Dear Readers,

As we continuously adapt and adjust to the recent restrictions COVID-19 has brought upon the TIC sector, TIC Council continues to support its members by providing essential guidance and representation to all accreditation and standards service providers and reduce operational disruptions. This has been a challenging yet inspiring period as solidarity and resourcefulness have been the main tenets for finding solutions in recent times.

Recently, TIC Council published a press release to warn buyers from industries, municipalities or public institutions of rapidly emerging fraud trends related to procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical devices in short supply during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This aims to combat the number of counterfeit conformity assessment certificates being utilized to assert the validity and safety of PPE and medical devices.

On 29 April, TIC Council hosted a webinar focusing on how standards and certification accelerate the safe adoption of innovations to the transition towards a circular economy system. The webinar, titled ‘Circular Economies and Second Life Products at the Crossroads of Circularity and Safety’, was presented by Catherine Sheehy and Ken Boyce from UL, TIC Council member. This presentation addressed the risks, opportunities and business models relating to the contemporary transition companies are conducting towards circular economic sustainability. As TIC Council continues to provide thought-provoking presentations and webinars on the current market trends and needs, watch this space for the next approaching webinars in our series.

We look forward to working together with all the TIC Council members towards a strong representation of the industry worldwide.

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

Business Developments

- Applus+ RTD has started to provide NDT Services for an ongoing new construction project in the Gulf of Mexico. Read more
- Bureau Veritas and Accor have launched a label based on sanitary measures to support the return to business in the hospitality and restaurant industry. Read more
- Bureau Veritas has announced that its automotive laboratory, recently opened in Detroit USA, has obtained ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). Read more
- Control Union UK has launched a new online training service. Read more
- DEKRA Visatec, has been expanding to Australia and Oceania. Read more
- Eurofins Technologies has announced the CE-IVD marking of a first range of testing kits for serology-based antibody detection by ELISA of patients who have been exposed to COVID-19. Read more
- Intertek has announced the first certification for its Cyber Assured Program, a cybersecurity testing and certification program providing continuous vulnerability monitoring for connected products. Read more
- Intertek has launched Protek – the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Assurance Programme for People, Workplaces and Public Spaces. Read more
- Intertek has opened a new facility in Ethiopia offering Assurance, Testing and Inspection services for the Agricultural industry. Read more
- Intertek Caleb Brett has partnered with UK-based blockchain platform VAKT to deliver digitised Assurance solutions. Read more
- Kiwa Germany has increased capacity for testing medical devices and components. Read more
- Kiwa has started to offer the global MSC CoC certification - international standard for sustainable seafood. Read more
- SGS and NH Hotel Group have announced collaboration on a Global Disinfection Assessment Label. Read more
- TUV Rheinland has started to provide JD.com free of charge protective equipment qualification audit services, supporting overseas Chinese and students. Read more

Mergers and Acquisitions

- Cotecna has acquired Kaixin Certification (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Read more
- UL has been acquired by NetRack for its NRSs series Seismic racks. Read more

Personnel Developments

- Eurofins Agroscience Services has appointed Dr Christoph Grondal as head of business development and strategy for its European Chemistry & Ecotox business. Read more
- Force Technology has appointed Hanne Christensen as a new CEO. Read more
Accreditation and Standardisation News

Accreditation

IAF

- IAF and fake certificates: IAF was recently made aware that the issue of fake certificates for medical devices was raised at the recent Database Management Committee meeting and one option being discussed is encouraging CBs to make available related management systems certificates on the CertSearch site, at least during the Covid-19 crisis. Product certificates would not be affected. A decision will be taken fairly quickly, likely within the next week or two.
- IAF continues to update its COVID-19 FAQ’s. FAQs available at https://iaffaq.com/. IAF will also announce all updates via its Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.

The following materials have been published by IAF:

- IAF Public Document Responsibility List Rev. 18, a list of the IAF Main Committee responsible for each publicly available IAF document;
- IAF Representatives, Liaisons, and Contacts List Rev. 16, that lists the IAF representative(s) and liaison(s) to external committees and organizations;
- IAF Non-Public Document Responsibility List Rev. 5, a list of the IAF Main Committee responsible for each non-publicly available IAF document;
- Remote Auditing Activities for Accredited Food Safety Certification, that provides guidance on how remote auditing processes and procedures defined in international standards and IAF documents can be used in accredited food safety certification;
- IQNet Interview by IAF CMC Chair Brahim Houla to Pedro Alves about the collaboration between IAF and IQNet.

Three documents are out for comments or ballot:

- IAF PL3 - Policies and Procedures on the IAF MLA structure and expanding its scope.
- IAF PL5 - Structure of the International Accreditation Forum, Inc.
- 2020-2025 IAF Strategic Plan - ballot.

June 9th 2020 marks IAF and ILAC’s World Accreditation Day (#WAD2020), which will be focused for this year on how accreditation improves food safety. Materials for use are available from the ILAC website and the IAF website, where a joint statement, a poster and a brochure are also available. In addition, a video to further support WAD2020 has been released.

