



Conformance & Interoperability in the Caribbean

Situation review, survey results and
recommendations, way forward

The University of the West Indies
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Contents

- Comprises four parts :
 - Situation review
 - Survey results
 - Recommendations
 - Suggested roadmap
- **NB:** Most of this info is in the report *“Conformity and Interoperability Assessment on a Regional Basis”*



SITUATION REVIEW



Area of focus: the Caribbean



Source: University of Texas



Caribbean is a diverse set of islands and territories

- Though the countries are in the same geographical region, they differ considerably, e.g.
 - Population: from about 5K in Montserrat, to over 10.6M in Dom Rep
 - Land Area: from 91 sq. km for Anguilla, to 214,969 sq. km for Guyana
 - GDP: from USD 175M in Anguilla, to USD 62.79B in Dom Rep



Challenge of being SIDS countries

- Except Haiti, all other Caribbean countries are categorised as Upper Middle Income (UMI) and Higher Income (HI) by the World Bank
- However, except Bermuda, all of the countries in assignment are classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Vulnerabilities include:
 - relatively small but growing populations
 - susceptibility to natural disasters, e.g. hurricanes and earthquakes
 - excessive dependence on international trade and on markets in the developed world
 - poor infrastructure
 - relatively high poverty and social inequities
 - fragile environments, and greater susceptibility to the effects of climate change



Most countries have fully liberalised telecoms/ICT sectors

- POTS has experienced a steady decline since 2000
 - Approx. 31 subscriptions per 100 pop (2013)
- Mobile/cellular service experienced considerable take-up since 2000
 - Approx. 115 subscriptions per 100 pop (2013)
- Fixed broadband subscriptions and Internet use are increasing
 - Approx. 17 subscriptions per 100 pop (2013)
 - Approx. 55 Internet users per 100 pop (2013)



Regional organisations involved in standards development

- Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
 - foster coordination of technical standards within region
- CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
 - develop and harmonise standards, metrology, technical regulations, MRAs for CARICOM countries
- Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)
 - harmonise, recommend, coordinate select technical stds for its Member States



Many countries focus on Type Approval

- Type Approval is a special kind of certification granted in country
 - Type approval processes and requirements differ across the region
- In the region, 3rd party declaration based on markings by recognised agencies generally accepted
- Specific classes of telecoms/ICT equipment may need to be authorised, e.g. by the regulator, for entry into some countries
- Most countries do not have formal MRAs in place



Limited training currently available in the Caribbean

- Currently no known training programme in the region to develop C&I and MRA expertise
- CTU is a Caribbean Centre of Excellence (CCoE) and may be able to arrange programmes; none currently in C&I
- Most countries take advantage of online resources and training that might be available from PURC, UWI and USTTI to name a few



Summary

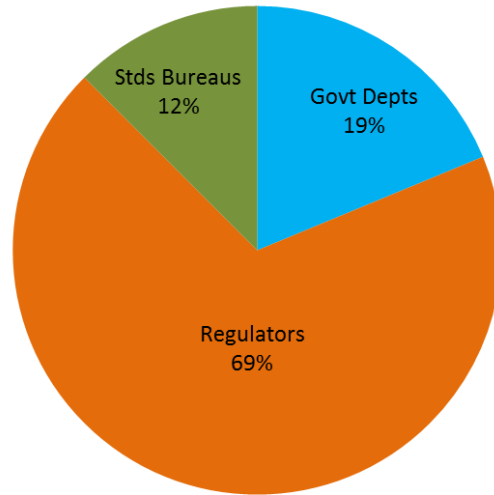
- Many Caribbean countries view ICT/telecoms as a critical driver of development
 - Traditionally, the focus has been on access – infrastructure and take-up
- Regional telecoms bodies exist (CTU, ECTEL), also a regional standards body, CROSQ), but to date no major effort, re C&I for telecoms/ICT
- C&I frameworks and structures in the Caribbean appear to be limited
- Type approval and acceptance of 3rd party certification tend to be the focus
- Training and other capacity building structures on C&I are limited (virtually non-existent) in the region.



