

Quality Infrastructure (QI) – Standardization

Henry Cuschieri

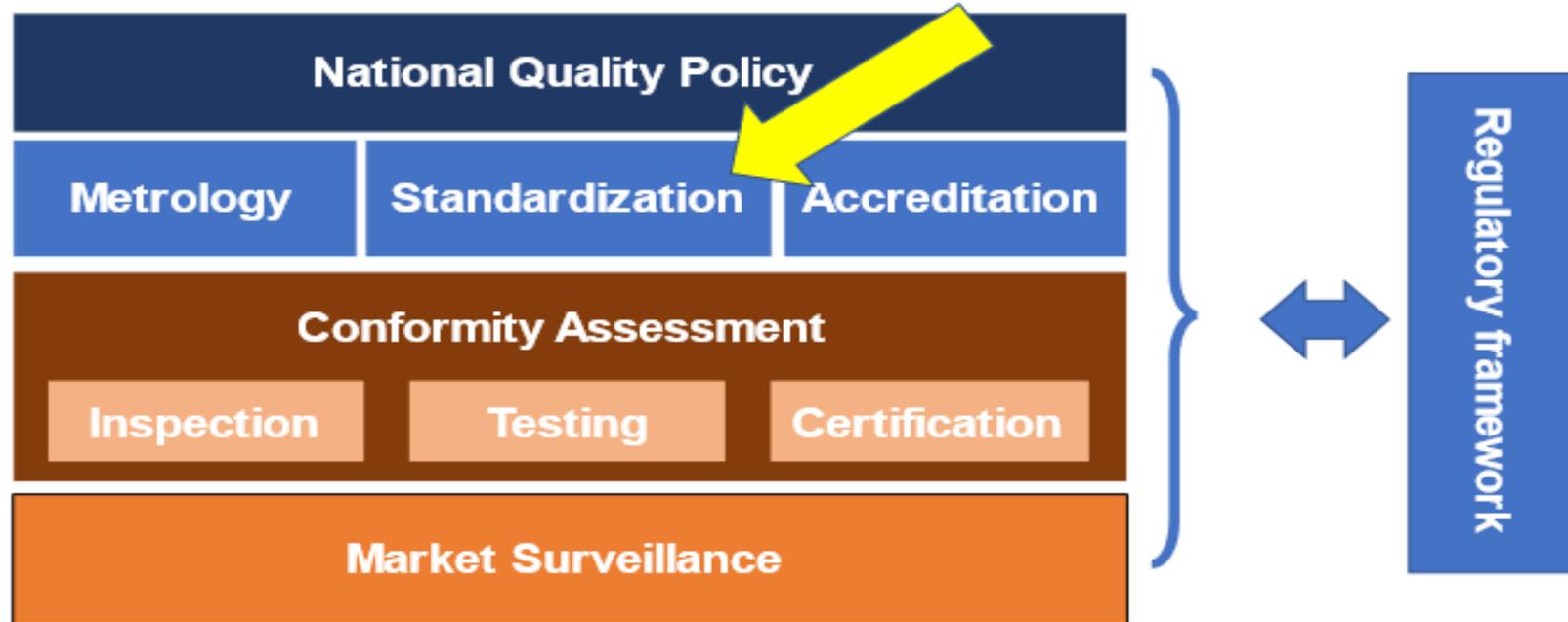
Head, Membership and External Relations, ISO/CS

UNECE WP6 – May 2023

Agenda

- Standardization within quality infrastructure
- Standardization's contribution to legitimate regulatory objectives and level playing field
- Regional/international harmonization in the area of standardization address technical barriers to trade and trade in general
- Future challenges (sustainability / digitalization / and-or other)

Standardization within QI



About **Standards**

Practical tools and processes to guide improvement initiatives at various levels of the QI infrastructure

Capture knowledge regarding usability, quality, safety, performance of other characteristics required by users

Help ensure that the QI provides support and services collectively, effectively and efficiently that assist in facilitating trade

ISO/IEC Guide 2 **Definition**

“Document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context”.

ISO/IEC Guide 2, 2004, Standardization and related activities – General Vocabulary, paragraph 3.2.

