



## How Accreditation of Certification Bodies Provides Enhanced Confidence

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23 November 2011





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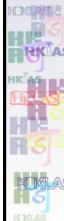



## What is Product Certification?

## Product Certification

- ✦ Products are designed, produced, distributed, used and ultimately disposed of
- ✦ The frequent societal concern is whether a product is what it appears to be (involving safety, health or environmental impacts, durability, compatibility, suitability for intended use, etc)
- ✦ If consequences of nonconformity is insignificant, supplier's claim may be sufficient




## Product Certification

- ✦ If the consequences of nonconformity are significant, society may demand product certification
- ✦ Product certification address concerns of consumers, users and, more generally, all interested parties by **instilling confidence** regarding fulfilment of requirements




## Product Certification

- ✦ A third party certification body issues a certificate to confirm that a product of a given supplier satisfies the requirements of a specified certification scheme
- ✦ Certified products may bear a certification mark to demonstrate their quality, which can directly link to the conformity of the product with specified requirements







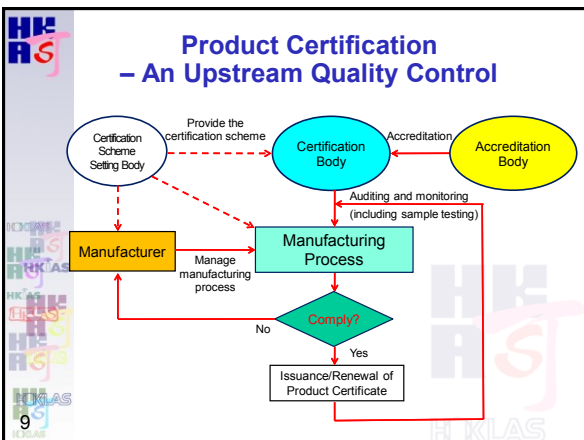


## Product Certification

- ✦ Product certification serves a dual purpose:
  - By demonstrating conformity, suppliers may more effectively achieve market acceptance
  - Users and consumers are able to make better decisions about products in the marketplace

## Uses of Product Certification

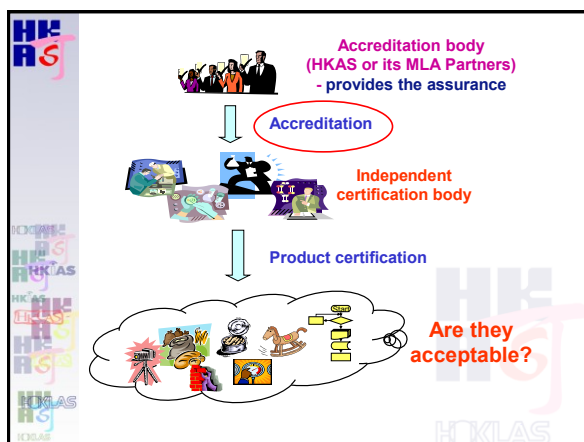
- ✦ **Retailers** of consumer goods rely on certification as evidence that aspects such as the safety of electrical appliances have been addressed by a third party, thus giving confidence that products they place on their shelves for sale to the public are not likely to bring harm to their customers
- ✦ **Manufacturers** may require certification of items provided by suppliers
- ✦ **Governmental authorities** can rely on certification of products to assure that, e.g. construction products are suitable for use in building construction



## Benefits of Product Certification

- ✦ Improve acceptance and confidence of customers
  - Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party involved to assure product compliance with the specified requirements
  - Products usually carry a certification mark
- ✦ Reduce risk of non-compliance / rework
  - Through rigorous process control and/or surveillance
- ✦ Reduce costs of monitoring
  - Certification bodies help customers to monitor the performance of manufacturers and quality of products

## HKAS Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies



## Accreditation Enhances Confidence

- For Business (e.g. manufacturers, retailers)
  - Enhance confidence in the products they produce/sell
- For User (e.g. consumers)
  - Enhance confidence in higher quality assurance of products they purchased
- For Certification Bodies
  - Enhance confidence in their certification - International recognition through accreditation by MLA signatory

**Certified once – accepted everywhere**

## HKAS Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies

- Launched in 2003 under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme
- International standard used as Accreditation Criteria
  - ISO/IEC Guide 65: 1996 – General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems
  - IAF GD5: 2006 – IAF Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 65: 1996
- HKAS regulations
  - HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 2 and 3 – Accreditation of Product Certification
  - HKAS 002 – Regulations for HKAS Accreditation

