

The Role of Mutual Recognition Arrangements in the Telecommunications Equipment Market

**World Accreditation Day 2013 Seminar
14 June 2013
Hong Kong**

Mr Warren Kwok
Office of the Communications Authority

The Communications Authority (CA)

- A unified regulator established on 1 April 2012 to regulate broadcasting and telecommunications sectors.
- An independent statutory body established under the Communications Authority Ordinance
- Assumes the statutory powers and functions transferred from Broadcasting Ordinance and Telecommunications Ordinance
- The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) is the Executive arm of CA

Equipment Certification in Hong Kong

Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106 of Hong Kong Law) empowers the Communications Authority (CA) to:

- (a) prescribe standards for telecom equipment
- (b) require testing and certification of telecom equipment against prescribed standards
- (c) **accredit other organisations for the purpose of testing and/or certification of telecom equipment**

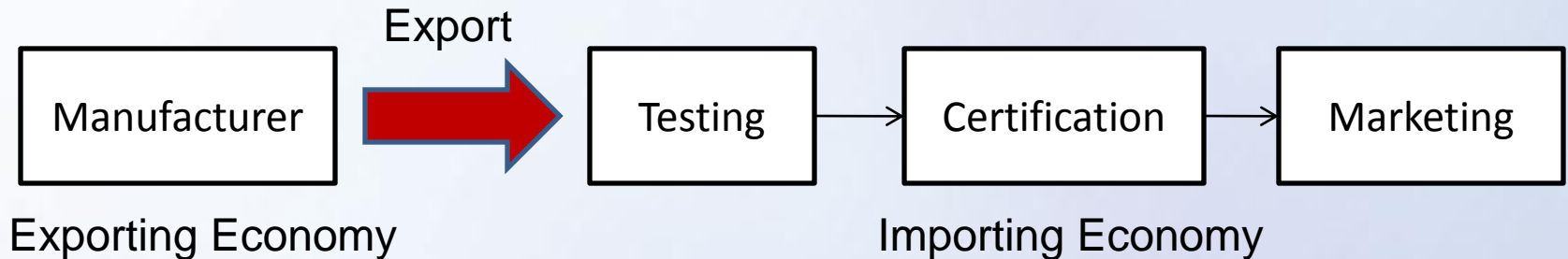
Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment (MRA-CA)

- The APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecom Equipment
- The world's first multilateral MRA
- Adopted by the APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group (APEC TEL) on 1 July 1999
- Government-to-government voluntary arrangements
- Administered by the APEC TEL MRA Task Force
- Telecom equipment cover both wireline (fixed) and wireless (mobile) equipment

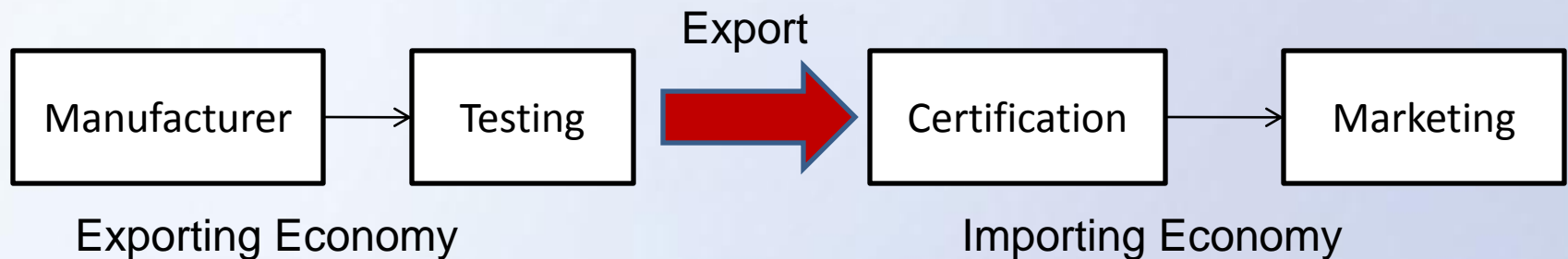
Two Phases of MRA-CA

- Phase 1
 - mutual recognition of testing labs
 - mutual acceptance of test reports from these labs
 - building confidence and trust
- Phase 2
 - mutual recognition of certification bodies
 - mutual acceptance of equipment certifications issued by certification bodies
 - established confidence and trust

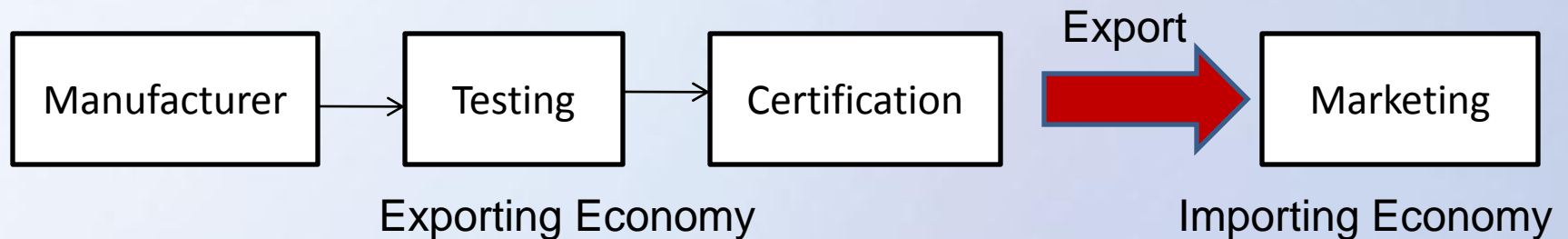
Without an MRA



Phase 1 : Mutual Recognition of Test Results



Phase 2 : Mutual Recognition of Certifications



APEC TEL MRA Economies



21 APEC Member Economies endorsed APEC TEL MRA-CA.

- Hong Kong's Partnership

Phase I: Australia, Chinese Taipei, Canada, USA, Singapore

Phase II: Canada, USA

APEC TEL MRA Benefits

- Reduce technical barriers to trade
- Reduce costs for testing and certification
- Shorten time to market
- Increase transparency of regulations and conformity assessment processes
- Provide more competition and wide choices in the telecom equipment market

