Opinion feedback on Paper:

THE DRAFT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK FOR EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZATION

NO. 1381

NOKIA

Contents

1 Introduction

This document is feedback from Nokia as a Network provider (“Nokia”) to the ICASA's draft conformity assessment framework for equipment authorization.

This is the view from Nokia only.

Powered by the research and innovation of Nokia Bell Labs, we serve communications service providers, governments, large enterprises and consumers, with the industry's most complete, end-to-end portfolio of products, services and licensing. We adhere to the highest ethical business standards as we create technology with social purpose, quality and integrity. Nokia is enabling the infrastructure for 5G and the Internet of Things to transform the human experience.

We create the technology to connect the world, in a responsible way. We work to bring about a more sustainable, socially responsible world. We purposefully design technologies to drive social, environmental, and economic progress, and wherever we can, seek to harness the opportunities of connectivity for people and our planet.

It is the understanding of Nokia that the purpose of this paper, as issued by ICASA, is to determine if the suppliers of RF transmitting equipment would be prepared to accept a process where Type approval (TA) will not be carried out by ICASA for every product, but that the Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)for each item would be available at any time if requested. The test labs would need to comply with the standards as laid out in the document to ensure that the tests done in the supplier’s labs are correct and accurate to the requirements as laid out by ICASA for the various class of equipment.

Nokia ensures that all its products are CE certified and our response to this paper is based on this approach.

2 Proposed Conformity Assessment Approach

This section provides Nokia's comments to the 10 questions within the document from ICASA.

2.1 Question 1: In your view, what are the benefits of having conformity assessment to support the regulations?

Conformity assessments to support the regulations are vital to ensure the operation of all RF transmitting devices in the public domain. Without conformity it would be chaos, with interference between equipment, meaning that essentially nothing would work correctly. Conformity to a central standard which is controlled by a central body, like ETSI, ensures that equipment being introduced into the South African environment will work correctly and as expected. Conformity is a must have.

2.2 Question 2: Do you see any benefits in risk profiling and the categorization of equipment in carrying out the conformity assessment?

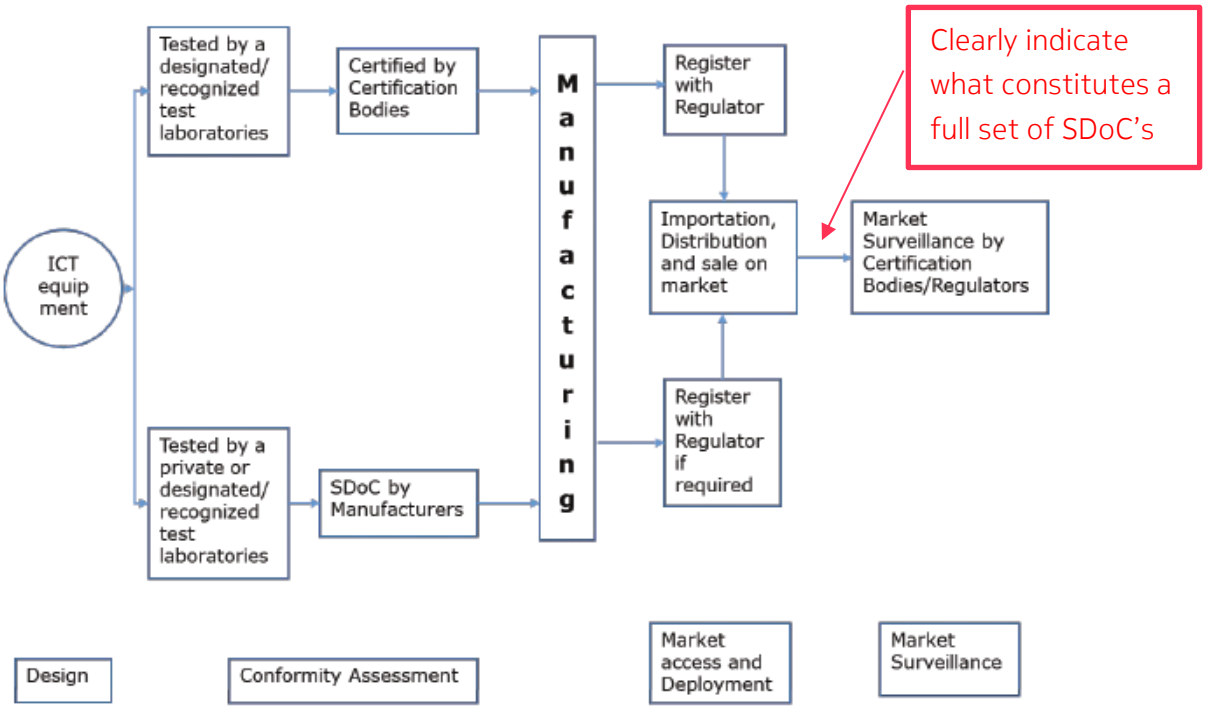
There is a definite need for risk profiling. Larger equipment suppliers who have a recognized conformity program, should have a lower risk profile, as one expects them to ensure they comply fully before placing the certification mark on their products.

