CB Scheme vs Risk Based Standards

- IEC CB Scheme is for mutual recognition of test reports, normally based on a general set of prescribed requirements.
- Risk Based standards base the safety of a product on the specific hazards the individual product may present.
What are the major incompatibilities?

1. Justification for the Certification
2. Economic
3. Cultural
4. Political
Key differences between the CB Scheme approach and Risk based standards

- **CB Scheme:** Prescribed design criteria, adherence to specific rules
  - Minimize all interpretation of the standard
  - Comply by design
  - Hazards are universal
  - Certifying agency sets the bar

- **Risk Based Standards:** Apply a set of risk factors to a specific product
  - Apply only the risk factors that are applicable to the product
  - Fault tolerance in lieu of global specifications
  - Manufacturers comfort level of risk
Differences in reports between a Risk based process and CB Scheme Report

- **CB Scheme Report**
  - List of check boxes per clause
  - Minimal explanation as to how a product complies, only that it does
  - Inflexible format, is difficult to describe non standard constructions. Appropriate if complying by design
  - Difficult to draw from other standards, even when applicable

- **Risk Based Approach**
  - Reports must be product specific, but may use common format
  - Details and explanation of the risks and how they are mitigated
  - Likely, extensive tests to show design integrity
  - Flexible based on the product
1st Major Incompatibility – Design Justification

- **Design Justification**
  - CB agencies do not want to justify or explain why they accepted a construction that is not compliant with the prescriptive requirements of the standard.
  - **Reasons for not wanting to provide a justification**
    - Due to other CB member peer pressure
    - Format does not lend well to describing differences
    - General refusal to accept others interpretation of the standard

- **The Risk Based approach is based on providing a justification based on the risk assessment**
2\textsuperscript{nd} Major Incompatibility – Economic

- **Economic incentives of the CB Certification Bodies**
  - Lower labor costs
    - Less skilled
    - Less trained
    - Production type approach
  - Less liability (assessments are less subjective)

- **Economic incentives of the Manufacturer**
  - Lower material costs
  - Increased flexibility in design
  - Potential for increase in product performance

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3rd Major Incompatibility – Cultural

- Some countries are very conservative, while others are more risk takers
- Liability concerns vary from country to country
- Interpretations are different
- Hazard concerns are different
- Consensus is harder to achieve with more international players
- Economic priorities are different
4\textsuperscript{th} Major Incompatibility – Politics

- **Political conflicts by the Certification Bodies**
  - Infighting - refusal to accept other CB reports for the insignificant
  - Nit picking others reports
  - Finger pointing
  - Reluctance to accept a CB report that doesn’t pass using the prescribed route

- **External Political issues**
  - Monopoly rules
    - Requiring equipment not used
    - Maintaining the status quo
  - Applying pressure to use CB reports when any recognized national report should be sufficient

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Why Risk Based Standards and the CB Scheme are Incompatible

Questions & Discussion

Thank you for Attending this Presentation