



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF TRUST

TIC Council & Cotecna Joint Webinar
Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment
7 July 2022



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- In case you have any questions or comments, please use the “chat” and/or the “Q&A” function in the bottom right part of your screen.
- With the “chat” function you can select the individual that you want to contact. Should you have any questions for our speakers, please use the “All panelists” option.
- Any questions should be posted in advance in order to give our speakers the necessary time to gather them and take them one by one.
- The webinar will respect the time allotted for each part.



House Rules



Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment



Moderator



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Objective of the guideline

- Provide guidance on the use of remote conformity assessment activities
- Consider the possibilities and limitations of remote conformity assessment activities
- Strengthen the confidence in the use of remote conformity assessment activities
- Contribute to a better understanding, consistent application and higher acceptance and trust in using remote techniques

Scope of the paper

- The paper covers the application of remote activities for all types of conformity assessment
 - Whether they are based on regulations, relevant procedures, standards
- Remote conformity assessment activities include certification of products, management systems, processes, services and persons as well as testing, inspection and validation/verification

Considerations

- The pandemic significantly accelerated the use of remote activities
- The use of remote techniques is not new, as a variety of industries show: wind turbines, underwater cables
- There are other situations requiring the use of remote activities: natural disasters, wars
- Remote activities can gain in importance by considering them to enhance sustainability

Key parameters for decision

The guide contains a number of key parameters to consider when deciding on the use of remote activities:

- Integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and impartiality of the process
- The risk level of the process
- Safety of people involved in the activity
- Ability to fully assess the compliance with the relevant requirements
- Ensuring equivalency with onsite assessments
- The level of confidence in the process
- Protection of data and information
- Remote activities are the only feasible or an unacceptable solution due to specific circumstances

Other parameters to consider for decision

- Scheme owner or regulator determine specific criteria serving for judging equivalency and acceptance
- Customer understanding and cooperation
- These principles are valid for hybrid approaches

Limiting factors

- When characteristics can not be assessed without human senses
- Legislative and regulatory provisions
- Contentious situations
- Stress and fatigue due to intensive concentration
- New client or new product type

Assessment of risk

- Decision to conduct CA remotely must follow a risk-based approach
- The relevant risks are those related to the key parameters
- Risk assessment must focus on:
 - additional risk of not detecting a non-conformity, due to incomplete information during a remote activity
 - safety of people

TIC Council paper provides guidance on how to assess risks

Technical and process issues

- Provision of a clear description of the remote activity process with the requirements and process steps
- Technical functioning infrastructure
- Ensure proper preparation and planning of the remote activity
- Have clear information about their availability, reliability and use
- Consider personnel training and qualifications for new tasks
- Ensure that the relevant accreditation body accepts the remote conformity assessment activities

Added value of remote activities

- May improve the availability of specialized expertise
- Save on travel related expenses
- Enhance the safety of personnel
- Help maintain business continuity
- Easier recording, securing and transmission of data
- Subsequently verifiable information
- Opportunities for process and accuracy improvements

Summary

- Focus on future changes and enhancements to current practices
- Objectives and requirements remain the same, whether they are assessed on site, remotely or in hybrid fashion
- Outcomes must remain equivalent
- Decision to conduct activities remotely must be taken with great care
- Decisions based on feasibility, acceptability and risk
- Maintain transparency