The higher risk products are the more -produced consumer products, where manufactures may be inclined to not fully comply. This includes cell phones, routers, etc.

2.3 Question 3: With the recommended steps for using conformity assessment in support of the regulations (figure 10), which of the steps would you say are missing in the Approval Framework, and how can they help improve the Approval Framework efficiency?

Nokia is satisfied with the process as proposed, however with a request for one additional item to be added to the process.

All the documents requested that would constitute a full set of SDoC's, need to be clearly stipulated and documented. This is necessary so that when a request is made for SDoC certification, suppliers are clear as to which documents would constitute a full set of documents. This will most certainly also reduce the time taken to process such a request.



2.4 **Question 4:** Can you suggest an appropriate conformity assessment approach that can address the current Approval Framework challenges?

Conformity assessments should be aligned with the European Union standards as laid out by the ETSI standards as well as CEPT and ITU.

If a product that has been issued a CE based clearance code, it should automatically be accepted as compliant with the required standards for South Africa.

As such if a supplier can provide a trusted CE certification, then the timelines and efforts of checking if the product may be used in the South African environment, will have been reduced substantially.

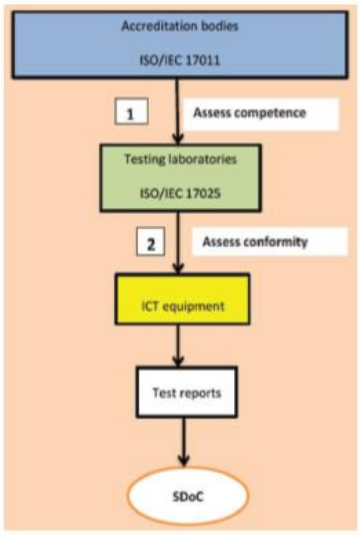
2.5 **Question 5:** In South African context, what are the benefits for the Authority collaborating with other regulatory institutions/organizations/states?

Collaboration only holds positives if the scope is to reduce complexity and align to harmonized international practices. It will ensure that South Africa is 100% in line with the rest of world regarding standards within the industry. Close alliances with international specialists will help local expertise to grow and stay ahead of the potential problems that RF equipment could be experiencing. However, the goal is not to reproduce at local level what is internationally/regionally approved but accept the internationally recognized certifications.

Information and learnings sharing would be adventitious to the regulator.

2.6 Question 6: Given table 3, which SDoC scheme/s would best suit the South African market, and why?

SDoC different schemes	ISO/IEC 17025 compliant (Test Facility)	Test reports must be kept for a **prescribed period**	Supplier must register the declaration with the Regulator
SDoC I *(e.g. Industry Canada (Canada) conformity assessment requirement for CS-03, terminal attachment equipment)*	✓	✓	✓
SDoC II *(e.g. FCC (USA) conformity assessment for Part 15, EMC)*	✓	✓	✗
SDoC III	✗	✓	✓
SDoC IV *(e.g. Industry Canada (Canada) conformity assessment for ICES-003 EMC)*	✗	✓	unspecified



Option 02 (Test reports must be kept for a prescribed period) would best fit, as most of the larger manufactures would need to ensure compliance to Test Facilities standards for the EU standards of testing and certification and these standards would likely be aligned with the requirements needed to ensure the same standards are met within South Africa.