## Product Certification Systems 各種產品認證體系

7 types of Product Certification Systems under ISO/IEC Guide 67: 2004

Elements of certification system	1a	1b	2	3	4	5	6
Sample selection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Determination of characteristics (testing, inspection, design appraisal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evaluation of report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Initial assessment of production process			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Decision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Licensing (right to use certificates/marks)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surveillance							
Sample from market			✓		✓	✓	✓
Sample from factory				✓		✓	✓
Quality system audit with random sample test/inspection						✓	✓
Assessment of production process				✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Mark of conformity (認證標誌) is not allowed on certified product

**Most stringent**

## Product Certification (System 5)

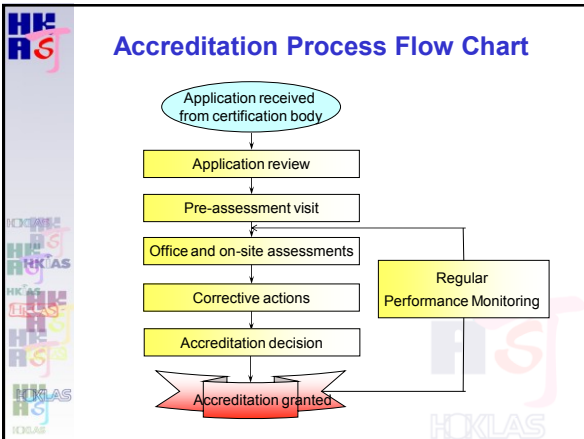
- Surveillance may include
  - Testing/inspection of samples from open market
  - Testing/inspection of samples from factory
  - Quality system audits combined with random tests/inspection
  - Assessment of production processes

## HKAS Accreditation for Construction Products Certification

- Construction products certification mainly use **System 5**
- **Initial assessment**, including **on-site witnessing** of evaluation process performed by the certification body
- **Surveillance visits** at frequency **not less than once a year** to the accredited certification body
- **Reassessment** of certification body normally every 3 years and **reassessment procedures/coverage similar to those of initial assessment**
- HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No.2

## Accreditation Requirements of Certification bodies

- **Conforms to ISO/IEC Guide 65**
  - Impartial certification operation
  - Certification decision is taken by a person different from those who carried out the evaluation
  - Evaluate conformance of applicant **adequately**
  - Operate under a **documented quality system**
  - Keep **adequate records**
  - Protect **confidentiality**
  - Use **competent personnel**
  - Complaints and appeals handling procedures
  - **Proper procedures** for accepting applications, evaluation of the applicant's product & its production process, decision making and surveillance
  - **Control** the use of certificates and **marks of conformity**



### Enhanced Confidence in Accredited Product Certification Bodies

- ### Enhanced Confidence in Accredited Product Certification Bodies
- Ensure there is established mechanism (committee) for safeguarding **impartiality**
  - Certification body to identify all potential **conflict of interest** to ensure impartiality and maintenance of independence
  - Impartiality and independence requirements are also **applicable to all personnel** including subcontractors e.g. test laboratory
  - Assessment of certification body's **competence** in auditing quality system as well as competence of all personnel involved in the certification process

- ### Enhanced Confidence in Accredited Product Certification Bodies
- Assessment of **confidentiality** of information obtained and **openness** of its information about its processes and certification status
  - Assessment of effectiveness resolution of **complaints and appeals**
  - Assessment of **responsibility** to obtain sufficient evidence



### Construction Product Certification Accredited by HKAS

Product	Certification Scheme	Number of Accredited CB
Concrete	QSPSC	3
Heat-soaked tempered glass	PCCS-TG	1
Fire doors & partition walls	PCCS-PFPP	2
Standard sand	QS/SS	1
Replacement sand	QS/RS	1
Cement products	PCCS-CP	1
Tile adhesives	PCCS-TA	3

### International Recognition

## International Recognition

- ✦ HKAS is a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- ✦ MRA signatory for testing, calibration, medical testing
- ✦ MLA signatory for quality management system, environmental management system, **product certification**

- ✦ HKAS is well recognised by region/international accreditation community
- ✦ Accreditation status of specific scope recognised by over 80 accreditation bodies in 65 economies in the world



## To look for accredited certification bodies and more information?

Please visit our website at  
[www.hkas.gov.hk](http://www.hkas.gov.hk)



## Accreditation Enhances Confidence

- ✦ Accreditation enhances confidence in the certified products because **accredited** certification bodies have been assessed to be fully complying with the requirements that inspire confidence
  - Impartiality
  - Competence
  - Confidentiality and openness
  - Responsibility
  - Responsiveness to complaints and appeals

## Thank You