

THE REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR PRODUCT MONITORING IN THE GULF SINGLE MARKET

Conformity Assessment Infrastructure Supporting Trade

OPENESS

- **Member states are seeking to (the Economic Agreement)**
 - achieve advanced stages of economic integration that would lead to a Common Market and an Economic and Monetary Union among Member States according to a specific timetable, while enhancing market mechanisms and fostering the role of the private sector
 - Membership in the WTO and commitment to the TBT Agreement

Consumer Protection

- **Member states are entitled to adopt effective policies aiming at a high level of protection of citizens, their interests and the environment, from danger which can occur when using products**

Aim at achieving Free product circulation through:

- **Removal of technical barriers to internal and external GCC trade, deriving from national technical regulations (mandatory standards), testing, and certification procedures.**

And consumers protection through:

- **Setting up the essential requirements to safety and security, and providing effective technical tools to translate them technically and to attest conformity to them**

- In dealing with its duties related to studies and strategies development, GSO has conducted a technical study to develop member states strategy on the quality infrastructure aiming at achieving the political orientations
- The study has been conducted during 66 weeks between 2005 and 2007
- The main conclusion and recommendations of the project lead to a Regional Framework called Regional Conformity Assessment Scheme (RCAS)

- Gradual change of the concept based on the adoption of mandatory technical standards,
- To develop technical regulations based upon the essential requirements for health, safety and environmental protection, in which while maintaining all technical standards to be voluntary.
- To adopt the European New and Global approach as model in developing the “Unified Regulatory System for Product Monitoring in the Gulf Market”
- Creating a Gulf Conformity Mark to serve the new legislative regime.
- Developing and approving a unified regulatory regime for GCC market surveillance.
- Drafting and enacting a unified law of product liability for all Member States.

- **Establishing a single accreditation body for all GCC members.**
- **Coordination among GCC members in relation to metrology through the Steering Committee for Measurement and Calibration (SCMC).**
- **Setting and approving a unified system of legal metrology regulations for all member states.**

Quality Infrastructure Elements

Enforcement: Market Surveillance – Information Exchange ...

Technical Regulations

Standards

Inspection

Testing

Certification

Metrology

Conformity
Assessment

Accreditation

Institutions / Legal framework

- **A permanent committee : The GCC committee for Conformity Assessment (GCCA) has been formed to comprise representatives from every member state, and is responsible for technical regulation development...**
- **While The GCC General committee for standardization is responsible for standards development**
- **Interface procedure between standards development and Technical Regulations (TRs) development processes, to facilitate...**
- **...the gradual change of mandatory technical standards, while developing TRs covering specific ranges of products or risks**

Comprises legal instruments for:

- **Defective products liability,**
- **General Requirement for Safety of products, and respective responsibilities of economic operators,**
- **Respective roles of Government and non government bodies involved in conformity assessment**
- **Market Monitoring procedures**

Comprises Horizontal TRs applicable to all Types of products or risks:

Adopted

- **General Safety of products,**
- **GCC Conformity Mark,**
- **Notified Bodies,**
- **Modules of Conformity Assessment**

Being adopted

- **Defective products liability**
- **Market Surveillance**
- **Rapid Exchange of information on risks**

...and Other TRs applicable to specific Types of products or risks:

Adopted

- Toys
- Low Voltage Products

Being adopted

- Construction material
- Machines
- Lifts
- ...

- Are developed through a transparent process
- Provide Technical Requirements for various purposes...
 - Safety – Security – Environment – Performance – Quality...
- And for various operators
 - Governments – Manufacturers – Civil Community – Importers...
- Encourage the use of International Standards (**more than 70%**)
- Develop detailed technical requirements under consensus , to translate technically the essential requirements on safety and security and to assess conformity to them

TWO PARTS OF COMPLIANCE MONITORING SYSTEM:

PRE-MARKET ASSESSMENT

Products placed on the market must fulfil essential requirements. The manufacturer assures this by affixing the GCC marking on the product

