrier to inter-country trade, different countries have during the past years entered into Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) to help reducing the testing period and costs, i.e., by mutually recognizing the conformity assessment results of the MRA partner(s).

So far, South Korea has in place such MRA with the following countries, with the levels of recognition as indicated below:
Canada - Phase I* and Phase II**
USA, EU, UK, Vietnam, Chile - Phase I*

*Phase I = *Mutual Recognition of test reports.* ** Phase II = *Mutual Recognition of certificates.*

For further information, please contact Tom.Tidwell@nemko.com

Published UK Regulation for cyber security of IoT

In July last year, both the EU and UK did circulate draft regulations for cyber security of IoT. Now, the UK Govern-ment has actually published its response to the "Secure by Design" call for views to change the law to make 'smart' products more secure for consumers to use, such as connected televisions, cameras and household appliances.

The key points of the regulation are:
• At the point of sale, customers must be informed about the duration a smart device will receive security updates.
• A ban on universal default passwords, such as 'password' or 'admin', preset in a device's factory settings.
• Manufacturers will be required to provide a public point of contact for anyone to report a vulnerability.

This new cyber security regulation will apply to all in-scope connected-consumer-products made available to UK consumers, regardless of method (sale, gift, online, etc), and **include e.g**.:-Smart phones, -Connected Cameras, -TVs and speakers, -Connected children's toys and baby monitors, -Smart home assistants, -Base stations and hubs for IoT, -Connected home appliances (such as washing machines and refrigerators).
Some products are **excluded**, such as: -Regular computers, -Autonomous cars and -Industrial products.

The products concerned must comply with specific security requirements/guidance outlined in the regulation or in designated standards. The recently published ETSI EN 303 645 is one such standard on the 'designated list' and it
is anticipated that the list will grow over time to help firms streamline their efforts.

An enforcement body will be equipped with powers to investigate and to take steps to ensure compliance. The conformity assessment concept is much like existing European Directives (such as the Low Voltage Directive) i.e., requiring Declaration of Conformity (DoC) to be issued by either the responsible national manufacturer or responsible importer/authorized representative. It is expected that the EU will soon follow with publishing an equivalent regulation.

For further information and/or application for cyber security certification, please contact Geir.Horthe@nemko.com .

Saudi Arabia expanding the scopes of mandatory certifications.

One of the several assessment programs for products marketed and sold in Saudi Arabia, is the ***IECEE Recognition Certificate program*** for electrical consumer products considered to be of high risk.

This program is based simply on recognition of international IECEE/CB Test Certificates/Reports and was initially implemented in February 2018 for certain electronic consumer devices.
The scope has since been expanded several times and will from 1 July this year comprise the following types of products (the latest shown in red font):
• Mobile phones and similar devices (e.g. smart watches and wireless headphones)

• Batteries, power banks and chargers for the abovementioned devices.
• Laptops, tablets and their chargers/transformers
• TVs and monitors
• Lighting products and their controls
• E-cigarettes/vaping devices and similar products
• Solar photovoltaic systems
• Video game consoles/controllers
• Household/domestic electric pumps (up to 5 Hp)
• Electric water boilers/kettles
• Coffee makers/machines
• Electric fryers
• Electrical cables

Another Saudi conformity assessment program is the **SASO Quality Mark** (SQM), which is a quite complex program, and which in the past has been applicable/compulsory for merely non-electrical products such as gas appliances, cement, ceramic tiles etc, except for electrical cord sets being included.
The compulsory scope is now ***extended to include also electrical plugs, socket outlets and switches.*** .
However, plugs provided fitted to appliances are, not included.

For further information and/or assistance with applications for Saudi Arabia's certifications, please contact Lars.Hjerpseth@nemko.com or Hatim.Afaneh@nemko.com.

The 9th generation of TCO Certified being introduced

New generations of TCO Certified are generally introduced every three years. The 9th generation is now about to be introduced after a development process in which stakeholders were invited to take part. The finalized criteria docu-ments shall be published in June, whereafter one can apply to be amongst the first to get products certified to this new generation. The official launch shall be in December this year when also the first products certified according to the new generation will be announced.
According to TCO Certified, the objectives of this new development are:

-Take the next step in socially responsible manufacturing and go further down the supply chain. Improved crite-ria for anti-corruption and mineral sourcing.

-Expand their system for safer alternatives to hazardous substances to include process chemicals used in the manufacture of IT products.

-Add sustainability performance indicators (SPI) to help purchasing organizations make informed choices and measure the sustainability impact.

-Enable circular IT solutions with more ambitious criteria for extending the life of IT products, improving recyclability, and reducing e-waste.
The drafted criteria for the different types of products concerned can be seen at the links below:

Displays, Notebooks, Tablets, Smartphones, Desktops, All-in-One PCs, Projectors, Headsets, Network equipment, Data storage, Servers, Imaging equipment

An on-demand webinar with presentation of the finalized criteria is available from this site. .

The Nemko laboratories in Taiwan and China are approved by TCO Certified to perform testing for their certification.
For information about and/or application for testing and assistance with TCO certification, please contact Tangey.Chen@nemko.com

New marketing manager for Asia

The Global Marketing Team of Nemko has been strengthened as Mr. Prashant Mehrotra has from 1 May been employed as the new regional marketing manager for Asia.
He is based in New Delhi, India and will be responsible for Nemko's marketing activities to support sales and customer relations throughout Asia.

Prashant is a qualified marketing professional with more than 16 years of broad marketing experience. He will pursue a high growth strategy with a strong outlook on experiential engagements to build customer-brand relationships, coupled with sound know-how of offline, inbound marketing, brand positioning and consumer behavior & insights.

Prior to joining Nemko, he has for 6 years been General Manager Marketing in India for another major

international body within the Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry.
Prashant has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with focus on Strategy and Marketing from California State University in Fresno USA.

For further information, please contact Andrew Robbins (Nemko Global Marketing Manager)

Coming events

25 June 2021: Nemko US webinar on "*NRTL & Field Evaluation Services/Special Inspection*"
For further information and registration please click here or contact Anshuman.Dash@nemko.com

Nemko Italy webinars 2021: Various topics presented in Italian.
Program for 2021 and links for registration are available at this site.

IEC Academy courses and webinars
Information may be seen here.

GSO courses in the Arabic Gulf Region
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.