All certification documents (SDoC) must be kept on record for delivery when and where required. If the specifications requested by the South African authorities are in accordance to a standard, this process will work.

2.7 Question 7: In your definition/understanding, what ICT equipment can be classified as low risk and may be considered for equipment authorization exemption?

Any manufacturer with a global presence, with production and distribution, will most likely ensure compliancy to an international standard that would be accepted globally. If these manufacturers can show certification in accordance with these published global standards, products certified as complying with these standards could be classified as low risk products and therefore subject to local equipment authorization exemption.

Products that can only show a certification with a lower standard of certification, should be considered high-risk.

As a global supplier of ICT equipment Nokia agrees with the content of Table 4 page 48

Table 4: Circumstances under which equipment may be exempted

Equipment Category	Description
Systems and equipment used for the production and distribution of broadcast and content services	All equipment in studios and production facilities that interfaces with the production environment and is under the control and operated by engineering professionals.
Test and measurement equipment	Any test and measurement equipment used by professionals and engineers of a licensed entity in the provision of telecommunications or broadcast services
satellite communications equipment	for temporal and/or limited area use only
Equipment for research and development in a laboratory environment	
Equipment for demonstrations of prototypes and testing	
Equipment for sample testing, demonstrations and field trials.	
Equipment for demonstrations and exhibition.	
Equipment for operations of specialised agencies	
Equipment for maritime or aeronautical operations	
Radio telescope receivers, calibration and test equipment.	
Radio telescope array and radio astronomy facilities	
Amateur radios	Radiocommunication services for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs on a non-commercial basis.
Equipment used by Government Services	Used for national security and defence networks.
Equipment produced or imported for the purposes of exporting.	Not for use in South Africa
Spare parts, components to be used for repairs	Provided such part is used in a certified product

2.8 Question 8: What are the risks associated with exempting ICT equipment from Approval Framework, and how can they be mitigated or eliminated?

The risk of exempting ICT equipment from Approval Framework lies with the smaller product manufacturers and the unscrupulous manufacturers of uncertified products, as well as with small equipment that can be procured over the internet.

The strength of this consideration lies with the methods used to test the compliancy of an equipment supplier and with the procedures and penalties to which the equipment supplier is subject if found to be introducing uncertified products into the South African market.

As such, any manufacturer ensuring compliancy will feel/be protected, while those that are not compliant will face legal pursuits if distributing uncertified products. Moreover, assuring such a legal framework will be in the interest of the society, companies and end-users that will be protected from the use of uncertified products.

2.9 **Question 9:** What would you propose the Authority do to effectively execute its responsibilities on market surveillance considering the current fiscal challenges?

The point of these considered changes is to ensure the availability of a smaller efficient team responsible of random checkups at the inspection points/centers where ICT products are entering the country. This can take the form of a team of inspectors verifying the SDoC's randomly or by means of an algorithm developed for this purpose.

ICASA would need to work closely with importers and online companies that sell any equipment that would potentially transmit an RF signal.

Eventually, supplying the SDoC's could become part of the standard paperwork submission on the import of any electronics that would transmit an RF signal.

2.10 **Question 10:** What are the prevalent equipment authorization challenges that may be experienced by manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and retailers post- and pre-market surveillance?

The challenges that could be experienced are many and varied –

- Ensuring the correct standards are met as will be expected by the ICASA authorities.
    - This will mean that the format of the documents and the expected content must be made clear and precise so that manufacturers can ensure correctness. This format should be an internationally standardized format.
- Clear indications of expectations when being checked.
    - Again, clear and precise expectations to be made by ICASA
- Mechanisms to ensure that it is indeed ICASA that is making the request for inspection.
- Clear communications of expectations to any company that would like to import any RF based products into South Africa.
- Clearly defined criteria that would indicate a clearance of the product.