

ICT Conformance Assessment in the East African Community



ICT Standardization

- Global consensus that standardization is important
 - Assure quality and safety of industrial goods
 - Facilitate international trade
- Standardization has two main components
 - Standards development and adoption
 - Conformity assessments



ITU Baseline Assessment

- In 2015, ITU conducted a study in C & I in EAC Member States. Findings of the study were:
 - Policy, legal frameworks exist in EAC Member States
 - Conformity assessments mainly on Type Approval
 - Limited capacity in laboratory testing
 - Initiatives to establish testing laboratories in two countries
 - No MRAs
 - Willingness to strengthen C&I regime, at both the national and EAC levels



Recommendations of Validation Workshop

- A workshop to validate the findings of the ITU study was held in October 2015
- The workshop recommended the establishment a Task Force to spearhead C&I activities in EAC
- Terms of Reference for the Task Force is being finalized. As per the ToR, the C&I activities will comprise:
 - Standardization (development, adoption and publication)
 - Establishment of testing laboratories
 - Establishment of harmonized certification and accreditation framework
 - Implementation of Mutual Recognition Agreement
 - Implementing capacity building in C&I



Status of the C&I initiative in EAC

- The Committee of Heads of Regulators have endorsed the initiative
- Shared the draft ToRs with ITU for comments, and we have received their comments
- The draft ToRs will be presented for consideration and approval for ministers responsible for ICT in July 2016
- We intend to work very closely with ITU in the process
- Learn and share experiences with other partners, including CERT



EAC SQMT Act (2006)

- In the EAC, standardization and conformance assessment activities are governed by the EAC Standards, Quality, Metrology and Testing Act (2006)
- An Act of the Community to make provisions for, *inter alia*:
 - Standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing of products produced and traded within the Community; to facilitate industrialization and trade
 - Mutual recognition arrangements
 - Establishment of the East African Standards Committee
 - Establishment of the East African Accreditation Board
- SQMT Act very important, since most institutional and procedural matters exist in , for example:
 - Standards development, adoption and publication
 - Certification and accreditation framework



Contacts

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Status at national level

N°	Content	Burundi	Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
1	Type approval					
2	EMC					
3	NGN					
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

