



ACCREDITATION: A GLOBAL TOOL TO SUPPORT PUBLIC POLICY

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**Offices of the National Metrology Institute of South Africa
(NMISA)**

Quantum Hall, Building 5, Pretoria



Presentation Layout



- Who is SANAS?
- What is Accreditation?
- Government reliance on accreditation
- Accredited laboratories with stack emissions
- Accreditation process
- Examples of policies/regulations
- Conclusion



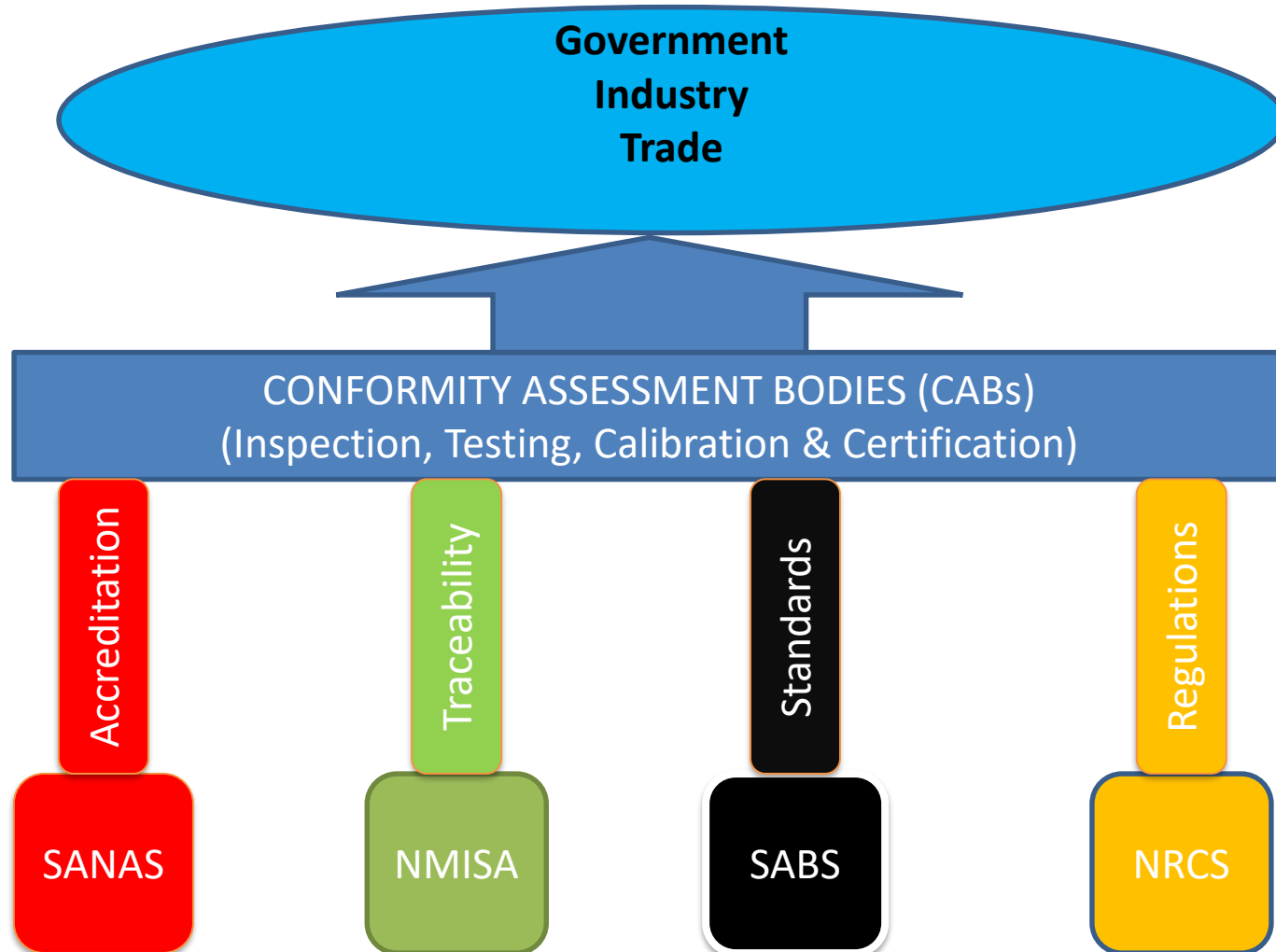
Definitions

Policy

“A **definite** course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to **guide** and **determine** present and future **decisions**”



TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Home perspective



- Locally, accreditation is facilitated through the Accreditation Act No. 19 of 2006

The Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Act, 19 of 2006 and related assessment issues

- The purpose of this Act is to provide an internationally recognized and effective accreditation for the Republic



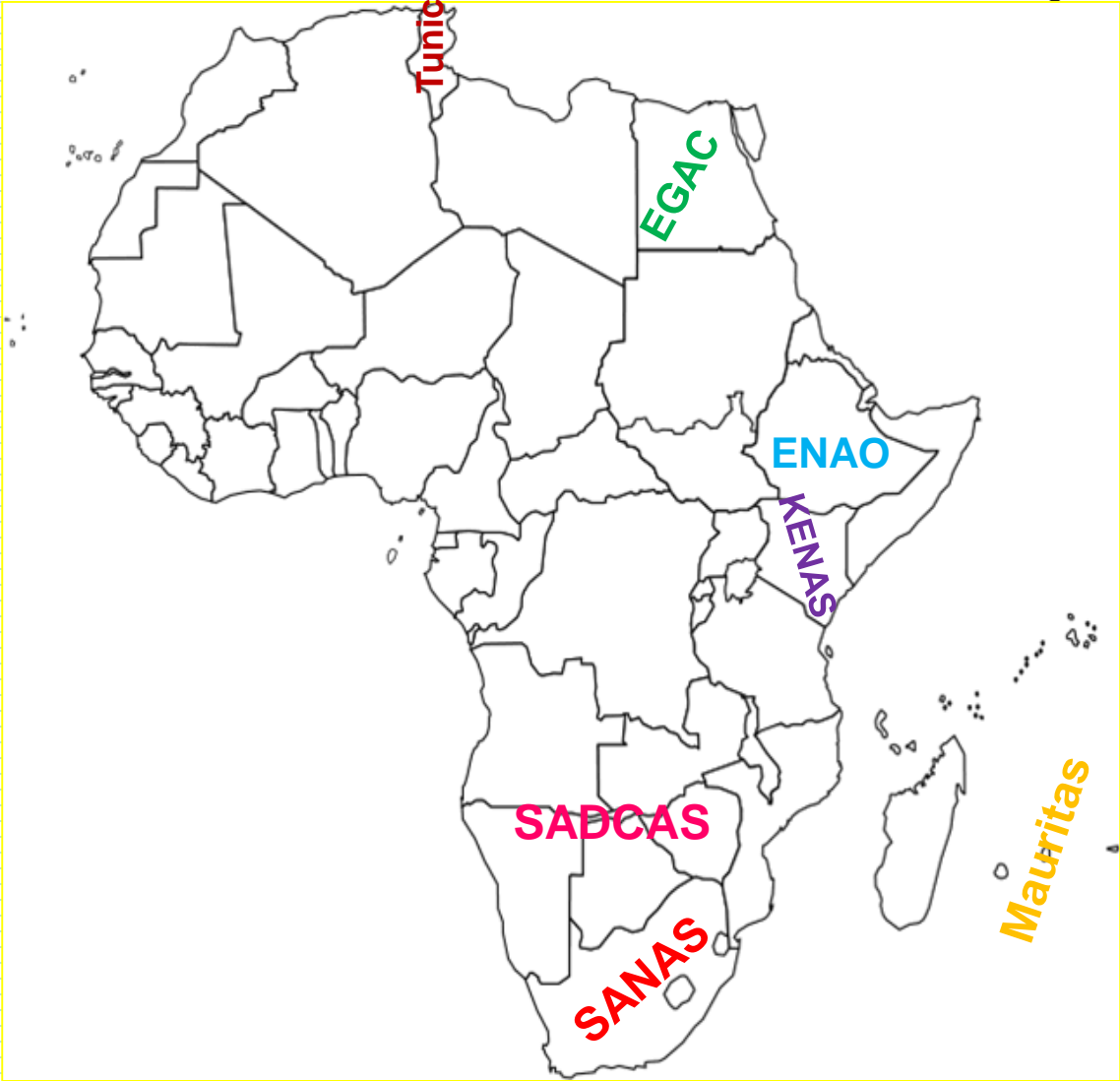
Impartiality

The accreditation body shall be responsible for its accreditation activities,

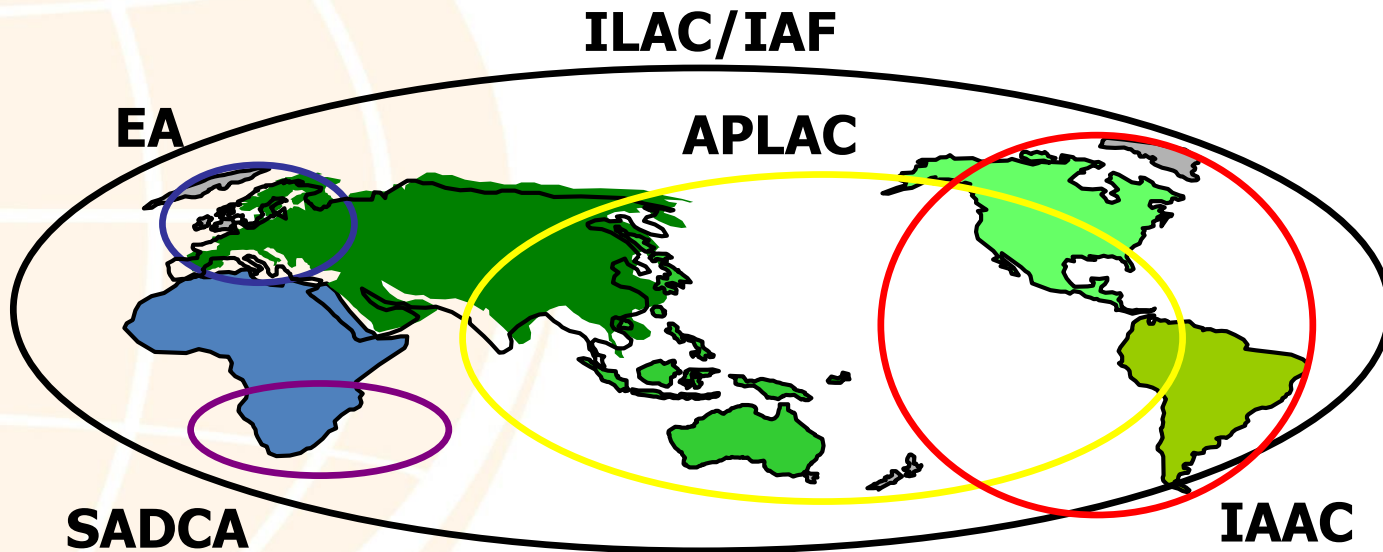
- Shall **not allow commercial, financial or other pressures to compromise its impartiality,**
- Shall act objectively **and ensure its personnel and committees are free from any undue commercial, financial, and political pressures.**
- Shall ensure **all its personnel and committee members disclose any potential conflict of interest.**
- **Shall not imply or suggest that accreditation is simpler, easier, faster or less expensive in any of its personnel or committee is used.**



African Overview



World perspective



EA

European co-operation for Accreditation

APLAC

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC

Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation

SADCA

Southern African Accreditation Cooperation

Definitions

Accreditation

- a) “to regard as **true; believe.**”
- b) “to provide or send with **credentials; designate officially**”
- c) “the process in which certification of **competency, authority, or credibility** is presented”
- d) “the **recognition** that a laboratory can produce “**accurate results**” within acceptable limits on a consistent and sustainable basis”



Value chain process

Facility	SANAS	Consumer	CAB*	Regulator
SANAS	Uphold, protect its international status, promote international trade and promote GLP compliant facilities.	Value will be appreciated and ethics will prevail at all times.	Assessment of conformity of products, services against set specification.	Obtain and maintain membership of international organisations to advance its objectives.
Consumer	Be protected against misrepresentation, counterfeit and unfair trade practices.		Continuously improve accessibility to quality products and services.	Protect the consumer against unfair practices of producers and suppliers.
CAB*	Assess its competency and promote global trade.	Appealing products and services which enhance value of life.		Set internationally aligned / acceptable standards.
Regulator	Promote accreditation to encourage ethical reporting and compliance.	Create a conducive trade-market where value for money is realised, quality, safety, protection of environment is maintained.	Uphold the applicably provisions as set-out in the Constitution.	

* CAB – conformity assessment body

Globalisation

- Globalisation is leading to increasing adoption of open market systems throughout the world.




