

**THE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT(CA) INFRASTRUCTURE OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMEBERS- CONCERNS AND
CHALLENGES NIGERIA AS A CASE STUDY**

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DEFINITION OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT (CA)

- Overall umbrella of measures taken by :
 - manufacturers
 - customers
 - regulatory authorities
 - independent third parties
- To assess that a product/service meets standards or technical regulations.

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DEFINITION OF CA (contd)

- A variety of **PROCESSES** involved in verifying that goods/services meet acceptable voluntary or mandatory standards

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CA PROCESSES

- Inspection (product, factory, port)
- Testing (product, system)
- Calibration (instruments, reference standards)
- Certification scheme (QMS, EMS, HACCP, product)
- Accreditation (certification bodies, labs)
 - **NOTE: All CA Processes involve standards**

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OBJECTIVES OF CA

- Conformance of products/services with relevant standards (NIS,ISO,etc)
- Encourages international trade (tries to check trade malpractices)
- Prevents sale of substandard/unsafe product
- Prevents importation of substandard products
- Saves lives and property
- Prevents pollution of air and water
- Conserves hard-earned foreign exchange

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OBJECTIVES OF CA (contd)

- Inspires confidence in consumers on purchased goods
- Products have value for money spent
- Provides fair level play ground in competitive domestic and international markets
- Provides reliable records for identification and traceability of local and imported products
- Enhances economic growth and development

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CA INFRASTRUCTURE

Facilities and means to check for compliance:

- Standards
- Accredited Laboratories (Testing and Calibration)
- Accredited Inspection and Certification Bodies
- Recognized Accreditation Bodies
- Qualified and Competent Personnel

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CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA

- National Standards Body (SON)
- Certification Bodies
- Inspection Bodies
- Testing Laboratories
- Calibration Laboratories

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CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA(contd)

TESTING LABORATORIES

- Food and Chemical lab – Lagos (SON)
- Textile Lab – Kaduna (SON)
- Material Testing Lab – Enugu (SON)

CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA (contd)

- MANCAP – Mandatory Conformity Assessment Program
- SONCAP – Standards Organisation of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Program

CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA (contd)

CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

- Mass
- Length
- Volume
- Force

Laboratories are available in SON but are not yet fully developed

CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA (contd)

INSPECTION/CERTIFICATION BODIES

- Inspection activities
- Product certification
- system certification(QMS,EMS,HACCP)

By

SON and other competent Bodies

CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA (contd)

MANCAP

An onshore program of CA which ensures that all locally manufactured products conform to relevant Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) before such products are allowed into Nigerian markets

CA INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA (contd)

SONCAP

- An offshore scheme for checking and controlling importation of substandard and unsafe products into the country
- Oversea manufacturers submit their products meant for Nigeria market to IEC accredited labs in case of electrical/electronics products or ISO/IEC Guide 17025 accredited labs in case of other products
- Upholds the WTO agreement on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT)

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ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

- Establishment of a National Accreditation Scheme is on – going
- National Focal Point has been appointed
- Many staff of SON trained on ISO/IEC 17025
- 3 staff of SON trained as Lead Technical Assessors and Laboratory Managers
- UNIDO assisting to establish the scheme

CHALLENGES

- ACCREDITATION
 - No accreditation scheme in Nigeria and ECOWAS
 - Testing and Calibration Laboratories not accredited
 - Inspection and Certification Bodies not accredited

CHALLENGES (contd)

- LABORATORIES
 - Inadequate Testing Laboratories
 - Dependence on Government to establish laboratories
 - Inadequate maintenance of lab equipment
 - Insufficient training and retraining of lab operators
 - Insufficient fund to buy lab equipment

CHALLENGES (contd)

- METROLOGY
 - No National Physical Laboratory (NPL) for Traceability of measurements
 - Insufficient fund for calibration of Primary Standards overseas
 - Calibration laboratories not adequately equipped
 - Dependence on Government to set up labs
 - Insufficient fund to procure expensive physical standards
 - High cost of training and retraining of metrologists

CHALLENGES (contd)

- STANDARDS
 - Non existence of standards on a good number of imported products , e.g. GSM handsets
 - Difficulty in developing standards for some indigenous products such as zobo drink, locally brewed alcoholic beverages, etc.
 - SON has successfully standardized many indigenous products and is ready to share her experience with other countries
 - Insufficient number of staff for SON to elaborate standards

CHALLENGES (contd)

GENERAL

- Lack of funds resulting to inconclusive projects on:
 - standardization activities
 - training and retraining of technical and admin support staff
 - research activities
- Inadequate communication infrastructure
- No stable electricity causing break down of sensitive lab equipment
- Reliance on Pre-shipment Inspection Agencies to perform CA not adequate

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SPECIFIC NEEDS

- Alignment with international standards
- Co-operation with relevant Organisations on technical infrastructure development
- Adequate funding of SON to develop CA infrastructure
- Training and retraining of staff
- Laboratories for testing and research
- Metrology laboratories(including mobile lab)
- National Accreditation Scheme
- Membership of IAF , ILAC – for recognition of accreditation.
- Steady power supply
- Adequate maintenance of laboratory equipment

GOAL

- To achieve market access for :
 - Intra – African trade
 - Africa’s trade with other countries and regions
 - Diversification of exports
- To establish adequate infrastructure in Nigeria and ECOWAS for mutual recognition of all forms of CA
- To establish traceability of measurements to international standards
- To achieve the acceptance of the CA principle in the ECOWAS region “ **tested once, accepted everywhere**”

CONCLUSION

- We thank UNIDO, UNICEF, FAO, CODEX, PTB, IMEKO, IEC, ISO, ARSO, ASTM, SADC and other Organisations for supporting CA programs in Nigeria and ECOWAS
- We solicit for more support from international and regional Organisations to develop and strengthen CA infrastructure in ECOWAS sub-region.

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Thank you for listening

God bless you all

