

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

TIC Council is an international association representing independent testing, inspection and certification companies.

Foreword



DR MICHAEL FÜBI
PRESIDENT OF TIC COUNCIL

Dear members and partners,

I am pleased to present to you our annual report, which provides a comprehensive overview of the activities and accomplishments of our trade association over the past year. As President of TIC Council, I am proud to lead an organisation that is dedicated to advancing the interests of our members and promoting the growth and development of our industry.

The past year has been one of significant change and challenge for our industry, as we have navigated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global trends. Despite these challenges, our association has remained steadfast in our commitment to serving our members and advocating for their needs.

In this report, you will find a detailed summary of our initiatives and programmes, as well as updates on our advocacy efforts and partnerships with key stakeholders. You will also see how we have worked to foster innovation, promote sustainability, and support the professional development of our members.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our members for their ongoing support and engagement. Your feedback and input have been invaluable as we continue to shape the priorities and direction of our association. I would also like to express my appreciation to our staff and partners who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our programmes and initiatives.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I am confident that TIC Council will continue to play a vital role in shaping the future of our industry. I invite you to review our report and share your feedback with us, as we work together to build a more vibrant and sustainable future for our members and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Dr Michael FÜBI

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. FÜBI'.

Foreword



HANANE TAIDI
DIRECTOR GENERAL
TIC COUNCIL

Dear Readers,

I am happy to share with you the TIC Council Annual Report 22, reflecting another remarkable year of achievements and progress for our organisation.

One notable highlight of the year was the successful celebration of the first International TIC Day, an occasion to raise awareness of the vital role TIC plays in ensuring safety, quality, and sustainability. In line with our commitment to environmental responsibility, we also took a significant step forward by partnering with Treedom to plant the first TIC Forest, contributing to the preservation of our planet for future generations.

In Europe, thanks to the excellent work of our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Working Group, TIC Council was selected as a member of the European Commission Expert Group on the Certification of Carbon Removals. This recognition establishes our organization as a key participant in shaping the regulatory landscape surrounding carbon removals in 2023 and beyond.

In the Americas, our team continues to accomplish notable achievements.

In particular, we successfully advocated for the passage of the INFORM Consumers Act, entered into law in January 2023 and which combats counterfeiting and safeguards the interests of consumers.

In the meantime, we have further solidified our leadership and influence within the Indian TIC landscape. TIC Council India received industry-wide recognition as a Corporate Partner at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Excellence Summit and as a partner at the 7th National Standards Conclave organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Indian Government.

Finally, last year we consolidated our presence in China, opening our offices in Shanghai. During 2022, TIC Council China has made significant strides in establishing five working groups, covering essential areas such as ESG, Commodities, Digitalization and Intelligent Manufacturing, Product Testing and Certification, and Advocacy. Through these collaborative efforts, expert members have been instrumental in promoting best practices and facilitating knowledge exchange in China.

I invite you to delve into the TIC Council Annual Report 22, exploring in greater detail the accomplishments and initiatives of our horizontal and sectoral committees that have shaped our organisation over the past year.

Thank you,

Highlights



TIC Council hosted the global TIC Summit in Brussels, on Wednesday 1 June 2022. The summit, which coincided with the first International TIC Day, marked TIC Council's first in-person event in three years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Entitled “Journeying Towards Sustainability: is Greenwashing Avoidable?”, the event brought together policymakers, industry captains, NGOs, legal and technical experts to engage in a series of panel discussions addressing the growing political and legal challenges of embedding sustainability in business strategies, as well as what steps are needed to encourage sustainability within global supply chains and global best practices. The panels were moderated by Dr. Michael Fübi, TIC Council President and CEO of TÜV Rheinland, and Karin Athanas, TIC Council Americas Executive Director.

Panel 1, “Regulatory Framework: a Driver or a Hurdle?”, explored the challenges of implementing sustainability policies in business strategies and how the EU could serve as a leading example in this field at a global level, while in Panel 2, “Building an Ecosystem of Trust”, our speakers exchanged the best practices to develop a robust conformity assessment system that will ensure sustainability in all stages of supply chains



The third instalment of the TIC Council Safety Conference took place in Singapore on September 28, 2022.

This event marked the reactivation of the initiative after the conferences held in New York in 2019 and Rotterdam in 2018, which were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference focused on safety and ethical behaviour in the petroleum and petrochemical industry. It also provided updates on the international petroleum market. It was held in collaboration with Tankbank International and in partnership with BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell.