REMOTE ACTIVITIES

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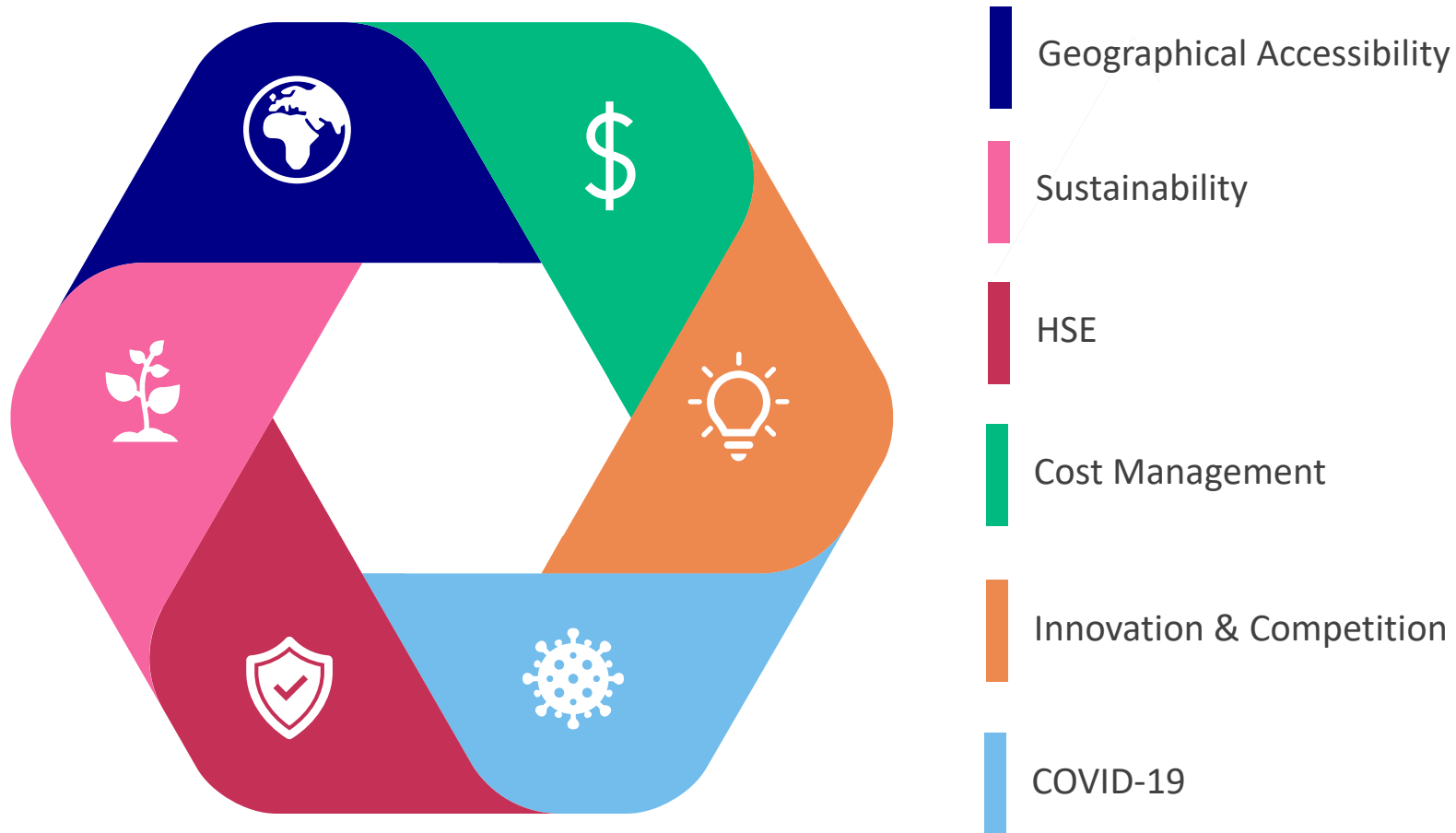


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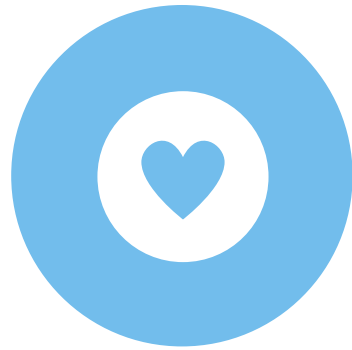
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INCREASE OF REMOTE ACTIVITIES IN TIC



