Dear Readers,

Whilst the pandemic inevitably continues to put hurdles in our path, TIC Council remains undeterred in our efforts to deliver tangible results for our members and to increase the visibility of our sector.

We were delighted to have been approved as a Stakeholder Member in the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) which represents its members in the Americas for the International Accreditation Forum Inc and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. By promoting cooperation amongst accreditation bodies and interested parties of the Americas, IAAC contributes to the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes and services.

This past month we have participated in a number of high-level webinars on both sides of the Atlantic to communicate the TIC sector’s crucial role in consumer product safety. In addition to moderating two panels at ICPHSO’s (International Consumer Product Health & Safety Organization) 2021 Annual Virtual Meeting & Training Symposium, we presented at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s AI and Machine Learning Forum and at the EU Consumer Summit, illustrating at this latter event how we contribute to protecting consumers from greenwashing attempts. We have also published a press release welcoming the introduction of US legislation to protect consumers from counterfeit products sold online.

We have many exciting projects in the pipeline, notably the first webinar of a TIC Council-DEKRA Occupational Health and Safety series on 13 April as part of the EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces campaign. This webinar will act as an awareness-raising initiative to prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the context of the pandemic. Preparations are also well underway for the Europe, Americas and India launch events for the Value of TIC Report commissioned by PTCC last year. Be sure to keep an eye on our social media channels for the latest news and updates.

I would like to wish all our members a healthy month to come as we collectively navigate through this challenging period.

Best regards,
Ms. Hanane Taidi, Director General
TIC Council
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- ALS Limited has announced an update to its current sample container provided for cyanide analysis in order to ensure that the sample is stored in complete darkness at all times, maintaining the integrity of the sample throughout sampling, analysis and storage. Read more.
- AmSpec Portugal has been involved in the first attendance for Non-Radioactivity Testing on steel scrap metal at the Leioxes Port. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has been awarded project certification for EolMed, an offshore wind farm project developed by Qair and involving Total, Ideal and Vestas Wind Systems A/S. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has published a white paper, entitled “Remote inspections – A solution for the present, an opportunity for the future,” outlining the importance of remote inspections to ensure business continuity. Read more.
- Commodity Inspection Services BV team has been awarded accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 by ANAB (ANSI International Accreditation Board). Read more.
- Control Union has been recognised as the first Certification Body for the ISCC CORSIA Program, allowing organisations in the sustainable aviation fuel supply chain to supply sustainable aviation fuels. Read more.
- Cotecnica Inspection SA Turkey has been accredited by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC) as an ISO17065 Product Certification Body. Read more.
- Element has been approved by Sikorsky to provide non-destructive testing (NDT) from its Newtown, Pennsylvania laboratory. Read more.
- Element has been approved by the City of Los Angeles as a Testing Agent for non-metallics. Read more.
- Eurofins Discovery has released a study highlighting the potential of MyMD Pharmaceuticals’ MYMD-1 in treating fibrotic disorders. Read more.
- Eurofins’s Clinical Enterprise, Inc. has received US Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a direct-to-consumer (DTC) version of its empowerDX COVID-19 Home Collection Kit. Read more.
- Eurofins Cosmetics & Personal Care have developed and implemented a 3-step testing protocol for single-use nappies, in order to protect infants from hazardous substances or contaminants. Read more.
- Eurofins has announced the launch by its subsidiary empowerDX, of its direct-to-consumer, FDA-emergency use authorised, COVID-19 Home Collection Kit on Amazon in the US. Read more.
- Eurofins Technologies has announced the launch of GSD NovaType II, its upgraded RT-PCR kit for the identification of mutations associated with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern. Read more.
- Intertek and Greenlink have secured a marine licence for the Greenlink Interconnector, a proposed electricity interconnector between Wales and the Republic of Ireland. Read more.
- Intertek has opened a new facility in Puerto Rico to expand building and construction services to the Caribbean. Read more.
- Intertek has delivered a permit feasibility study for the world’s longest proposed subsea cable between the UK and Morocco. Read more.
- Intertek has announced the launch of Crystek, a process to evaluate the composition and production of honey, which can predict and prevent crystallization. Read more.
- Intertek has launched a testing strategy for the determination of 57 allergens in cosmetics. Read more.
- Intertek has published its 2020 full year results. Read more.
- ISQ has collaborated with ADENE in the validation of the water performance assessment model of hotel units. Read more.
Kiwa has announced the future hosting of a wireless webinar on May 5, focusing on different areas of regulatory approvals for wireless and electronics products. Read more.

