Common Regulatory Arrangement (CRA)

Brief overview

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Recommendation L on International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice

- Aims to further reduce trade barriers and facilitate market access
- International Model
  - Voluntary framework
  - Facilitate global harmonization of national or regional regulation
  - Designed to be flexible mechanism

1. Scope statement
   • Products for which the CRA applies (with reference to HS code)

2. Product requirements
   • Establish the principle issues of concern
   • What requirements needed to ensure health, safety (human, plant, animal, environment)
   • Detailed provisions how to meet the requirements (preferably through standards)
Common Regulatory Arrangement
5-part structure

3. Reference to standards clause
   • List of applicable international standards

4. Compliance clause
   • Provision on how compliance is demonstrated
   • Possible options to demonstrate compliance (e.g. supplier’s declaration, third party certification or inspection)

5. Market surveillance clause
   • Conditions under which a product is withdrawn from the market
Four CRA to date

- **EMM (2009)**
  - CRA follows the five-part structure and then provides an annex that explains various éléments of the CRA in more detail
  - Called an objective (CRO) instead of CRA
- **EEE (2022)**
  - CRA expands the five-part structure (requirements split into three parts and conformity into two parts; annex lists applicable standards)
- **Cybersecurity (2019)**
  - Loosely follows the five-part structure (sections I-VI on scope, VII-VIII on regulatory requirements) but also proposes a structure in XI (which is not normal procedure)
  - Called an objective (CRO) instead of CRA
- **Telecom (2004)**
  - Does not really follow the five-part structure.
  - Called an objective (CRO) instead of CRA
A project should launch soon to revise Rec. L with the following objectives:

- Clarify the structure and content of a CRA when referring to systems, processes and services (current text really targets products)
- Decide on language to be used (arrangement, framework or objective)
- Decide if Annex B should be retained

Initial project proposal has been prepared; will likely be requested to launch in the coming weeks/months