SURVEY RESULTS

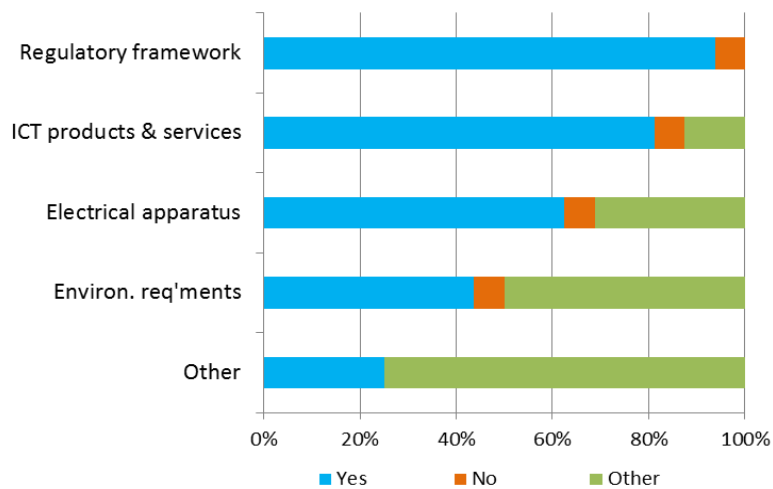


16 Submissions from 14 countries



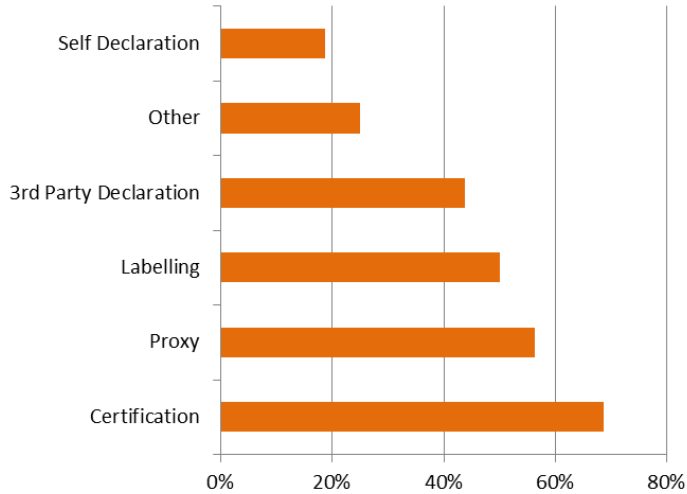
ICTPULSE

Most countries have a regulatory framework re technical requirements

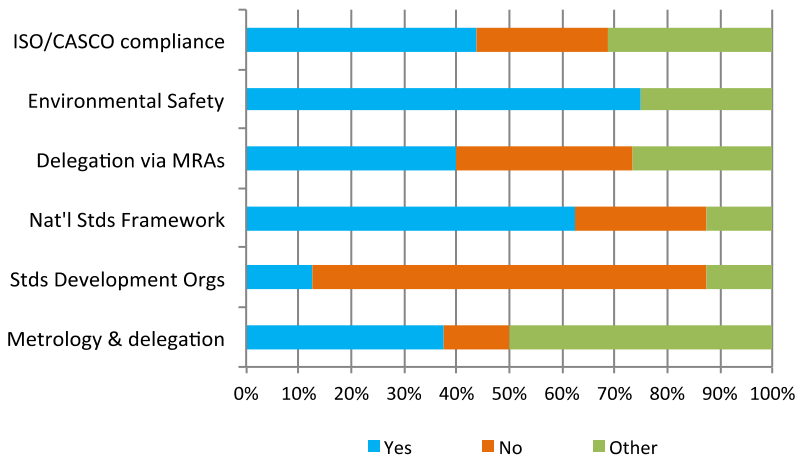


ICTPULSE

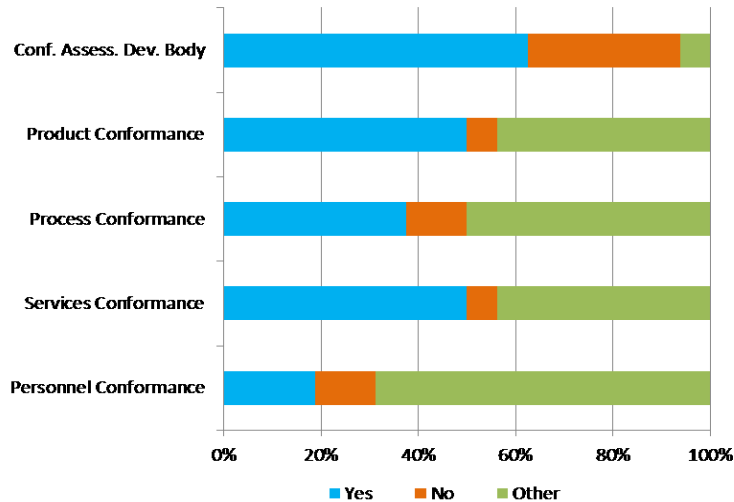
Most countries accept some form of certification for conformity



Most countries have stds framework, but no stds development orgs



>60% responses stated local body for Conformity Assessment Development



>90% of respondents stated countries have import control laws & regs

- Most countries have inspection at port of entry, usually through Customs
 - Some also engage in spot checks and post market surveillance
- Re post market surveillance, they tend to occur on an ad hoc basis
- When counterfeit products are found, a few countries will confiscate them; others do not have systems in place to address this

Accreditation, labs, certification still underdeveloped

- Over 85% of respondents stated there was no accreditation body in their country
- No labs in the region do 1st party testing
 - A few might do 2nd and 3rd party testing
- In a handful of countries, the local stds bureau reportedly act as certification bodies
 - In one country, regulator listed as the certifying body
- Most countries trust marks from entities such as
 - UL, IEC, CSA, FCC, EU



Summary

- Most countries have a regulatory framework for technical requirements for the importation ICT products and services
- There are a broad range of Conformity Assessment Schemes in effect in the region, some of which are ISO/CASCO compliant
- There are differing positions on matters related to delegation of authority and MRAs
- Most countries have a national stds system, and are prepared to adopt international stds
- Most countries have metrology laws and a national institute of metrology
- Most countries do not have a local accreditation body, nor did they have accredited testing laboratories
- The local regulator is responsible for certification in some countries
- Trusted Marks of Conformity include: EU, FCC, IEC, UL and CE



Any Questions?

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