# nderwriters Laboratories Inc. rends in Conformity Assessment

Erin Grossi Manager, International Affairs UL Government Affairs Washington, DC





#### verview of UL

- dependent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to ublic safety.
- lobal reach with subsidiaries in 26 countries, including razil.
- eader in standards development, product safety testing nd certification, including quality systems registrations.
- L has more than 800 published standards covering ore than 14,000 product categories.
- 1 billion UL Marks appeared on products in 2006.

## rivatizing CA Activities

In the US, moves to accredit private sector conformity assessment bodies for regulatory purposes:

- FDA Accredited Persons Program
   510(k) pre-market clearance
- FCC Telecommunications Certification Bod
- In some sectors, private sector certification preceded gov. regulation and is still effective (e.g. fire protection equipment, electrical safety).

## nird-Party CA Versus SDoC

Continued perception that OSHA NRTL program (Third-Party CA) is effective.

- Calls for Suppliers Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) in high-tech sector -

Failure rate of products on first pass through certification programs average 50%. This causes re-design and alterations to reach compliance.

## troduction of New Technologies

### CA for new technologies:

- Nanotechnology
- Biofuels
- High-Tech (e.g.chem/nuclear/bio detection devices)
- Generators

### Involves challenges:

- Health/Safety Issues
- Inconclusive Research
- Balance Speed to Market with Safety
- Liability Concerns for SDOs and Conformity Assessment Bodies



### actoring in Consumer Behavior



Conformity Assessment Bodies are challenged to factor consumer behavior into safety requirements.



#### volution of Safety

#### rom:

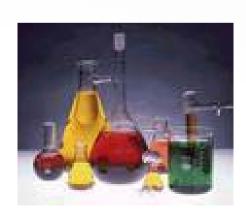














#### ternational Concerns

- upply chains for products are global. What does this ean for manufacturers?
  - Manufacturers have to maintain product safety/quality as components move around the world
  - Manufacturers must be aware of chemicals or other sources of contamination introduced in product during production.
  - Manufacturers may need certification services in new locations around the world to follow production.
  - Manufacturers want to minimize effort/cost associated with product certification for international markets.

### ternational Concerns

upply chains for products are global. What does this ean for certification bodies?

- Certification bodies must provide quality management system registrations for increased sectors and combine certifications with quality audits.
- Certification bodies must meet the needs of manufacturers for risk assessments throughout the supply chain.
- Certification bodies must constantly analyze production logistics globally and shift resources in order to meet needs.
- Certification bodies must seek national treatment abroad to provide customers one-stop shopping.

#### ternational Concerns

upply chains for products are global. What does this ean for regulators?

- Regulators must seek alignments to harmonize product requirements globally and accept conformity assessment results from foreign bodies.
- Regulators must strive to achieve a global culture of safety.





counterfeit certification marks see serious threats to health ad safety.

ounterfeiting Certification Marks

L takes a zero-tolerance proach to counterfeiting. eveloping countries are often imping grounds for unsafe, oddy products.

leed for increased market rveillance and education at all vels.



#### Thank You!

For more information, contact

Erin W. Grossi
Manager, International Affairs
Erin.Waldron-Grossi@us.ul.com

202-296-7841