

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Note from Thailand

I. SUPPLIER'S DECLARATION

1. Thailand believes that the development of conformity assessment procedures in both the regulatory and voluntary sectors will lead towards supplier's declaration. This path would help cut down the expenses and burden of the business sector, and improve its competitiveness.

2. To attain the goal of supplier's declaration, it is necessary that relevant international guides must be put to use. The benefits obtained consist of the upgrading of the entire system, and maintenance of quality of the system and personnel, which would accelerate the entry into mutual recognition, adding to trade facilitation.

II. PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW

3. It should not be forgotten however that successful implementation of supplier's declaration must be backed up by a good consumer protection law and must involve the business sector's obligation, such as the product liability law.

4. Developing countries may not yet have a liability law in force, and to pass a new law or revise an existing law can be time consuming for some countries. However, such a law is a necessity.

5. Thailand is encouraging the development to enable supplier's declaration, which has met with positive feedback from the industry and is supported by the government. However, the law is still in the early stage and the process will take considerable time before such law can be passed.

6. For full adoption of the supplier's declaration approach in international trading, both the importing and the exporting countries should have the same or close level of preparedness. The Committee may wish to consider ways to assist developing countries in their proceeding towards supplier's declaration and acquiring the supportive law.
