

TESTING INSPECTION CERTIFICATION NEWSLETTER



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

TIC Market Trends &
Business Developments

PAGE 2

Accreditation and
Standardisation News

PAGE 4

TIC Council Focus Topics

PAGE 6

Upcoming Events

PAGE 8

TIC Council Highlights

PAGE 9

TIC COUNCIL

Rue du Commerce 20/22,
B-1000, Brussels
www.tic-council.org
secretariat@tic-council.org

Dear Readers,

As this is our last TIC Council newsletter for 2020, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all our members and stakeholders for their great support and dedication during this challenging year, not only towards us but the entire TIC industry.

As we all know, this has been a year unlike any other, and I could not be prouder of the efforts the entire TIC community has made to continue operations in our sector and to ensure that it can adapt to the incredible demands that this year has required from all of us.

And indeed, for TIC Council as well, this has been a year of adjustments and adaptation to ensure that we keep providing value to our members and continue the dialogue with the wider TIC community. Hence, the development of a series of targeted webinars with notable speakers and partners focusing on some of the key current issues we are all facing.

All of this would not have been possible without the continued support of all our members in the various Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces. Their unwavering dedication, professionalism and robust expertise in the TIC Council and the external Fora, where they stand selflessly for the industry, have made our voice heard in the world of testing, inspection and certification and beyond

So, to all of you, we send our warmest wishes for happy holidays, safe celebrations and our hopes of a brighter and better 2021.

Best regards,
Hanane Taidi
TIC Council General Director



Business Developments

- Baltic Control A/S has been approved by the Malaysian authorities represented by SIRIM QAS International to perform mandatory pre-shipment inspections of paper and metal waste to Malaysia. [Read more.](#)
- Bureau Veritas has unveiled a complete portfolio of services dedicated to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), covering the full lifecycle - from design, construction and commissioning to operations. [Read more.](#)
- Bureau Veritas has partnered with ENBW for offshore wind farm project certification. [Read more.](#)
- DEKRA has announced its partnership with Saudi Binladin Group in order to enhance its capabilities in safety performance. [Read more.](#)
- DEKRA has become the first laboratory in the world authorized for both device testing and security assessment programs for Alexa Voice Service (AVS) to meet the Alexa Built-in requirements earlier this year. [Read more.](#)
- Element Materials Technology have increased its ISO 17025 scope for coatings testing at its Amsterdam, Netherlands laboratory. [Read more.](#)
- Intertek has been contracted by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Ireland, to undertake an environmental assessment of the draft Skellig Michael World Heritage Site Management Plan 2020-2030. [Read more.](#)
- RINA has announced further support and efforts towards the European Technology and Innovation Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-ETIP). [Read more.](#)
- RINA has announced that its project EVERYWH2ERE Innovation has been awarded “Best Outreach Award” for its public engagement by FCH JU Programme Office. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has awarded the Athens Medical Group with the SGS Disinfection Monitored Cleaning Checked Mark, the first medical group in Greece to receive this certification. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has approved for the ALLSAFE label three Accor hotels in Athens - Athens Capital Hotel-MGallery Collection, Sofitel Athens Airport and Novotel Athènes - in recognition of their implementation of Accor Group’s international health protocols. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has been approved by Egypt’s National Food and Safety Authority (NFSA) to carry out inspections and issue Certificates of Inspection (CoI) for imports of food and food contact materials to the country. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has announced the renewal of its execution mandate for the “Programme de L’Evaluation de la Conformité Avant Embarquement (PECAE) des Marchandises Importées en République du Cameroun”. [Read more.](#)
- SGS has been officially endorsed to act as an Independent Safety Assessment body (ISA) by the Mexican Accreditation Body (EMA - Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación). [Read more.](#)
- SZU has announced its offering of new tests of industrial pumps at the laboratory of Centrum Hydraulického Výzkumu in Lutín. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV Rheinland has become a Notified Body for the EU Regulation on In Vitro Diagnostics (IVDR) 2017/746. [Read more.](#)

TIC Market Trends and Developments

- TÜV SÜD has recently launched a vegan product certification for apparel, footwear and home textiles. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD Korea has signed a business agreement with Korea Petroleum Quality & Distribution Authority, also known as K-Petro, to strengthen the export competitiveness of companies such as domestic automobile manufacturers and to protect consumer rights. [Read more.](#)
- TÜV SÜD has announced that, working with their partner Incenda AI GmbH, its experts have now described a reliable Machine Learning life cycle in their whitepaper entitled “A reliable AI data labeling process” focusing on data quality and data security in the data labeling process. The dossier is now available on the Internet as a free download. [Read more.](#)
- UL has recently launched a legal cannabis playbook for industry stakeholders, with the aim of helping deliver regulatory compliance to the legal cannabis industry. [Read more.](#)
- UL has reported that its UK Basingstoke laboratory is now accredited for testing the Bluetooth 5 standard. [Read more.](#)
- UL has joined the World Economic Forum (WEF) as a Platform Partner and will work to develop systemic solutions to key global challenges and serve as a driving force behind WEF’s programs. [Read more.](#)
- UL has updated its label requirements for lighting products. [Read more.](#)