Standards and the **Private Sector**

Reduction in production and transaction costs

Increased market opportunities

Competitive positioning

Improved risk management

Standards and the **Public Sector**

A basis for regulation

Efficient regulation through participatory processes

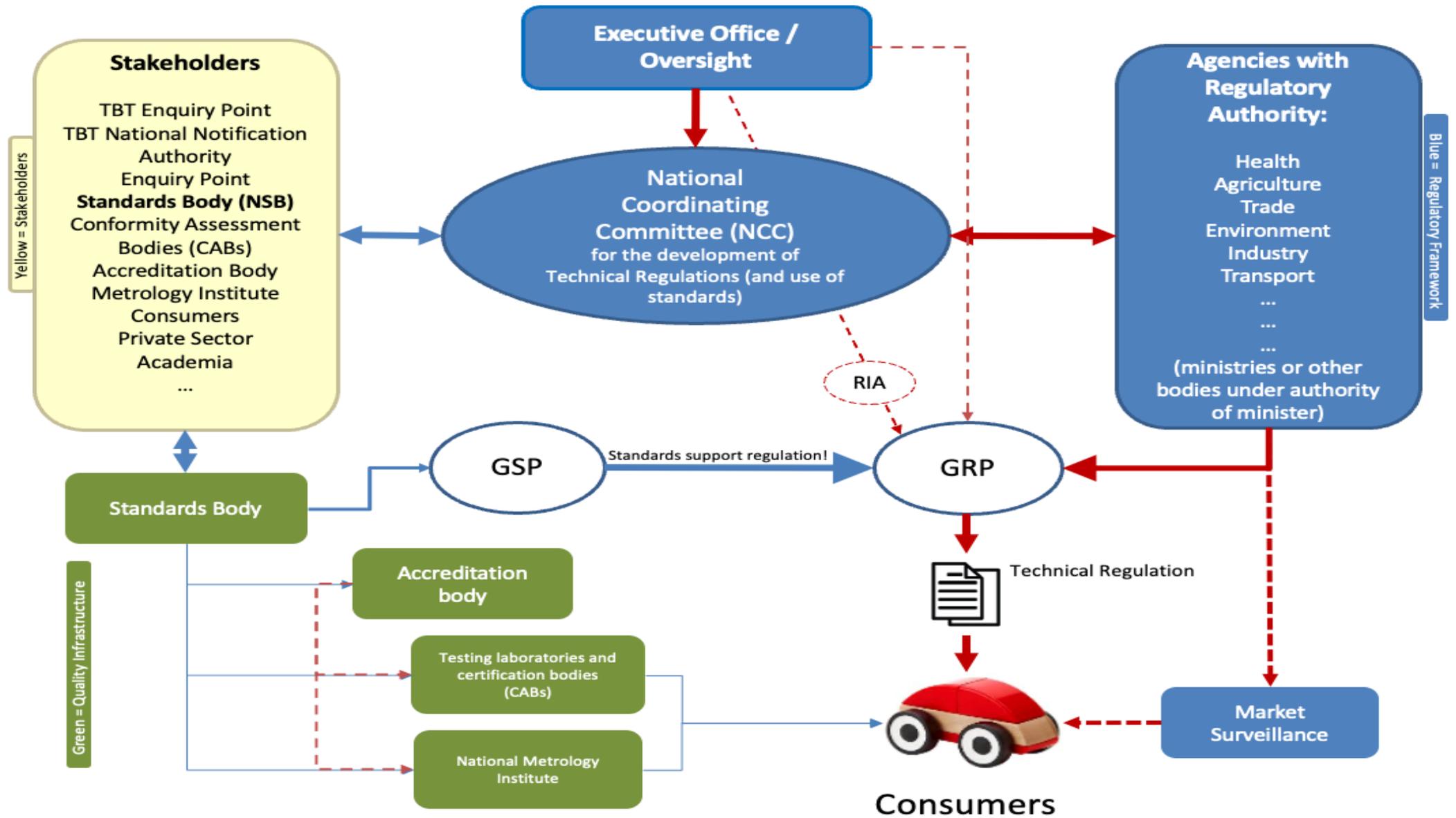
Contribution to socio-economic development

About **Standards Bodies**

NQI stakeholders are normally already well known to, and involved in the activities of National Standards Bodies

Help ensure that the QI provides support and services collectively, effectively and efficiently that assist in facilitating trade

Standardization's contribution to
legitimate regulatory objectives
and level playing field



Source: BSI/Commonwealth Standards Network



Standardization and the **WTO**

WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
(WTO TBT Agreement)

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS).

Non-tariff trade barriers

Annex 3 of the WTO TBT Agreement: Code of good
practice for the preparation, adoption and application
of standards

Six standardization **principles**

Transparency

Openness

Impartiality and consensus

Effectiveness and relevance

Coherence

Development Dimension

Future challenges

Learning from the pandemic

Total rethink about how to continue to conduct business

Reliance on IT infrastructure and remote platforms

User maturity in these areas + budget considerations + focus on sustainability mean these practices will continue.

Digitization and digitalization

Expansion and strengthening of networked digital technologies across supply chains will continue

Standards will continue to play a vital role in underpinning the transformation through fostering trust in the process, ensuring interoperability of systems and building resilience.

Artificial intelligence and big data are increasingly being integrated into supply chains and systems to build resilience and to ensure operational sustainability

Emerging policy areas

Supporting accelerated development of industry (“Industry 4.0”)

Generating positive impacts on social issues such as gender equality and economic empowerment of women through gender-responsive standards

Supporting governments and organizations in enhancing energy efficiency, economic performance and transition to clean energy.

