

Testing and Certification

The local testing and certification industry has been providing testing, inspection and certification services to various sectors. It plays a vital role in our daily life and helps assure the safety and quality of products as well as their compliance with international and regional standards. Its quality assurance work also supports the manufacturing, export and other services, which is an integral part of the supply chain, making significant contributions to Hong Kong's external trade. Professionalism, integrity, being responsive to market needs and having a robust accreditation system are all cornerstones of the success of the industry.

Promoting the Testing and Certification Industry: The Government established the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) in 2009 to advise it on the overall development strategy of the testing and certification industry.

HKCTC has been adopting a market-oriented approach to promote the development of the industry. On the general front, continued enhancement has been made to the accreditation service and the factors of production of the industry. On the other hand, HKCTC is also exploring new testing and certification opportunities in different business areas.

To reinforce the branding of "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong", HKCTC promotes Hong Kong's testing and certification services through different channels, including online platforms, participation in major trade fairs locally and overseas, organising seminars in Hong Kong, and placing interviews and articles in the media.

For details of the work of HKCTC, please refer to HKCTC website (www.hkctc.gov.hk).

Opening Up of the Mainland Testing and Certification Market to Hong Kong: Since the implementation of Supplement VII to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the Mainland has been gradually opening up its market to Hong Kong's testing and certification industry.

Today, testing organisations located in Hong Kong can cooperate with designated Mainland certification bodies to undertake testing for all products processed or manufactured anywhere in the world requiring China Compulsory Certification (CCC). Also, certification bodies located in Hong Kong can cooperate with designated Mainland certification bodies to carry out inspection of factories and selection of post-certification test samples at factories manufacturing CCC products in the whole Mainland and starting from 1 March 2025 onwards to expand and cover factories located anywhere in the world.

Promulgated in February 2019, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area reinforces that the implementation of CEPA liberalisation measures for Hong Kong's services

sector, including testing and certification, will be deepened. It also mentions supporting Greater Bay Area enterprises in using services of Hong Kong such as testing and certification.

These developments would assist the local testing and certification industry in further exploring the markets in the Mainland (especially the Greater Bay Area) and overseas.

Maintaining a Robust Accreditation System: Established in 1998, Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) improves the standard of local conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection and certification) and supports the development of the industry by providing a wide range of accreditation services through three accreditation schemes, namely, the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS); the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS); and the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (HKIAS). Performance of laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies are evaluated through rigorous on-site assessments before they are recognised as competent in performing the conformity assessment activities listed in their respective scopes of accreditation. Users of conformity assessment service may select the services provided by accredited organisations to support their business through the directory of accredited organisations published on the HKAS website (www.hkas.gov.hk).

Through participation in Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements administered by international accreditation cooperation bodies, conformity assessment results issued by HKAS accredited organisations are widely recognised in over 110 economies, including all major trading partners of Hong Kong. This greatly facilitates cross-border trade with the related economies.

Ensuring accuracy and metrological traceability of measurements: Established in 1984, the Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) of the ITC is the custodian of Hong Kong's reference standards of physical measurements. The SCL also provides comprehensive calibration services to ensure that measurements made in Hong Kong are traceable to the International System of Units (SI). The SCL is a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), through which calibration certificates issued by the SCL are internationally accepted by 97 metrology institutes and 4 international organisations, and a further 150 designated institutes. For details, please visit SCL website (www.scl.gov.hk).