Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology

Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Georgia: Needs Assessment

3 May 2018
Geneva, Switzerland
National Quality Infrastructure supports:

- To increase the competitiveness of the products;
- To place safe products on the market;
- To eliminate TBT and facilitate access to international markets

It is achieved – through:

- Application of international/regional standards during the production of products;
- Reliable conformity assessment against those standards;
- Reliable and traceable measuring instruments used in production and conformity assessment phases.
In 2005 first phase of reform in QI field started, the main purpose was transition from long lasting mandatory system to voluntary.

Legislative reform - Legislative framework according to international practice.

Institutional reform – QI institutions in place, duties and responsibilities of the institutions clearly defined and separated.

Increased demand on QI services – export market demands, process of integration in international markets
Georgian QI–Institutional and legislative reforms in 2005

Before reforms

SAQSTANDARTI

Metrology Institute

Metrology Center

Accreditation

Supervision

Certification

Standardization

After reforms

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology-GEOSTM

Accreditation Center-GAC

Technical and Construction Supervision Agency-TCSA

Metrology Institute

Department for Standards
Further development of QI
DCFTA – preparation, progress, challenges

- In 2009 next phase of reforms in the field of QI was initiated, the catalyzer thereof was preparation for DCFTA with EU.

- In 2009 fact-finding mission European Commission identified 4 key sectors and prepared recommendations as a precondition for starting DCFTA negotiations.

- In 2010 for the implementation recommendations and approximation to the best International/European practices in the area of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Government of Georgia adopted TBT Strategy and Program of adoption of technical regulations.

- In 2012 the Code on Safety and Free Movement of Products was adopted. The code unifies all laws related to QI such as – laws on standardization, Technical Regulations, Metrology, Accreditation, Conformity Assessment, Market Surveillance. Furthermore the code incorporates general principles of 2 EU horizontal directives GPSD and LDP.

- In 2014 Georgia signed Association Agreement including DCFTA with EU – from September 2014 DCFTA entered into force.

- In 2016 Association Agreement entered into force.
Some of the main principles in the field of TBT

- **Standards are Voluntary** – Entrepreneurs/ Businesses are free to choose which standard to comply with, unless there is direct reference on particular standard in legislation.

- **Technical Regulations are mandatory** – technical regulations can be adopted only by law and/or Governmental Resolutions and/or by the relevant normative act of the President. TRs regulate safety of persons, environment and property.

- **Supremacy of International standards** – Georgia will not develop its own standards if International standard already exist.

- Participation of **private sector representatives and NGOs in Standardisation processes guaranteed.**

- **Conformity Assessment/Certification are not mandatory except it is determined** by the law;

- **Risk based, Pro-active and Re-active**, Market Surveillance on the Industrial will gradually cover different products.
Developments in The field of Standardization

- More than 11000 International and European standards are adopted as Georgian ones, by the end of 2018 the number will reach about 13000 standards; Annually about 25 International and/or EU standards are translated into Georgian language.

- There are 6 Standardization Technical Committees in following fields: Electro technical; Management and Conformity Assessment; Food and Foodstuff; Tourism; Construction Materials and Natural gas. In total more than 200 representatives form different sectors are involved in technical committees.

- Stuff of the Standards Department is actively involve in qualification raising acitivities in the framework of diffrenet donor projects, such as on-going EU funded Twinning project.

- The process of development and implementation of Quality Management System in Standards Department according to ISO/IEC 9001:2015 started.

- Development and implementation of Information management system in standards Department of GEOSTM to ensure improved accessibility to standardisation services.
Three reference laboratories of GEOSTM Metrology Institute - Electrical, Mass and Temperature Measurements labs - have achieved International Recognition, based on peer evaluation conducted in October 2013 by Regional Metrology Organization – COOMET-experts. All three laboratories successfully passed the peer-assessment.

