• All microphones will be muted for the duration of the event.

• 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.
Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment

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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
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INCREASE OF REMOTE ACTIVITIES IN TIC

Geographical Accessibility
Sustainability
HSE
Cost Management
Innovation & Competition
COVID-19
REMOTE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

ADVANTAGES

LIMITATIONS
FUTURE AND EVOLUTION

- Digital – Mobile, Web, Internet
- Augmented Reality
- Drones, Internet of Things
- Artificial Intelligence
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