REMOTE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

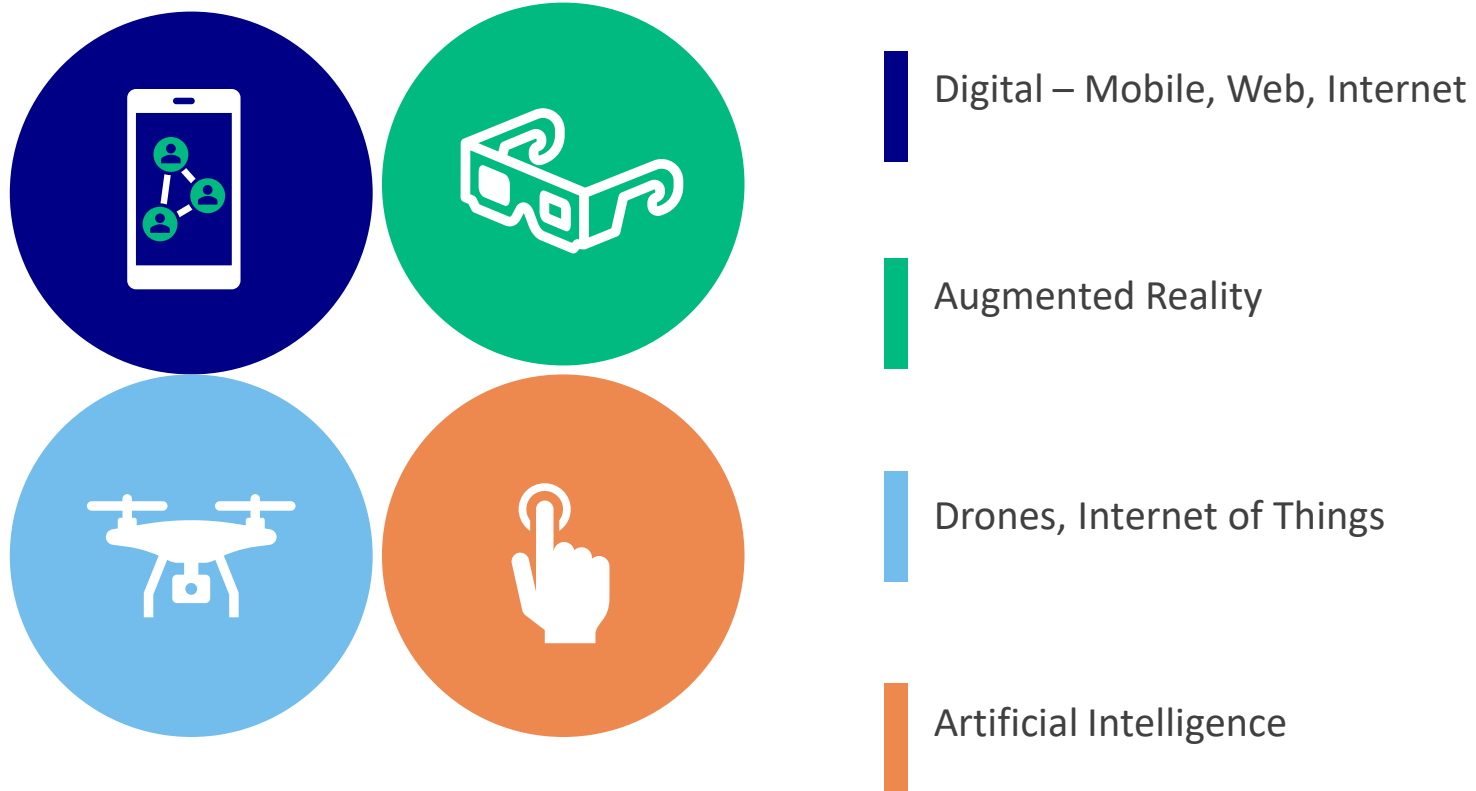


ADVANTAGES



LIMITATIONS

FUTURE AND EVOLUTION





THANK YOU

Questions?

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Wikipedia page:
Testing, inspection and
certification

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