Globalisation

Governments however still feel the need from time to time to intervene by using legislation and associated regulation in order to fulfil certain objectives, namely; **national security requirements, the prevention of deceptive practices, protection of human health or safety, animal life or health, or the natural environment.**



Governments and Regulators



accreditation is the preferred mechanism for identifying competent bodies to implement government **policies** and **regulations** aimed at safeguarding the public and building public confidence in activities that impact on such fields as health, welfare, security, the environment, education, and financial services

Business

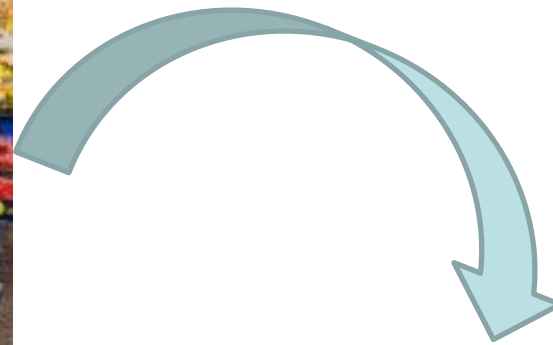


accurate calibration, measurement and testing, performed in accordance with best practice, can limit errors and product failure, control production costs and contribute to an innovative environment. **Accreditation is therefore an essential tool for decision-making, risk management and supplier selection.** It can also provide a competitive advantage in domestic markets through access to public **sector contracts**, and **also overseas with greater acceptance in export markets.**

Consumers



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Accreditation helps to increase access to goods and services of consistent and reliable quality and safety.

Support to public policy

The Act and supporting legislation

NEM:AQA

(11 September 2005 as amended in 2014)

National Framework

(AQA Section 7(1))

Municipal roles and responsibilities as per NEM:AQA 39 of 2004 by Lotta Mayana

Ambient air quality standards

(AQA Section 9(1))

Listed activities

(AQA Section 21)

Regulations

(AQA Section 32)

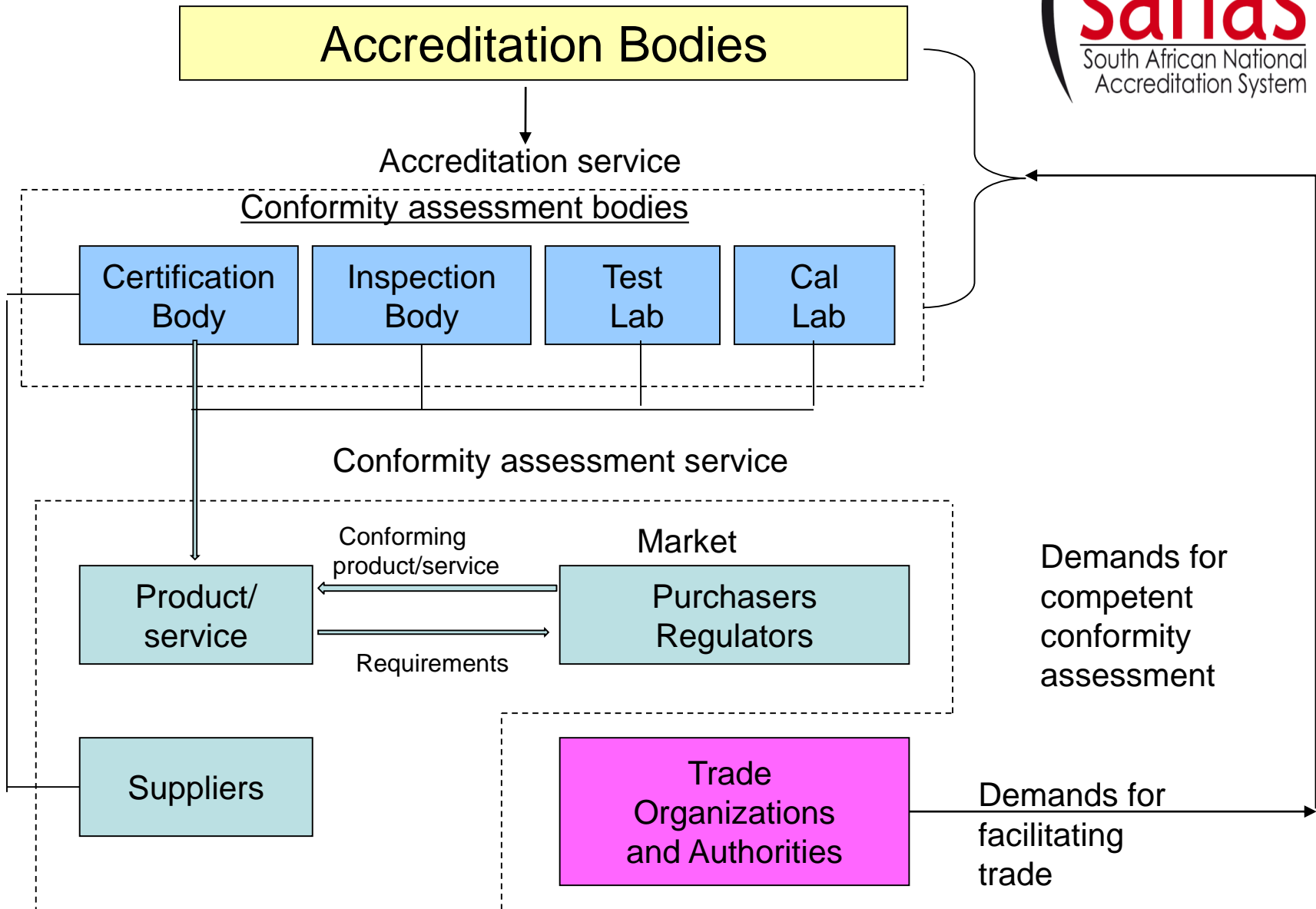
Municipal roles and responsibilities as per NEM:AQA 39 of 2004 by Lotta Mayana

