International Organization of Legal Metrology

Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale

UNECE Steering Committee
on Trade Capacity and Standards

International cooperation in the field of developing Quality Infrastructure

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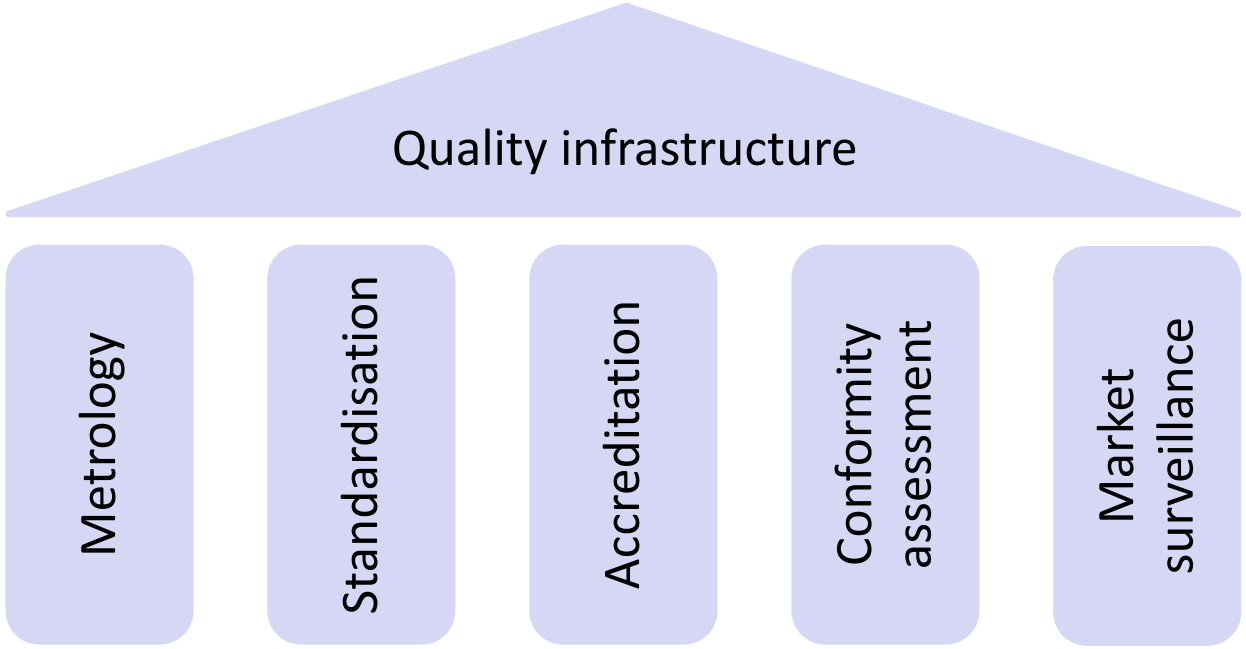
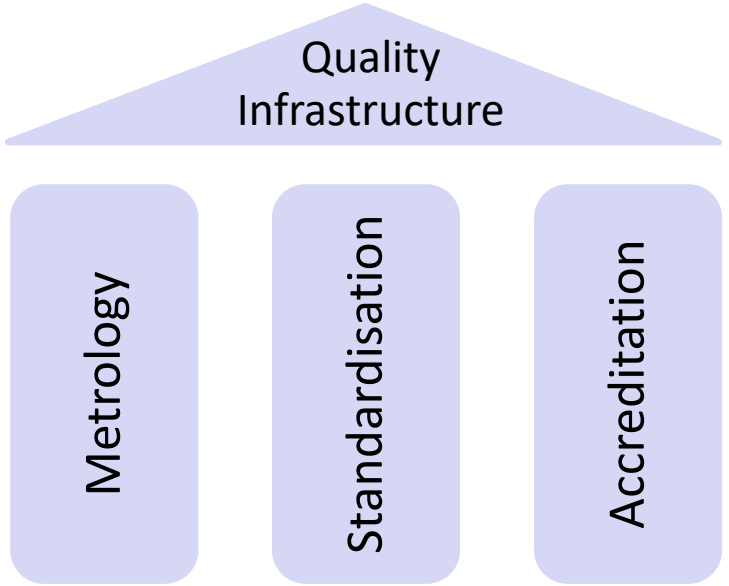
Components of quality infrastructure