The final report on the Joint IAF/ILAC 2018 re-evaluation of the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) has now been completed.

Two new questions (#13 and #14) have been added to the list of COVID-19 FAQs available here. A hub has been created on the IAF website for all COVID-19 related information (see box to the left of Latest News on the IAF homepage). Make sure you visit the site on a regular basis as questions and answers may be uploaded at any time.

ILAC and IAF are proposing that the United Nations designated World Accreditation Day as a UN International Day (see attached information).

- IAF has submitted a summary report proposing that IFS Management GmbH (IFS) be admitted to membership in IAF.
ILAC

- ILAC has provided an update on the transition period for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 taking into consideration the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The AMC is recommending that the end of the transition period be extended from 30 November 2020 to 1 June 2021. This recommendation is now the subject of a 30 day referendum with ILAC Eligible Voting Members (full / signatories ILAC members only).

- The ILAC Secretariat has been in contact with the ISO CASCO Secretariat to advise that the 30 day referendum is underway, as the Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition will require amendment if the outcome of this referendum supports the recommendation from the AMC.

EA

- EA has published the draft version (draft 8) of revised EA-3/12: EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification which takes into account the comments received and considered by the TFG. Endorsement of this final draft 8 is requested by Friday 22 MAY 2020. It will then be submitted to a 30 day ballot among EA members.

- There are around 115 EU legislations which refer to accreditation and conformity assessment. EA has prepared a directory of EU legislations with relation to accreditation and conformity assessment, EA-INF/05, available here.

Publications now available on the EA website:

- EA - INF/02 “Contact Persons of EA Full and Associate Members, Recognized Stakeholders and Observers”: read more here.
- EA - INF/01 List of EA Publications and International Documents, including a new column named “peer evaluation” ticked when documents are relevant for peer evaluations: read more here.

- The 2019 EA MLA Report has been released. You can download the full report here
- The ‘Accreditation for Notification’ project (part II) has been concluded and the report is now available (attached). The AfN project results will be included in the document EA-2/17 Accreditation for Notification purposes and (presumably) the Commissions’ Blue Guide. For additional information click here
- The Recommendation For Use from the NB-RAIL coordination group on ‘remote Evaluation due to Covid-19 pandemic’ is attached. This RFU is complementing the clarification note ERA1209-088 from the European Union
- Agency for Railway and shall also be soon available here
- Find attached the new programme for the OIML Workshop 2020 on ”Digital Transformation in Legal Metrology”.

Following the cancellation of the 23rd EA HHC meeting, please find below a list of updates and additional information:

- Draft documents EA-1/22, EA-2/17, EA-3/01 S1, EA-2/19 INF:2020 (List of Risks) and document on consultancy - The documents have been discussed and commented, and they will be published after the final ballot of EA members.

- EA HHC has confirmed the dates of next 2021 HHC meetings as followed: 2-3 March 2021 and 7-8 September 2021, in Brussels
- The “Evaluation of Schemes” Training on CC document on selection of standards (17021 vs17065) and revised EA-1/22 will be held at the President Brussels Hotel (Ex-Husa), Brussels on October 7th, 2020 (subject to the further developments regarding the corona virus)
ISO CASCO

- ISO/IEC TS 17021-12:2020 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 12: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of collaborative business relationship management systems has been published.
- ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements is undergoing a systematic review until 2020-09-02. A systematic review will result in the withdrawal, revision or confirmation of the document.
- ISO/IEC 17023:2013 - Conformity assessment - Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits is also undergoing a systematic review until 2020-09-02.
- Previously announced measures regarding the work of ISO have been extended to 31 July 2020 and all meetings must be held virtually or postponed until after this date.
- CASCO has circulated a notice indicating that the ISO Technical Management Board, TMB, has issued resolutions to support the continuation of technical work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the resolutions.
- ISO/IEC 17000 has been approved.
- A proposed change to clause 33 of ISO/IEC Directives Part 2 is open for comment until June 22, 2020.
- Proposed Revision of ISO/IEC 17043 - NWIP ballot and call for Co-convenorship”.
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO “Committee on conformity assessment” eCommittee (read more): "CASCO Circular letter - Revision of ISO/IEC 17043 - NWIP ballot and call for Co-convenorship”.
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO “Committee on conformity assessment” eCommittee (read more): "CASCO Circular letter - Important information regarding CASCO policy and technical meetings”.
- New document posted on the ISO/CASCO “Committee on conformity assessment” eCommittee (read more): “Circular letter - Committee internal ballot on changes to internal procedure CASCO PROC1”.

Standardisation
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

Product Safety - European Parliament: TIC Council organized a conference call with MEPs Marion Walsmann (EPP), who is the author of an own initiative report entitled “Addressing Product Safety in the Single Market”, in order to exchange views on the report and the TIC Council’s perspective on the general state of play of product safety in the EU.

Calls were also organized with Kim Van Sparrentak (Greens-EFA), and the parliamentary assistant teams of the following MEPs: Maria-ManuelLeitão-Marques (PES), Vlad-Marius Botoș (Renew Europe) and Beata Mazurek (ECR), who are all shadow rapporteurs for the report.