Personnel Developments

- TÜV SÜD has announced that, with effect from 1 January 2021, Hans Joachim Machetanz will take the helm as the new CEO of TÜV SÜD Chemie Service GmbH. [Read more.](#)

Accreditation

IAF

- IAF held the Technical Committee meeting on October 30, 2020 as a four hour Zoom meeting. It had approximately about 262 attendees. The majority of the discussion reviewed action items and WG/TF reports. No discussion took place concerning the IAL/ILAC merger - information was presented but there was no discussion. Of particular interest to TIC Council are the following two items.
 - Creation of new Working Group on ISO/IEC 17011. Currently IAF has 27 mandatory documents. 12 of those are specific to the application of 17011. ILAC also has several documents. It is recognized there is no coordinating committee or joint approach between IAF and ILAC on this particular issue. The JWG-A series was not considered to be addressing the issues the IAF TC may want to. There was general support for the creation of this WG, but first Terms of Reference need to be agreed to and they should be very focused on IAF-specific issues. Norman Brunner from Austria and Leopoldo Cortez from Portugal opposed the proposal.
 - MD 17: Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies will be reviewed. This is partially caused by the impact of Covid-19. The revisions, reportedly, should focus on potentially reducing witnessing or providing tighter parameters. While this is for MS, TICC needs to monitor due to the trickledown effect in the IAF to tag-on Products and Personnel.
- IAF held its 34th General Assembly on November 5, 2020 as a four hour Zoom meeting. About 270 participants joined. The 2021 joint Annual Meetings are scheduled for October 27 - November 7 in Montreal, Canada. The resolutions approved at the IAF General Assembly are posted under News & Events/Meetings.
- The following revised documents have been published by IAF and are available in the IAF website:
 - IAF MLA Status - 14/10/2020
 - IAF PL 5:2020 Structure of the International Accreditation Forum Inc.
- IAF advises that there are 2 new FAQ's on ISO/IEC 17011 published here.
- The ballot to withdraw IAF MD 11:2019 was successful.

ILAC

- ILAC has issued a revision of the second ILAC-WADA Communication published in November 2009 (available here). WADA is the World Anti-Doping Agency. Major comments are requested (via mail at ilac@nata.com.au) January 4, 2021

IAF/ILAC

- Registration is now open for upcoming IAF and ILAC meetings. More information here.

EA

- EA has informed that due to the pandemic the implementation of EA-3/12: EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification is postponed to January 1, 2021.
 - EA has been informed by the European Commission that the list of harmonised standards under the new regime has been published. Please find relevant links below:
 - [Link](#) to the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1835 of 3 December 2020 on the harmonised standards for accreditation and conformity assessment.
 - [Link](#) to the updated summary list of the harmonised standards for accreditation and conformity assessment
- Furthermore, the new standard ISO 20387 for biobanking is not (yet) in the list of harmonised standard. EA is currently in contact with the European Commission in this regard.
- The following revised EA publications are available online:
 - [EA-1/06 EA multilateral agreement - Criteria for signing - Policy and procedures for development.](#)
 - [EA-INF/17 Register of EA resolutions for use by National Accreditation Bodies and EA evaluators.](#)
 - [EA-INF/01 List of EA Publications and International Documents.](#)

Standardisation

ISO CASCO

- ISO CASCO has issued a response to a clarification request related to ISO IEC 17065 “Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services” that was submitted by BSI. It was addressed by the maintenance group of WG29, and the form with the answer is available [here](#).
- The ISO Central Secretariat has, once again, extended the measures whereby all meetings must be held virtually until 28 February 2021.
- The Committee Ballot on CD ISO/IEC 17060, “Conformity assessment - Code of good practice”, closed on the 25th November and the draft was approved by 97% of ISO/CASCO P- Members: 57 ballots in favor, 17 in favor with comments, 2 disapproval and 22 abstentions. The WG56 will review the comments collected during its 2nd virtual meeting in March 2021.
- The NP balloted in ISO/TC 309 and in ISO CASCO to develop ISO/IEC TS 17021-13, “Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 13: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of compliance management systems”, is approved. This work will be carried out by the CASCO joint working group 59 (JWG59). The 1st WG59 meeting is scheduled to take place remotely, in the afternoons of 8-9-10 February 2021 (12:00-15:00 CET). Nominations to participate in this work are due by 23 December 2020.
- The ISO Council has approved the ISO CASCO 2021 Work Programme.
- The 35th CASCO Plenary working documents are now available. The plenary will be held virtually on January 25-27.
- A NP ballot is about to be launched in [ISO/TC46/SC11](#) to develop ISO/IEC TS 17021-14, Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems - Part 14: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of management systems for records.

WTO

- The WTO issued the [linked](#) document regarding actions taken by WTO members on standards, regulations and Covid-19.