- Although the elements are shown as pillars supporting QI, there is much interaction and many cross-cutting activities

Origins of international cooperation in quality infrastructure

- Technical infrastructures directly contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- WTO TBT and SPS Agreements rely on underlying technical infrastructure and international standardisation and conformity assessment systems
- Both recognise value of technology transfer to economies with under-developed quality infrastructure
- Joint Committee on coordination of assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS) set up in 2002
  - 8 international organisations



Expansion of cooperation

- Recognition of importance of conformity assessment and market surveillance
- Increasing importance of agencies supporting implementation of quality infrastructure
- Questions over role as “Joint Committee”
- Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS Network) set up in 2010
  - 10 international organisations

INetQI

INet QI

International Network on Quality Infrastructure

- Established 2018
- Replaced DCMAS network to reflect wider remit than “MAS” and increased membership
- Now has 15 international organisations
- Chair/secretariat rotates amongst members every two years
  - Currently held by IEC
- Network for information sharing and addressing common issues

INetQI

https://www.inetqi.net/

Definition of "quality infrastructure"

Members adopted the following definition of quality infrastructure:

"The system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes.

The quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing.

It relies on

- *metrology,*
- *standardisation,*
- *accreditation,*
- *conformity assessment, and*
- *market surveillance."*

Definition of "national quality policy"

Members also adopted the following definition of a National Quality Policy (NQP), which is needed for the efficient and effective implementation of a Quality Infrastructure:

"The policy adopted at national level to develop and sustain an efficient and effective quality infrastructure."

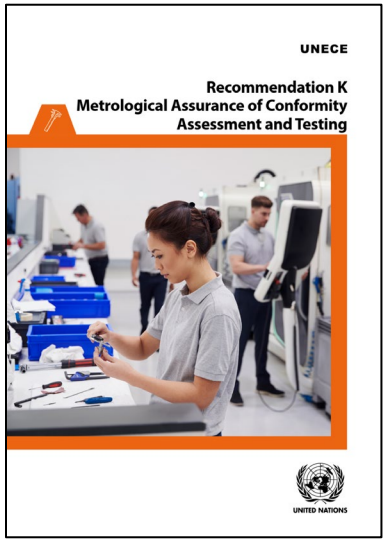
Current activities

- Exchange of experiences
- Mutual support in other members' events
- Digitalisation
  - Digital traceability of measurements and certification
  - FAIR standards
- Sustainability
  - Contribution of better quality infrastructure to SDGs
- Artificial Intelligence
  - Effects of AI on security and efficiency of processes and systems
  - Reduction or increase in opportunity for fraud/corruption?
- Finance

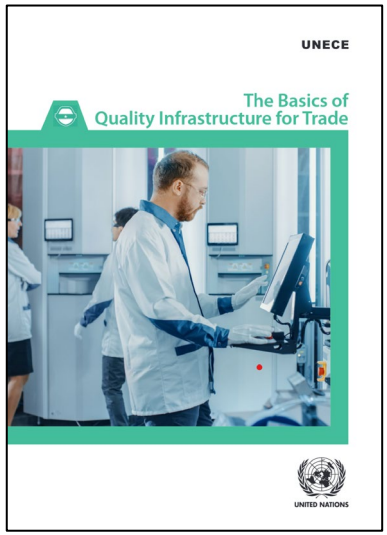
UNECE contribution

- Member since 2010
- Many INetQI members take part in UNECE activities and meetings
- Significant contribution on regulatory cooperation and harmonisation of implementation of quality infrastructure across domains
- Many publications of relevance to harmonisation of quality infrastructure

UNECE WP.6
Recommendation K
2023



The Basics of Quality Infrastructure for Trade
2023



Thank you

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www.oiml.org

www.worldmetrologyday.org