TIC Council offered comments on the draft report and suggested the following amendment to the report:

Calls on the Commission to re-assess the conformity assessment methods for products with a risk-based approach and make use of third-party certification modules reflecting the complexity of conducting conformity assessment in the digital age. Moreover, conformity assessment for connected products should be aligned with the Cybersecurity Act (Regulation 2019/881).

Revised work program – European Commission: The COVID-19 has forced the Commission to reprioritize certain policy files that are of direct interest to the TIC industry.

Below are the main points:

- Some of the product safety initiatives could be retained for 2020, notably the delegated acts under the Radio Equipment Directive (fraud, privacy and data protection, connected devices).
- The Digital Services Act could be moved to Q1 2021 instead of Q4 2020, as well as the “Empowering Consumers for a Green Transition” initiative.
- The review of the NIS directive remains on track for Q4 2020 and the report on the application of GDPR remains on track for Q2 2020.
- The evaluation of the Low Voltage Directive remains uncertain.

Green recovery alliance: The TIC Council has joined the list of signatories of the Green recovery alliance, which is spearheaded by MEP Pascal Canfin (Renew Europe, France). The alliance supports the basic idea that economic recovery should be driven by concerns for sustainable development and “Green principles”, and that “the transition to a climate-neutral economy, the protection of biodiversity and the transformation of agri-food systems have the potential to rapidly deliver jobs, growth and improve the way of life of all citizens worldwide, and to contribute to building more resilient societies.” The letter is signed by various CEOs of major European companies, important trade associations, and MEPs.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

On 4 May 2020, the United States House and Senate returned to Washington, DC from a prolonged recess. Over the course of the past week, hearings and votes have been held on a limited basis to ensure the safety of congressional members and staff. Many congressional members are following the advice of Congress’ physician to stay socially distant and avoid gatherings for prolonged periods of time. This has resulted in slowed progress on major legislative actions.

Also, of note is the effect of the epidemic on upcoming elections and policy priorities important to constituents. The unemployment rate is now estimated to be 14.7% and a national conversation is underway regarding the reopening of state economies and getting people back to work in a safe manner. Election security and reform continue to be a focus area, with some states moving to paper ballots while others pursue digital voting. Of available options, entirely electronic balloting has been singled out as a significant security risk with the Department of Homeland Security advising against the practice.

As more Americans seek out social platforms in the wake of social distancing orders, cybersecurity and privacy have risen in priority for many. Politicians too have found themselves seeking out new ways to use social media or to increase their online presence to reach constituents, raising the visibility of issues such those found with popular virtual meeting platform Zoom. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and others have also taken action to address election misinformation on their sites and to respond quickly to customer complaints.

Trade also continues to be an important topic of conversation. With supply chains disrupted, manufacturers are seeking out new sources of materials. Trade negotiations continue between the US and UK, US and EU, and efforts have progressed to ensure the finalization of the USMCA.

Other issue areas that continue to be focus areas for campaigns and constituents include: healthcare, 5G and access to broadband, and renewable energy.
Upcoming Events

June
- 2-3 June: Safer Chemicals Conference 2020 - ECHA - Helsinki - online
- 9 June: World Accreditation Day 2020 - ILAC - Worldwide
- 17 June: ICPHSO 2020 Virtual Product Safety Training Workshop hosted by ASTM International
- 23-25 June: EU Sustainable Energy Week

July
- 1 July: Competitive Europe Summit - Politico - Brussels

August
- 13-14 May: EA General Assembly - EA - Luxembourg
- 26 May: Innovation with a purpose - Orgalim - Stockholm

September
- 9 September: International Conference on Sustainable Development - Rome
- 19 September: 9th ENISA-EC3 Workshop: CSIRTs and LE Cooperation - Brussels
- 22 September: Trust Services Forum - CA Day 2020 - Berlin
- 29 September: IoT driving Europe’s technology sovereignty and leadership - AIOTI - Berlin

October
- 5-9 October: DigiTranScope Autumn Institute 2020 - Florence
- 27-28 October: ICPHSO International Symposium - Brussels

November
- 8-11 November 2020: 14th world conference on injury prevention and safety promotion, WHO - Adelaide
TIC Council Highlights

TIC Council has submitted comment to the NIST on the Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment Activities, 15 CFR 287. TIC Council engaged with NIST and other stakeholders to implement guidance on federal agency use of conformity assessment activities.

TIC Council has provided its statement and other relevant resources on the ongoing COVID-19 situation for member companies and relevant stakeholders.

TIC Council has submitted comment to the Consumer Product Safety Commission on the CPSC Agenda and Priorities for 2021 and/or 2022. TIC Council supports and welcomes CPSC’s outreach to #stakeholders on topics of product safety.

TIC Council has joined the European Alliance for a Green Recovery launched at the initiative of Pascal Canfin, Chairman of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament to work and build together post-crisis green investment plans.