

Understanding the CE Mark and Credibility for stakeholders

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Better Regulation Delivery Office



Local Authority Experience - West Yorkshire Trading Standards

- Diverse population = demand for diverse consumer products
- Metrological Centre of Excellence
- Strong focus on business education rather than enforcement
- Higher than average number of importers/manufacturers of consumer products

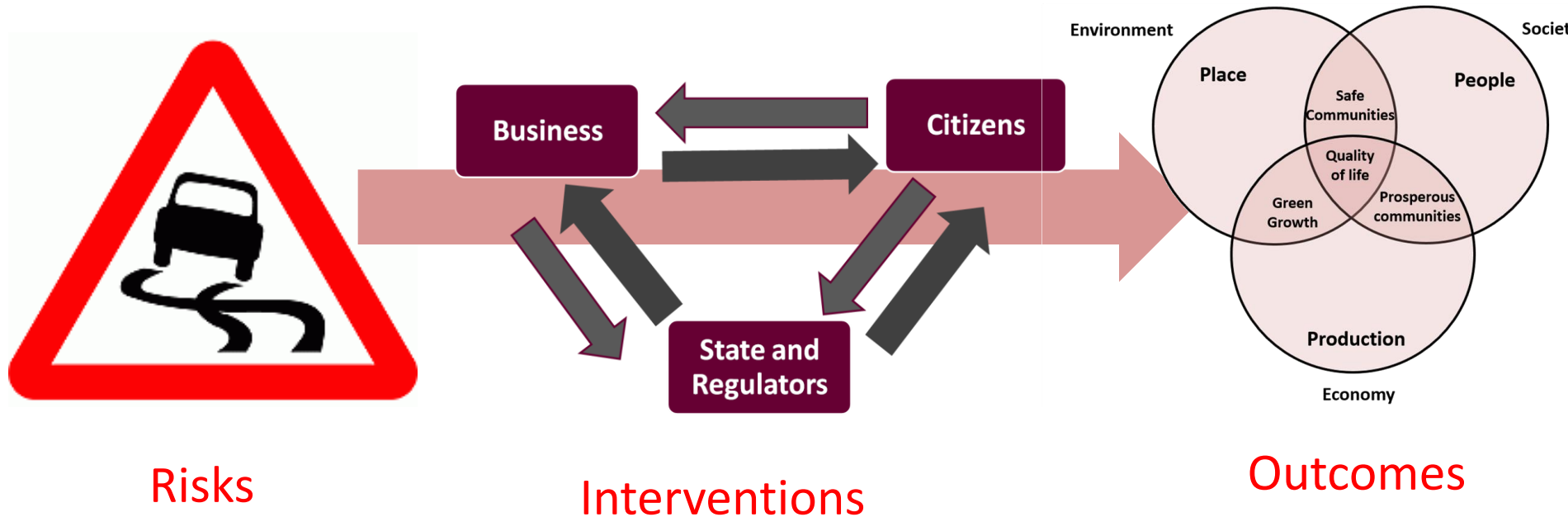
BETTER REGULATION

DELIVERY OFFICE:

Independent unit in the
Department for Business
Innovation and Skills



Good regulation is: ...choosing the right methods to move from risk to outcomes



CE Marking Credibility for stakeholders

- Businesses
- The Inspectorate
- The State
- The consumer

CE Mark credibility for business

- Generally Businesses want to comply
- Modular assessment popular
- Focus must be on safety rather than rigid compliance with a standard
- Established regime, consistency of advice

CE Mark credibility for Business

- Problems with borderline products
- Problems with the numbers of national/local regulators enforcement duties

CE Mark credibility for the Inspectorate

- Inspections carried out are risk assessed against national guidance
- Invaluable for identifying non-compliance
- Free movement of goods makes advising businesses easier
- Established routes to compliance makes advice and enforcement easier to understand

CE Mark credibility for the Inspectorate

- Technical offences
- Counterfeiting/Deliberate non-compliance
- Enforcement action needs to be proportionate
- Compliance levels in UK relatively high

CE Mark credibility for the State

- Recognised regime with regards to earned recognition
- Market Surveillance co-ordinating role

Market Surveillance in the UK

- Delivered at a local level
- Responsive to National/European needs
- Respected regime of Border Control
- Recalls & RAPEX System used appropriately

CE Mark credibility for the consumer

- It does not signify a product is safe
- Is such a misconception a bad thing?
- Further intervention will probably cause more confusion

Summary

CE Marking is an established regime in the EEC, it has credibility with stakeholders. The situation could be improved in the UK specifically, but this would take considerable resource to do so with arguably negligible benefit.....