

APEC has recognised five Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) as the expert regional bodies responsible for the development of the standards and conformance infrastructure in the Asia Pacific.

Why are the Elements of the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Important?

The Standards and Conformance infrastructure, comprising metrology, standards and accreditation and conformity assessment impact on the simplest daily activities, such as the accuracy of an alarm clock, the way the seatbelts in a car operate, and the safety of food.

The same technical infrastructure also underpins the complex technologies and industrial processes that drive economic growth, productivity and innovation.

Everyday commercial transactions and international trade could not take place without the support of a metrology, standards and accreditation and conformity assessment infrastructure.

It provides the essential framework for industry and government to maintain domestic and foreign confidence in goods and services. It is also the key to enhancing global competitiveness, attracting investment, and fostering and supporting innovation.

What are the roles of the key technical infrastructure bodies identified by APEC?

METROLOGY

Metrology (the science of measurement) is an integral component of the technical infrastructure value chain. Traceability to national measurement standards is fundamental, for example, to the optimisation of production, disease diagnosis and health care, food safety, forensic science, environmental monitoring, occupational health and safety, and consumer confidence and protection.

National measurements standards provide the basis for other conformity assessment activities in both the regulatory and voluntary sectors.

Many metrological requirements are supported by legislation or regulation. These aspects become part of an economy's "legal metrology system". Metrology is also fundamental to measurement of traded products.

STANDARDS

Standards encompass a wide range of areas, and are a fundamental enabler to industry competitiveness, product functionality and compatibility, and ensuring the safety and quality of products and services. By providing a coherent basis to harmonise technical specifications of products and services, international standards reduce barriers to international trade and lay the foundation to wider market access.

Standards include specifications, regulations and procedural requirements. Adherence to standards can be either to voluntary documents or to mandatory regulation and laws. Standards are written by international organisations, national standards bodies, regulatory authorities, and trade and industry associations, with the active participation of stakeholders including technical experts from industry, government, academia, consumer groups and other affected parties.

ACCREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Accreditation is a procedure by which an independent authoritative body (accreditation body) gives formal recognition that a (conformity assessment) body or a person is competent to carry out specific tasks. Accreditation involves the onsite peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies for their competence to carry out specified calibrations, tests, inspections and/or certifications of management systems, products, processes or personnel, to determine if they meet a required standard. These conformity assessment activities are critical to the quality and accuracy of the many products and services upon which all economies rely for, among other things, the health and safety of its citizens, and for trade.

APEC SRBs:



Further information

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APLAC

ASIA PACIFIC LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

www.aplac.org

APLAC is a cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region that accredit laboratories, inspection bodies and reference material producers.

Accreditation bodies in 18 APEC economies are signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for testing and calibration; 13 APEC economies are covered by the APLAC MRA for inspection, 13 for ISO 15189 (medical laboratories), and 7 for accreditation of reference material producers (RMPs).

APLAC is a recognised region of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and cooperates with other regional groups of accreditation bodies around the world.



PAC

PACIFIC ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

www.apec-pac.org

The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation is an association of accreditation bodies and other interested parties from the Asia and Pacific regions.

PAC promotes the international acceptance of accreditations granted by its members, based on the equivalence of their programmes for management systems, products, personnel and greenhouse gas validation/verification. PAC operates Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) in all of these areas, with MLA members agreeing to recognise each others' accredited certificates, reducing technical barriers to trade and costs to business.

PAC operates within the framework of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and in cooperation with other regional groups of accreditation bodies around the world.



APLMF

ASIA PACIFIC LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM

www.aplmf.org

The Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum is a grouping of legal metrology authorities in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies and other economies on the Pacific Rim, whose objective is the development of legal metrology and the promotion of free and open trade in the region through the harmonisation and removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of legal metrology.

APLMF members collaborate to promote the coordination and integrity of legal metrology activities and services in order to achieve greater harmony of measurement and testing within the Asia-Pacific region and build mutual confidence in legal metrology activities and services among members.



APMP

ASIA-PACIFIC METROLOGY PROGRAMME

www.apmpweb.org

The Asia-Pacific Metrology Programme is a collaboration of the region's peak measurement institutes with the primary objective of developing regional measurement capabilities and international recognition of these capabilities. This then provides the basis for effective participation in the global Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (the CIPM MRA) whereby signatories establish the degree of equivalence of national measurement standards and recognise each other's calibration and measurement certificates.

APMP's mission is to promote and support a measurement infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region that facilitates international trade, improves industrial efficiency and competitiveness, ensures equity in the marketplace, and enhances the quality of life and the environment.



PASC

PACIFIC AREA STANDARDS CONGRESS

www.pascnet.org

PASC is an independent grouping of Pacific area national standards organisations. One of its primary objectives is to strengthen the international standardisation programmes of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and improve the ability of Pacific Rim national standards organisations to participate in these programmes effectively. As part of its role, PASC also facilitates information exchange between national standards bodies and entities interested in standardisation and conformance. It also initiates necessary actions to coordinate international standardisation activities to foster international trade and commerce, and address global needs.

Membership

APEC Economies with SRB Membership

SRB	APLAC	PAC	APLMF	APMP	PASC
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brunei Darussalam	✓	✓	✓		✓
Canada	✓		✓		✓
Chile			✓		✓
People's Republic of China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hong Kong, China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓	✓		✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Russian Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Singapore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chinese Taipei	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
United States	✓	✓	✓		✓
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Non-APEC Economies with SRB Membership

Of the non-APEC economies, the following are members of one or more SRBs: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Dubai, Egypt, Fiji, Gulf Region, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, DPR of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Syria.