



## THE INTERNATIONAL TIC SECTOR SUPPORTS THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT (USMCA)

The International TIC Sector would like to express its strong support for the congressional approval of the USMCA in 2019. We believe that the USMCA will stimulate economic growth and improve market access for all industries in the region. More specifically the USMCA will:

**Reduce cost and time to market through national treatment:** The provision on National Treatment in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) chapter of the USMCA would create efficiencies while reducing costs and time to market for manufacturers. National treatment means that the regulator (or acceptance authority) applies the same requirements to all conformity assessment bodies (“CABs”; e.g. test lab, inspection body, certification body) independent of their physical location. This provision would allow manufacturers to choose the CAB of their choice in a location most appropriate to their business model rather than requiring costly re-evaluation at each port of entry. This process contributes to swifter product to market rates while continuing to ensure compliance with local regulations.

**Provide flexibility in choice of Conformity Assessment:** The TBT provisions would also provide prerogative and flexibility for all parties to decide on the appropriate method of assessing conformity according to their risk assessment, policy objectives, market characteristics, and confidence needs.

**Promote fair competition:** The USMCA would ensure that businesses, regardless of ownership, compete fairly through enforceable rules while fostering a pro-competitive and market-driven environment and ensuring a level playing field.

[IFIA](#) is the trade federation representing the independent third-party Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry. IFIA members provide services across a wide range of sectors: consumer products, medical devices, petroleum, mining and metals, food, agriculture among others. IFIA and its sister organisation CEOC International have [recently merged](#) to form the [TIC Council](#), a global trade association that brings together a total of approximately 90-member companies and organizations active in more than 160 countries.

For additional information: <http://www.ifia-federation.org>

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