On February 11 2014, implementation of Quality Management System according to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard was recognized by the COOMET Quality Forum Technical Committee and Certificate of Recognition (QSF-R32) was issued.

Respectively on the Calibration and/or Measurement Certificates issued by Metrology Institute of GEOSTM the CIPM MRA logo can be placed in the fields covered with CMCs. In other words this means that Calibration and/or Measurement Certificates are recognized on international level.

At present Georgia has 9 CMC entries in the field of Temperature, 16 in Electricity and 5 in Mass, in the BIPB database - in total 30 CMCs.

In October 2018, next round of peer evaluation of GEOSTM laboratories will be conducted. GEOSTM plans to maintain already recognised field, to increase the range therein, also to achieve international recognition in new fields such as Humidity measurements, Small Volume, Length.
On April 27, 2017, the EA MAC Committee of European Accreditation adopted a decision, to sign the bilateral agreement on recognition of accreditation results issued in Georgia (EA BLA). EA BLA with GAC was signed on 23 May 2017 at the EA General Assembly in Slovenia.

The recognition of GAC applies to following scopes:

- **Testing and calibration** (ISO / IEC 17025);
- **Product Certification** (ISO / IEC 17065);
- **Certification of personnel** (ISO / IEC 17024);
- **Inspection bodies** (ISO / IEC 17020);

On 7-11 of November 2016 the peer evaluation of Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC) was conducted by EA (European Accreditation) experts.

The peer evaluation of GAC was conducted against international standard ISO/IEC 17011. Based on positive results of the evaluation, experts recommended to EA to signed the Bilateral Recognition Agreement (EA BLA) with GAC.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership in International/regional organizations</th>
<th>Membership Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO – International Standardization Organization</td>
<td>Correspondent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Electrotechnical Commission</td>
<td>Associate member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Committee for Standardization/European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization</td>
<td>Companion Standards Body</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIPM - Bureau International des Poids et Mesures</td>
<td>Associate member</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIML - International Organization of Legal Metrology</td>
<td>Correspondent member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOMET - Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions</td>
<td>Full member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILAC - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation</td>
<td>Affiliate member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA – European Accreditation</td>
<td>Associate member</td>
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## Standardization

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<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthen GEOSTM Standards Department and the technical committees</td>
<td>Trainings, seminars and capacity building activities for standards department staff as well as members of technical committees are planned and conducted in the framework of on-going EU twinning project</td>
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<td>➢ Training for TC members on topical issues, relevant ENs, on the interrelation between these standards and enterprise sector</td>
<td>GEOSTM has already signed Memorandums on Cooperation with different universities, research and Academia. It is planned to intensify the cooperation with scientific and Academia society</td>
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<td>➢ Establish collaborative arrangements with regional and international research centers, involve national universities and research centers in these mechanisms</td>
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### Metrology

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<td>Upgrade the national standard-holding laboratories and raise public awareness</td>
<td>Significant modernization of laboratories was performed in the framework of CIB program in 2016-2017. GEOSTM continues this process and gradually procures additional equipment for labs.</td>
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<td>on the importance of metrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Equip the standard-holding laboratories with additional equipment</td>
<td>4 Awareness raising meetings/seminars will be conducted in the framework of ongoing EU twinning project in different regions of Georgia in 2018-2019. GEOSTM different divisions also conduct thematic trainings/seminars for interested parties, where role of metrology, as well as capacities of GEOSTM are presented.</td>
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<td>➢ Awareness raising activities, particularly among business sector, SMEs,</td>
<td></td>
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<td>laboratory network, governmental organizations, NGOs, academia on the</td>
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<td>importance of metrology for support of export competitiveness.</td>
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Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Georgia: Needs Assessment - Recommendations

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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation</strong></td>
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<td>Further develop the national system of CABs</td>
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<td>➢ There is a need for additional accredited CABs in different fields e.g. product certification bodies, medical laboratories and for certification bodies for management systems</td>
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Thank You For Your Attention!