QIMA has announced a new partnership with the digital B2B platform Serai. Serai users can now access QIMA inspection, audit and testing services to minimize supply chain risk and manage product quality. Read more.

RINA has officially become a member of the European hydrogen energy and fuel cell association. Read more.

RINA Services has joined the IFS Academy and has been recognized as an IFS Training Provider. Read more.

RINA has been chosen by the Barilla Group to verify compliance with the rules set out in the Carta del Mulino regulatory document, which aims to enhance biodiversity and build value for communities in line with its ESG objectives. Read more.

SGS laboratory in Colombo, Sri Lanka has become the first in the country to receive Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) accreditation for the testing of 300 pesticides in food and agricultural products. Read more.

SGS has launched its new website, SGS E-Customs, which will help global businesses achieve frictionless trade. Read more.

SGS has signed a contract with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy (MICEVN) of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the implementation of the Conformity Assessment Program on industrial products, starting May 1, 2021. Read more.

SGS has launched a new portfolio of environmental, social and governance solutions, end-to-end services, to help organizations implement more efficient processes, address stakeholder concerns and accomplish their sustainability goals. Read more.

TÜV AUSTRIA has set up a joint venture with dhpg IT-Services GmbH. To become the market leader in the field of security operations centers (SOC) through future-oriented solutions and constant further development. Read more.

TÜV AUSTRIA has launched its new claim "digital.now: connecting technology - living the future". Read more.

TÜV SÜD has confirmed the conformity of Vestas' status code lists to FGW TR 10 Rev. 0. This makes Vestas the first manufacturer to be able to present a complete certificate of conformity for its wind turbines. Read more.

TÜV SÜD Academy has launched its new website and blog on all aspects of occupational health and safety. Read more.
Mergers & Acquisitions

- ALS Limited has announced the acquisition of Grupo Investiga, the leading independent laboratory in Brazil and Latin America for the Cosmetics and Personal Care industry. Read more.
- Applus+ has acquired the two companies, Inecosa and Adicora from the Iberdrola Group to form part of the Energy & Industry division of Applus+. Read more.
- Belgorail has announced the acquisition of the Dutch company HHC/DRS, now part of the Certifer group. Read more.
- Kiwa has announced the acquisition of International Fire Consultants (IFC Group), a specialist in fire safety consultancy. Read more.
- Kiwa has acquired Wijnveld GmbH & Co., an engineering company with focus is on the topics of needs-based fire protection, fire protection plans and also fire cause investigations. Read more.
Accreditation and Standardisation News

Accreditation

IAF

- The latest edition of IAF Outlook is now available here. IAF Outlook provides the latest news in the fields of conformity assessment and accreditation; subscribe here to receive a formal notification whenever IAF Outlook is published.
- The IAF CABAC (Conformity Assessment Bodies Advisory Committee) is submitting a paper to the IAF Technical Committee proposing the creation of an IAF Task Force to draw together all the numerous remote documents, policies and procedures and have a definitive document on the issue. The proposal is that the document would consist of a generic framework and then specific sections dealing with individual conformity assessment areas, defined by CASCO standards.
- The IAF vote on scheme recognition of FSSC 22000 passed and thus it becomes a sub-scope of the IAF MLA. IAF AB Members can apply for a sub-scope extension to FSSC 22000 as soon as their Regional Group has extended its IAF MLA scope to FSSC 22000.
- IAF informs that, to date, two nominations have been received for the position of IAF Vice Chair: Wolfram Hartmann of DAKKS (Germany) and Lori Gillespie of ANAB (USA).
- IAF is seeking nominations for the position of IAF Technical Committee Chair (2022-2024). Any IAF member is eligible to put his/her name forward. Nominations are due April 29.