The next Petroleum Industry Safety Conference, in collaboration with BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell, will take place on 19 September 2023 in Rotterdam. Visit the [event website](#) for more information.

Webinars

We hosted 13 webinars on different topics, including cybersecurity and IoT, brand protection, sustainability and artificial intelligence. The ESG webinar series organised by TIC Council India in November and December 2022 focused on Sustainability Reporting, Carbon Resilience, and Green Hydrogen, resulting in around 150 attendees per event.

13

Webinars

106

Registrants
On average

In 2022 we partnered twice with Euractiv, a well-established EU-oriented media outlet. Together, we hosted two successful events:

#	Webinar name	Attendance
1.	Carbon Removals - How best to implement and validate?	1,327
2.	EU cybersecurity and resilience – What challenges to create a common framework?	1,415

Publications

In 2022 TIC Council produced several position papers on policies that affect our sector. Moreover, we published two guidance documents:

#	Publication name	
1.	Guidance Document on Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment	View
2.	Guidance Paper for consignment-based conformity assessment (CBCA)	View

Regional Developments

Americas

TIC Council Americas has accomplished several notable achievements in the areas of product safety and compliance and digitalisation. In terms of product safety and compliance, TIC Council Americas successfully advocated for the passage of the INFORM Consumers measure, which aims to tackle counterfeiting. This resulted in the signing of the INFORM Consumers Act into law in January 2023. Additionally, TIC Council Americas participated as a stakeholder in the Customs and Border Protection 21st Century Customs Modernisation taskforce and organised a high-level workshop on counterfeiting, which included speakers from organisations such as Homeland Security Investigations' Financial Fraud and Cyber Crimes Centers, the Intellectual Property Rights Center, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We also had the opportunity to meet with the commissioners of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to discuss important issues regarding product safety and compliance, and we testified at the CPSC's annual priorities hearing.

In the area of digitalisation, TIC Council Americas made significant contributions by publishing position papers on cybersecurity for consumer products and artificial intelligence (AI) principles. We also conducted a virtual panel to launch the AI paper and published a 5-week AI newsletter series.

Furthermore, we submitted public comments on topics including cybersecurity labelling for products and software, cybersecurity in healthcare, and AI risk management. We had the privilege of meeting with the Department of Defense (DoD) and congressional staff to discuss the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program and provide recommendations.

In Latin America, we engaged in multiple meetings with the leadership of the National Institute of Metrology Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) to discuss the new regulatory model in Brazil. We were honoured to be invited as speakers at six workshops organised by INMETRO, where we actively contributed to the drafting of new Quality Infrastructure policies in Brazil.

TIC Council Americas presented at two ICPHSO conferences, showcasing our expertise in relevant fields. We were also invited to participate in panels hosted by prestigious organisations such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization of American States (OAS), Asociación Nacional De Organismos De Evaluación De La Conformidad (ASOSEC), Dirección General de Normas (DGN), and the International Trade Administration (ITA) on the US-Brazil Commercial Dialogue.

India

In 2022, TIC Council India achieved significant milestones, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India. This aims to promote the implementation of standards and quality, safety, and sustainability practices in laboratories. In conjunction with this partnership, the organisations jointly organised the landmark conference "Emerging Global Trends in Laboratories for Atmanirbhar Bharat." The conference featured the inaugural address by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textile.

TIC Council India made remarkable progress in highlighting the sector's value in the ESG sector. Together with the Confederation of Indian Industry - Institute of Quality (CII-IQ), TIC Council India organised a roundtable session on "Circular Economy: Reimagining Progress for Long-Term Success." This program provided a platform for the Indian industry to interact with international industry stalwarts and discuss the challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a circular economy. As a result, TIC Council India gained improved visibility in the area of circular economy.

To further solidify its position in the ESG sector, TIC Council India organised a unique ESG-focused marathon series during November and December 2022. These webinars delved into various aspects of the TIC sector's crucial role in facilitating sustainable prosperity and exhibiting resilience in value chains. The three-part series focused on Sustainability Reporting, Carbon Resilience, and Green Hydrogen.

Another notable achievement by TIC Council India was the launch of the TIC Forum Series on February 18, 2022. This awareness-raising campaign aimed to position the TIC sector as a valued partner to businesses and governments. The monthly series featured speakers from different sectors, including medical devices, conformity assessment frameworks, and digitalisation.