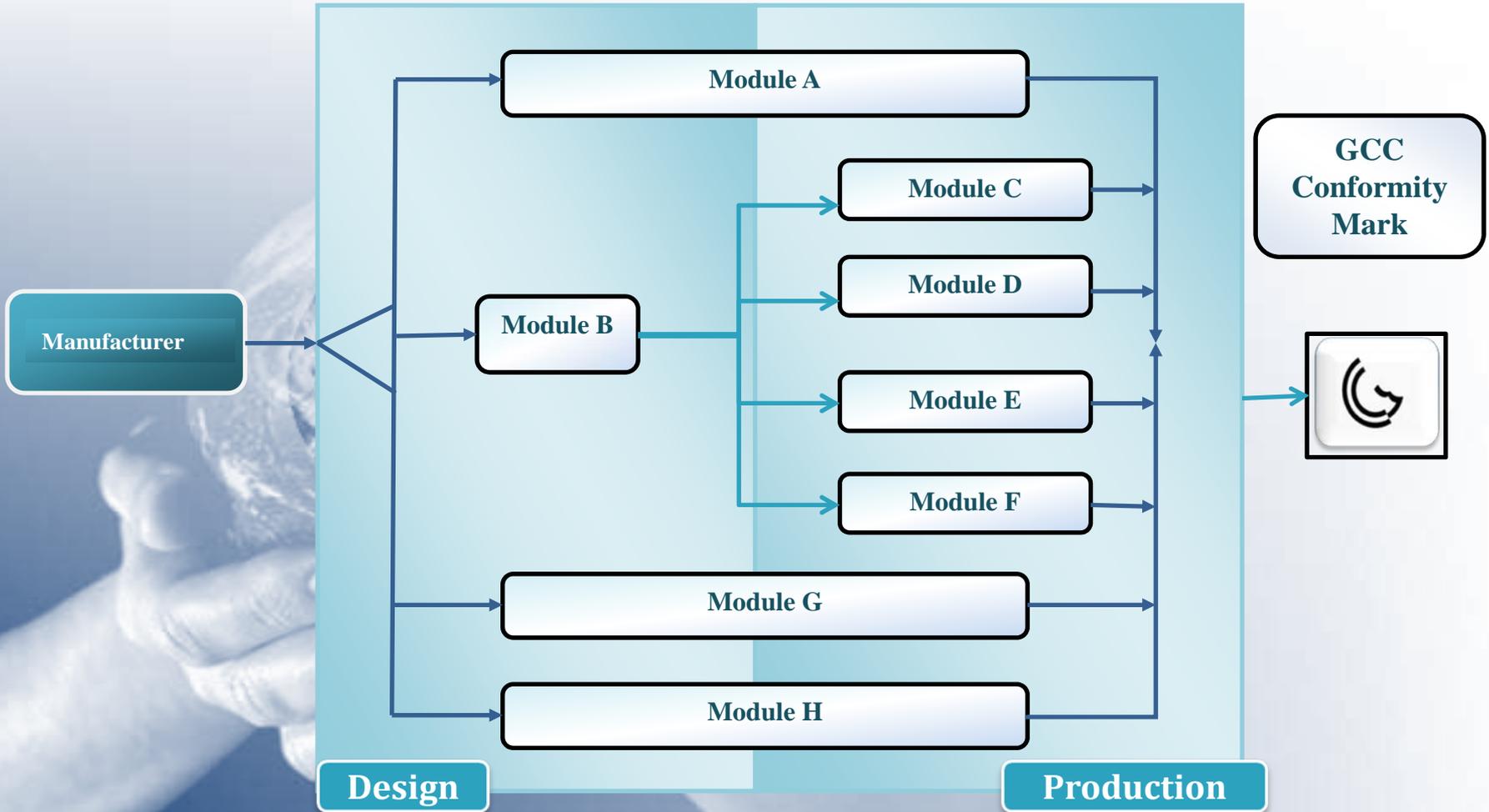
POST-MARKET CONTROL

Member States must control that the products in their markets are in compliance with the essential requirements. This is done by national authorities using market surveillance

Manufacturer (or his authorised representative) is responsible for conformity, therefore:

- The manufacturer shall use defined procedures of conformity assessment “Modules.”
- The Modules are adopted from European modules of conformity assessment, some of them need the intervention of Notified Bodies.
- He is free to choose any suitable Notified Body, including those in the country of origin.

MODULES OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT



NOTIFIED BODIES

- **Designation and notification of conformity assessment bodies is the responsibility of member states (according to the procedure of notification and the GCC guide on notified bodies)**
- **Applicable Technical requirements on competency derive from international Standards issued by ISO/CASCO (GSO has adopted all of them by decision of its Board of Directors)**
- **Designation is open to CABs situated outside of member states territory (provided they have a legal representation in member states territory)**

1. **To determine applicable TRs and modules of CA**
 2. **To choose suitable notified body (if applicable)**
 3. **To conduct applicable conformity assessment procedure**
 4. **To draw up the Technical File**
 - ✓ Provide information on design, production and other product operations;
 5. **To issue the GCC declaration of conformity**
 - ✓ Provides information on product traceability
 6. **Affix the GCC conformity mark**
- **Free putting and circulation of products within the single market**

- A single accreditation body “Gulf Accreditation Center – GAC” is created and will provide accreditation services to all CA bodies within GCC.
- GAC will take advantage from existing accreditation bodies
- This will be of benefit in concluding MRAs and MLAs within ILAC and IAF

- **Establishment of “Steering Committee for Measurements and Calibrations – SCMC”**
 - And Sub committees in : Mechanical – Electrical & Physical fields
- **Approval of GCC common law on Measurements and Calibrations**
- **Establishment of “GULF MET”**

Comprises the following:

1. **Complaints record and follow system**
2. **Accidents record and follow system**
3. **Market surveillance**
4. **Risk Assessment and information exchange**
5. **Data bases development**
 - ✓ On Products
 - ✓ On producers
 - ✓ On importation operations...

ADVANTAGES OF THE APPROACH

- **Harmonization of Technical Regulations Conformity Assessment Procedure among the member states, concluding to simplification of applicable technical procedures to producers**
- **Availability of a coherent set of Gulf standards, which do not compete with each other**
- **Same rules for importers and GCC manufacturers**
- **Gives opportunity to manufacturers to adopt technical solution to ensure compliance to essential requirements, without applying TRs referenced standards. This encourages technology development.**

The new GCC Regulatory System introduces a large range of opportunities of technical cooperation with countries having a great experience in adopting the new and global approach, mainly:

- **Cooperation in view of transfer of expertise and experience between institutions;**
 - Cooperation with the Standardization institutions & Conformity Assessment Bodies in developing the Gulf Regulatory system
- **Providing technical experts and training**
 - Training Technical experts in developing Technical Regulations

It introduces large opportunities for Conformity Assessment Bodies in these countries to act in the field of technical procedures within the system, mainly:

- **Providing conformity assessment services and related activities for importers from these countries and others**