IAF/ILAC

- The result of the ballot on Joint IAF/ILAC Statement on Replacement of Assessments during the COVID-19 Pandemic is available. The vote passed within IAF, and the results have been posted on the Members’ side of the IAF website under Ballot Results & Comments.
- The ISO/IAF/ILAC Joint Strategic Group is developing a survey to get the views of those within the conformity assessment community and their stakeholders to understand the lessons learnt from the pandemic, including the experiences of remote assessment and auditing.
- Registration is now open for the below mid-term ILAC and IAF Virtual Meetings taking place between 15 April and 12 May, 2021 and all ILAC and IAF members are welcome to join. The official meeting website is here.
  - ILAC Accreditation Committee (ILAC A/C) - 15 April, 2021
  - ILAC Arrangement Committee (ILAC ARC) - 20 April, 2021
  - ILAC Inspection Committee (ILAC IC) - 22 April, 2021
  - IAF Multilateral Arrangement Committee( IAF MLAC) - 29 April, 2021
  - IAF/ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) - 06 May, 2021
  - IAF Technical Committee (IAF TC) - 12 May, 2021

EA

- EA HHC issued a New Work Item Proposal for a workshop and to develop a guidance procedural document on remote assessments.
- Find here the draft minutes of the EA Horizontal Harmonization Committee meeting held on March 2-3. I draw your attention in particular to page 4, item 7.1, on remote assessments.
- EA informs that the Eurachem General Assembly will take place virtually on 20-21 May. The workshop ‘Trends and challenges in ensuring quality in analytical measurements’ will take place on 17-19 May. The deadline for the submission of poster and presentation abstracts is 31st March 2021. Registration is now open here.
Standardisation

ISO
- ISO informs that REMCO, the Committee on Reference Materials, will be disbanded.
- The new work item proposal to develop ISO/IEC TS 17021-14, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 14: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for records is approved. This work will be carried out by the CASCO joint working group 60 (JWG60) and CASCO Members and organizations in liaison are invited to nominate experts to this JWG.

ISO CASCO
- For those who missed the informative session on ISO/IEC 17030 on marks of conformity, here is the presentation used.
- ISO CASCO informs that the revision of the VIM – the International Vocabulary of Metrology is open for comments until May 17, 2021. The VIM is maintained by 8 organizations composing the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology, including ISO.
- The committee internal ballot (CIB) on the changes made in 2020 in "PROC 1 CASCO structure, process and rules of operation" closed and it seems that the document has been approved. TICC comments were not accepted.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

The EU Safety Gate Report 2020

In early March, the European Commission published its annual report on the Safety Gate, which is the EU rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products helping to take dangerous non-food products off the market.

It was originally created in 2003 under the General Product Safety Directive (GPSD). It enables quick exchange of information between EU/EEA member states, the UK and the European Commission about dangerous products posing a risk to health and safety of consumers, enabling follow-up actions to be taken and products to be banned from the market.

The 2020 Safety Gate report shows that authorities from the 31 participating countries exchanged a total of 2,253 alerts. This represents an increase of more than 20% from 2019.

These data are not a statistical illustration of the market, because surveillance authorities focus their controls to “suspicious” products or products for which they receive funding in the framework of EU-wide market surveillance actions. Nevertheless, they are indicative about the risks in the market and the authorities’ priorities.

Three areas of concern emerged in 2020:

- **COVID-19:** new types of unsafe products such as masks and hand disinfectants have appeared on the market. 9% of all alerts raised in 2020 concerned products related to COVID-19. The European Commission, national authorities, and European standardization organisations need to build guidance and practices to tackle this new threat.
- **Online shopping:** authorities are trying to enforce the same rules for consumer protection both in online and brick-and-mortar marketplaces. For example you may refer to the EU’s Product Safety Pledge. They also coordinated a market surveillance action against greenwashing claims this year.
- **Recalls:** product recalls represent half of all alerts in the Safety Gate. To improve the success rate of recalls, a behavioral study coordinated by the European Commission showed that direct communication, a clearer description of risks, a better layout of recall announcement are necessary. These should be addressed in the upcoming revision of the GPSD.