Ambient Air Quality

Stack Emission Monitoring

Dust Control Regulations

SANAS supports government in terms of S9, 21, 32 through CABs accreditation, however, this is not a mandatory requirement for ambient air quality stations in the country and is not a condition in the Atmospheric Emission Licences



Regulators using Accreditation



- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Labour
- Department of Minerals
- NRCS – Legal Metrology
- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Department of Transport
- Department of Tourism



What is competence?

Competence:

- Skills
- Knowledge
- Experience
- Qualifications
- Ability



What is competence?

Competence is the demonstrated **ability** to apply **knowledge** and **skills** and where relevant, demonstrated **personal attributes** to achieve **intended results**.



Technical competence of a Lab

Technical competence of a lab depends on a number of factors, namely:

- a. Qualifications, training and experience of the staff
- b. Correct equipment – proper calibrated and maintained
- c. Adequate quality assurance procedures
- d. Proper sampling practices
- e. Appropriate and valid testing procedures and methods
- f. Traceability of measurements to national standards
- g. Accurate recording and reporting procedures
- h. Suitable testing

By being accredited, the laboratory is demonstrating that these requirements, amongst others, have been and continue to be met



Focus Areas

Personnel (6.2)

- Training
- Authorization
- Qualifications
- Continuous monitoring
- Records

Equipment (6.4)

- Suitability
- Calibration
- Maintenance
- Competent Operators
- Records

Facilities & Environment (6.3)

- Suitability
- Continuous monitoring of environmental conditions
- Separations of areas to prevent cross-contamination
- Controlled Access

Methods (7.2)

- Selection of methods
- Validation
- Authorised personnel
- Measurement uncertainty



Focus Areas

Ensuring valid results (7.7)

- Quality Controls
- Trends Analysis
- Proficiency testing

Products & Services (6.6)

- Approved suppliers
- Tested before use
- Audit supplies
- Quality systems

Standard Operating Procedures (8.2)

- Technical valid
- Periodic review
- Communication
- Training of staff

Internal Audits (8.8)

- Self-assessment
- Self-correct mechanism
- Corrective Actions
- Improvement



What SANAS Accreditation is not

- a. It is not merely a means of registering or listing someone or something
- b. It is not a management system review dressed up with some scientific and technical elements
- c. It is not the recognition of future capabilities
- d. It is not the recognition of an individual's qualifications
- a. It is not a broad approval of everything a laboratory might do



Conclusion

Conformity assessment and accreditation are important parts of a nation's quality infrastructure, along with metrology and standardisation. They build confidence that goods and services, processes, management systems and the work of individuals comply with national and international standards and regulations. They also assist in the risk-management and decision making of manufacturers and regulators.



