

Certification Industry in Hong Kong: Current Situation and Prospect

June 2012

Hong Kong

- A small place ...
 - Area: 1100 sq.km
 - Population: 7.1 million
 - GDP: HKD 1,890 billion (~USD 240 billion)



-
- ❑ ... with many private conformity assessment bodies
 - ❑ about 300 providing testing services
 - ❑ about 340 providing inspection services
 - ❑ about 30 providing certification services



International Link

- Major international certification bodies all have a presence in Hong Kong, e.g.
 - BSI
 - Bureau Veritas
 - China Inspection Company
 - DEKRA
 - Intertek
 - SGS
 - TUV Rheinland
 - UL



Certification Services

- A wide range of certification services are available in Hong Kong, some examples:
 - Management system certification
 - ISO 9001 - Quality management system (QMS)
 - ISO 14001 - Environmental management system (EMS)
 - ISO 22000 - Food safety management system (FSMS)
 - OHSAS 18001 - Occupational, health and safety management system
 - Product Certification
 - Consumer products
 - Construction materials
 - Telecommunications equipment
 - Quantification and Verification of Green House Gases

Continuous Government Support

- Hong Kong Government has been supporting the development of certification services

- In 1989, Government set up the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) to promote ISO 9000 series certification
 - HKQAA is now the largest non-profit making certification body in Hong Kong

- In 1991, Government introduced a product certification scheme for concrete (the Quality Scheme for the Production and Supply of Concrete or QSPSC)
 - QSPSC has become the norm for supply of concrete in Hong Kong

-
- Since 1996, contractors for public works are required to obtain ISO 9000 certification
 - In 1998, to enhance the quality of certification services, Government's HKAS launched accreditation scheme for certification body
 - In 2003, to promote wider acceptance of Hong Kong's certification results, HKAS joined the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation's Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for quality management system certification



-
- ❑ In 2007, Government introduced revised monitoring procedures in recognition of licensed food premises that have obtained ISO 22000 certification
 - ❑ In 2009, Government transferred the certification of telecommunication equipment to private certification bodies
 - ❑ In 2011, HKAS joined the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation's MRA for environmental management system and product certification



To Promote Hong Kong's Testing and Certification Industry

- Traditionally, Hong Kong has been relying on four pillar industries:
 - Trading and logistics
 - Financial services
 - Business and professional services
 - Tourism

- In 2009, to diversify Hong Kong's economy, another six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages has been selected – including the [testing and certification industry](#)

Hong Kong's Strengths

- Strategically located



-
- An international trading hub
 - Hong Kong's external merchandise trade: about HKD7,100 billion in 2011 - more than 3 times Hong Kong's GDP
 - Brings demand for third-party testing and certification services
 - High professional integrity
 - High technical competence
 - Flexibility



Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC)

- ❑ Established in September 2009 to advise the Government on strategies to promote the development of the industry
- ❑ Members come from the testing and certification industry, business sector, professional bodies, public bodies and Government departments



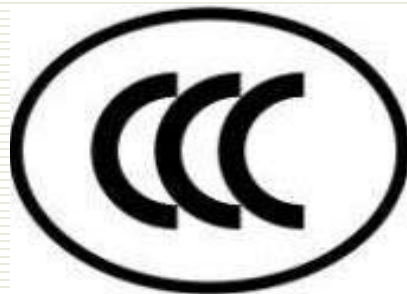
-
- Vision – Hong Kong to develop into a testing and certification hub in the region
 - Dual Approach -
 - To make general improvements to the accreditation service and factors of production (e.g. enhance training for practitioners, development of new testing technologies)
 - To assist the industry to seize further business opportunities in selected areas (e.g. food, environmental protection)



New Developments

- On the certification aspect, HKCTC has:
 - supported the development of a product certification scheme for Chinese medicines
 - supported the development of an HACCP-based hygiene management certification scheme to suit the need of local catering industry
 - been promoting wider use of product certification for construction materials - 10 local product certification schemes have been developed for construction materials

-
- The Mainland-Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) allows testing organisations in Hong Kong to undertake testing of products processed in Hong Kong for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System in cooperation with designated Mainland certification bodies



-
- There are also growing potential for new certification services, e.g.:
 - ISO 27001 Information security management system
 - ISO 50001 Energy management system
 - ISO 14064, ISO 14067 Green House Gases/Carbon footprint quantification and verification
 - Social responsibility certification

There should be
Good Prospect for Certification

Thank You