According to the report:

- Countries with the highest rate of alert are the United Kingdom and Germany, followed by France, Belgium, Poland, and Hungary.
- The three most common product categories notified are toys (27%), motor vehicles (21%) and electrical appliances and equipment (10%).
- The three most common risks notified are injuries (25%), chemical (18%) and choking (12%).
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

A detailed breakdown by country for 2020 is available here and it is possible to compare results from different periods and regions from this website.

The upcoming revision of the General Product Safety Directive is a window of opportunity to identify lessons from the past and to improve the overall market surveillance system in the EU.

In addition, the European Commission rewards businesses that go beyond to protect consumers with the EU’s Product Safety Award. This year’s edition will focus on initiatives aimed at protecting vulnerable consumers and on the use of new technologies to enhance product consumer safety. The deadline to apply is April 30th.

To learn more about our certification process and how it works, you can read our position paper here.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

The US’ re-engagement toward sustainability: what are the next steps?

The US President, Joe Biden, has announced his plans to host a major summit of world leaders to discuss climate change on Earth Day, April 22nd. This development is in line with the Biden administration’s increased focus on a renewal of all those international cooperation agreements the previous administration ignored for the most part.

We have previously highlighted in January how the Biden administration, as part of a renewed effort towards sustainability and combating climate change, signed several executive orders through which the US rejoined the Paris Climate Agreements and paved the way for future aggressive policy actions on climate change mitigation. The President is expected to propose a new recovery package that aims to stimulate investments in sustainable climate solutions.

Additionally, in an effort to involve other international actors in this agenda, the US and Canada held a high-level summit on February 24th, the first bilateral meeting of the new US President with a foreign leader since his inauguration. A “Roadmap for a renewed US – Canada partnership” published one day earlier focused on areas of shared vision, with six priority topics which include battling the ongoing pandemic, rebuilding the economy and aligned efforts to jointly reach net-zero emissions by 2050. It also mentioned restoring a collective commitment to global institutions like NATO and the World Trade Organization.

In terms of potential actions deriving from the April 22nd summit, the US’ Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has indicated the intention of re-launching the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, which the Obama administration initiated in 2009 and that last met in July 2015. Additionally, the Biden administration will come up with a “national intelligence estimate” on the security implications of climate change, and order all agencies to develop strategies for integrating climate considerations into their international work.

All of this indicates an alignment with the objectives of many countries that have previously joined the Paris Climate Agreement, as they currently have the aim of achieving net-zero carbon emissions via specific policy developments in the next few decades.

Other sources of information:

- ABC News
- Green City Times
- Hospitality.net
- New Republic
Upcoming Events

April
- 9 April: Cen 10-10 webinar: Standardization in Horizon Europe
- 13 April: Digital Europe: Security in the digital age: how can the public and private sectors combine to drive innovation?
- 20-22 April: MedTech Forum 2021
- 22 April: Clean Sky: Clean Aviation for a Competitive Green Recovery in Europe: Innovative Ideas Take Flight
- 26 April: FT: Hydrogen Summit The Clean Fuel of the Future
- 26-30 April: ETSI IoT Week - ETSI
- 28-29 April: CENELEC Putting Science into Standards (PSIS) 2021 Workshop ‘Organ on Chip: Towards Standardization’
- 29 April: Orgalim Enabling the next generation of global technology leaders
- 29 April: Conference “Access to medicines and medical devices”

May
- 5-6 May: OILM Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology
- 6 May: FDF Webinar - Dealing with Food Compliance Risks & Prioritising Activity? The Food and Drink Forum
- 17 May: UN Biodiversity Conference: Convention on biological diversity
- 20 May: Orgalim: Fragmentation, Europe’s cybersecurity challenge
- 24-25 May: FT: ENERGY SOURCE LIVE The Biden era: The great US energy reset?
- 31 May: Politico AI Summit 2021

June
- 31 May-4 June: EU Green Week 2021 Virtual Conference
- 9 June: IAF/ILAC World Accreditation Day
- 10 June: CEN approach on addressing environmental issues in standardization
- 14-15 June: Single Market Forum (SIMFO)
- 21 June: Recovery Summit - Shaping European Growth
- 22-23 June: International IP Enforcement Summit
- 23 June: ICHPSO 2021 Virtual North America Workshop
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