The Current State of the EU Affairs

On 16 December 2020, the European Commission published its [cybersecurity strategy](#) for the coming decade. The document mainly focuses on boosting cybersecurity resilience of the so-called “essential sectors” of European member states: transport, energy and health, telecommunications and digital infrastructure, provision of water, finance, security, democratic processes and space and defence ([full list](#)).

The strategy is composed of several legislative items that are relevant to the TIC sector, among these the proposed revision of the Network and Information Systems Directive (NIS), the implementation of the 5G Toolbox by the second quarter of 2021, and finally “possible new horizontal rules to improve the cybersecurity of all connected products and associated services placed on the Internal Market” to complement sectoral rules.

This is the most important measure possibly affecting the TIC sector, since it is assumed that this horizontal regulation would classify devices according to risk categories and apply relevant CA modules accordingly.

Moreover, the next steps about the 5G toolbox and linkage with ENISA-led scheme confirm the role the TIC sector can play in certifying the cybersecurity of certain elements of 5G. The document explicitly mentions the importance of “initiating preparations of relevant candidate certification scheme(s) for key 5G components and suppliers’ processes, to help address certain risks related to technical vulnerabilities”.

To add to that, up to 2 billion € will be earmarked in the framework of Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programs for “investments in the whole digital technology supply chain, contributing to the digital transition or to addressing the challenges resulting from it”.

IC Council has also published its feedback on the revision process of the New Legislative Framework. The main considerations are that the NLF is fit to address new requirements for products changing during their lifetime, but that clear attention needs to be paid to adapt to address technological progress and market demands regarding sustainability.

TIC Council also envisions the need to have a higher level of involvement of accredited conformity assessment bodies, or Notified Bodies when applicable, which should be done in a uniform and harmonized manner.

Finally, it is TIC Council’s opinion that the accreditation system in the NLF unfortunately does not fulfill its identified task, due to national accreditations bodies interpreting rules in a different way, which leads to additional assessment requirements for Notified Bodies, and in some cases may also severely distort the EU level playing field and hampering the eventual safety of products on the market.

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

AI, Competition and Transformation

On 3 December 2020, U.S. President Trump signed an executive order entitled "[Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government](#)" that sets guidelines for the use of AI technologies in all Federal executive departments and agencies. The order directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish and implement common policy guidance on the use of AI in government, in view of "the power of AI to improve their (the agencies') operations, processes, and procedures; meet strategic goals; reduce costs; enhance oversight of the use of taxpayer funds; increase efficiency and mission effectiveness; improve quality of services; improve safety; train workforces; and support decision making by the Federal workforce, among other positive developments."

The EO argues mainly for a nuanced approach to AI, where regulation is specific to the sector and to its particular application, rather than generic and sweeping policies. The document mainly takes a risk-based approach, putting forward the notion of prioritizing those systems that present higher risks and calling for an increased level of collaboration with standardization bodies that are specifically specialized in AI.

This executive order is just another step in the path of developing standards for artificial intelligence. In August 2019, NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology) published a [response](#) to Executive Order 13859 "[On Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#)" recommending to commit to deeper, consistent, long-term engagements in AI standards, given their vital role in - among other things - minimizing vulnerability to attacks from malicious actors.

It goes without saying that AI will be a strong focal point for innovation and competitiveness in the future: not only because the economic benefits of AI are becoming more and more pronounced in the current digital economy (as shown in this article from the [Harvard Business Review](#)) but also because the technology will become ever more integrated into our day-to-day lives. And while computer assistants and branded AIs (Alexa, Siri, etc.) are already capable of performing a staggering amount of tasks, the impact on all levels of industry and production will define the next generation of "smart" industries and the full blossoming of the so-called "4.0" industry. Consistent and targeted regulation is needed in order to bolster innovation, safe technological developments and the general quality of life.

Other sources of interest:

- [Brookings - New White House guidance downplays important AI harms](#)
- [Harvard Business Review - Why Some Platforms Thrive and Others Don't](#)
- [NIST - A.I. for Smarter Factories: The World of Industrial Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [The OECD AI Policy Observatory](#)

Upcoming Events

January

- 21 January: [CECE FEM joint webinar on new technologies and machinery legislation](#)
- 28-29 January: [35th CASCO Plenary and Workshop](#)

February

- 3-4 February: [Masters of Digital 2021 - Digital Europe](#)
- 22-24 February: [EU Industry Days 2021 Stakeholder Sessions](#)
- 22-25 February: [ICPHSO Annual meeting](#)

March

- 1-2 March: [15th European Nuclear Energy Forum](#)
- 23-24 March: [The Turing Presents: AI UK](#)

May

- 19-20 May: TIC Council 3rd Annual Summit and General Assembly - Brussels





TIC Council Highlights



This Month, Ms. Hanane Taidi participated in the meeting between CCIC and the China Regional Steering Committee through a video message. She expressed a warm welcome for CCIC to join the TIC Council family, in the hope of actively promoting the development of the TIC industry in China. Find here some photos from the meeting.





@TICCouncil



@TICCouncil

TIC COUNCIL

Rue du Commerce 20/22, B-1000, Brussels

www.tic-council.org

secretariat@tic-council.org