Impact of MRA to the Telecom Equipment Market

- According to WTO, telecom equipment in 2011 covered trade worth US\$660 billion
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2012_e/its2012_e.pdf
- According to APEC Business Advisory Council, MRA
 - saves 5 % of the cost of new product placement
 - cuts 6 months for new product placement in markets and
 - Reduces marketing costs for new products by up to 30 %

HK Testing Laboratories recognized by APEC TEL MRA Partners

MRA Partner	No. of HK testing Lab recognized
Canada	1
Singapore	1
USA	5

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/ap ec_tel_mra/annex3_e.pdf

Foreign Testing Laboratories recognized by Hong Kong

MRA Partner	No. of foreign testing Lab recognized by HK
Chinese Taipei	3
Canada	1
Singapore	1
USA	11

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/apec_tel_mra/annex4_e.pdf

Certification Bodies Recognized by Hong Kong and MRA Partners

Local CB recognized by APEC TEL MRA Partner

MRA Partner	No. of CBs
USA	1

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/apec_tel_mra/annex3_e.pdf

Foreign CBs recognized by Hong Kong

MRA Partners	No. of CBs
Canada	1
USA	3

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/apec_tel_mra/annex4_e.pdf

Obligations of Conformity Assessment Bodies under APEC TEL MRA-CA

- Maintain accreditations, e.g. ISO/IEC 17025 for testing and ISO/IEC Guide 65 for certification
- Ensure that their accreditation and capabilities cover all of the technical requirements of the importing economy for which they have been designated ;
- Keep up-to-date with changes in technical regulations for which they are designated and ensure their ongoing capability;
- Maintain a list of test certificates or certifications that they have issued under the scope of MRA

MRA for Equivalence of Technical Requirements (MRA-ETR)

- Provides a framework for recognizing that multiple economies technical requirements are equivalent
- Can be used in conjunction with MRA-CA
- Equipment manufacturers would only require one test to one standard to demonstrate conformity with the technical regulations of MRA-ETR partners
- Incepted in Oct 2010
- Still in the early stage of implementation

Other measures to facilitate trade of telecom equipment

- Hong Kong adopts internationally recognized standards as HKCA standards
 - Open and transparent process in setting standards
 - Consult stakeholders through the Radio Spectrum and Standards Advisory Committee
 - Public consultation, if necessary
- HKCA Standards are available online for free access at:
http://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/industry_focus/telecommunications/standards/hkca/index.html

Granting of Certificates

- Certificates are issued by Certification Body after evaluation of conformity test reports:
 - (i) CB may perform the necessary tests on the sample against the relevant HKCA specification
 - (ii) CB may examine test reports produced by a Recognized Testing/Certification Agency (RTA)
 - (iii) CB may examine test reports provided by a testing agency, if the testing agency is competent to perform the relevant test in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.
- List of certified equipment is published at OFCA's website
<http://app1.ofca.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp?lang=E>

Labelling Arrangement (1)

- Labelling of certified equipment is on a voluntary basis
- Manufacturers, suppliers or dealers are encouraged to affix a label to a certified equipment for end users to identify compliance
- Details requirement on the label format are specified in HKCA 3211

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/en/content_406/hkca3211.pdf

Labelling Arrangement (2)

Information in Certificate Number of Label



FCB code of SIEMIC, Inc. assigned by OFCA
通訊辦向 SIEMIC, Inc. 編配的海外驗證
機構編號

Consumer Alert on Labelling



Smart Tips for the Smart Tele-Consumer

- Choose telecom equipment, such as walkie-talkies and cordless phones with the CA label
- Look up the list of certified telecom equipment on the OFCA website

http://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/consumer_focus/education_corner/publicity/index_id_17.html

Online search of type-approved equipment

← → ↻ app1.ofca.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp

List of Certified Telecommunications Equipment for Use in Hong Kong

Search Certified Telecommunications Equipment

Equipment Category (Required Field)

3 - Certified Radio Equipment Exempted from Licensing ▼
-- All -- ▼

Marketing Name / Designation:

Certificate Number:

Certificate Issuer: ▼

Number of Certified Telecommunications Equipment matching the search criteria : 1

Page : 1 of 1 < > ▼ [Printer-Friendly List](#)

Marketing Name / Designation	Cert. No. / Ref. No.	Category	Operating Frequency
Intermec 1007CP02	US0021200029	▪ 2.4 / 5 GHz Wireless LAN Equipment	▪ 2412 - 2462 MHz ▪ 5180 - 5240 MHz ▪ 5260 - 5320 MHz

Way Forward

- To further facilitate the trade in telecom goods in the Asia Pacific region, OFCA will continue its effort in reaching MRA with more APEC economies
- Enquires on APEC TEL MRA be sent to:
email : standards@ofca.gov.hk
Tel : + 852 – 2961 6388

Thank You !