TIC Council India also hosted a webinar titled "Policy and Regulatory Framework on Conformity Assessment for Telecom Products: Global Best Practices and Priorities" in association with the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India. The program, inaugurated by the Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications, featured speakers from the US FCC, the European Commission, and the Telecom Engineering Centre. The webinar garnered participation from over 100 attendees.

TIC Council India also strengthened partnerships with other key policymakers. The TIC Council leadership held meetings with influential policymakers, including the Honorable Minister of Railway, Communication, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav, to discuss the importance of the TIC sector across various industries. Fruitful discussions were also held with officials from the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), resulting in close collaboration and TIC Council's membership in several committees.

Additionally, we had meetings with Dr. R.P Singh, Secretary General of the Quality Council of India (QCI), and Mr. Jaxay Shah

Chairman of the Quality Council of India, to discuss future areas of collaboration and exchange of best practices in quality infrastructure and support for the “Make In India” program.

We also engaged with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), to strengthen partnerships and enhance infrastructure in relevant sectors.

As a result of our engagement and awareness-raising campaigns, TIC Council India received recognition in the industry as a Corporate Partner at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Excellence Summit and as a Conclave Partner at the 7th National Standards Conclave organised by

China

In line with our advocacy priorities, TIC Council China has established five working groups: ESG, Commodities, Digitalisation and Intelligent Manufacturing, Product Testing and Certification, and Advocacy. Our panel of experts and members from relevant fields play key roles in promoting best practices and facilitating technical know-how exchanges in China.

On July 12th 2022, TIC Council China launched the Working Group Foundation Ceremony in Shanghai. Deputy Director General Mr. Tao Yonghua from the Shanghai Market Regulation Authority, Vice Governor Mr. Lv Xuecheng of the Shanghai Pudong District People's Government, Director General Mr. Zhang Li of Pu Dong Market Regulation Authority, and Vice Director Mr. Yuan Yefeng from the Shanghai Lujiazui Administrative Bureau were present to witness the foundation of the working groups.

the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Moreover, Dr. Aparna Dhawan, who was the Executive Director of TIC Council India, was re-elected as the Chair of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Communications and Promotion Committee (CPC) for the second term, further solidifying TIC Council India's position globally.

These partnerships and recognitions demonstrate the growing influence and impact of TIC Council India in promoting quality, standards, and sustainability in India.

Three days later, TIC Council Shanghai Representative Office was invited to attend a closed-door meeting with Pudong New Area authorities. The leadership of Pudong, including Party Secretary Mr. Zhu Zhisong, Governor Mr. Hang Yingwei, and Directors of all functional departments, were present at the meeting. Eight speakers from foreign investors, domestic think tanks, state-owned enterprises, and TIC Council were invited to deliver keynote speeches and provide suggestions for the high-quality development of Pudong. Bruce Wei, Chair of China RSC, and Min Xu, TIC Council Executive Director, participated in the meeting. Mr Wei expressed gratitude for the continuous support from Pudong and committed our sector to contributing to the modernisation construction of the region.

TIC Council China, as a recent addition to Lujiazui, is very active in Pudong and benefits from the professional and comprehensive service industry platform that this area provides. For example, Lujiazui Financial City released "Several Measures for Promoting the High-Quality Development of the Professional Service Industry," which once again demonstrates the innovative and forward-thinking spirit of Lujiazui as China's gateway to the world. We chose to open our first office here in Lujiazui for the openness, convenience, and complete professionalism that we found here. On this occasion, Mr. Zhu Zhisong, Member of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal Government and Party Secretary of Pudong District, and the Director General of Shanghai SAMR announced the presence of TIC Council Shanghai Representative Office.

TIC Council and the China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Association (CIQA) jointly organized the 2022 TIC Conference as part of the China International Fair for Trade in Services CIFTIS framework on September 5th, 2022. The theme of the conference was "Environment Service Empowering China's Double Carbon Targets." A signing ceremony was held to mark the mutual deepening of comprehensive cooperation between CIQA and TIC Council.

Europe

In the European Union, 2022 was marked by a strong activity of the European co-legislators to finalise the Green Deal package (measures destined to help the EU Member States comply with the objectives of the Paris Agreement), but also introducing ambitious measures to support cybersecurity of consumer products.

Three members of TIC Council China participated in the Fifth China International Import Exhibition(CIIE) the world's first import-themed national-level expo. In 2023, TIC Council China will continue to coordinate participation in CIIE and organise events/seminars during the period.

On September 20th, 2022, the General Customs announced the Measures of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Inspection and Acceptance of Import and Export Goods (Decree Nr. 259) / 中华人民共和国海关进出口商品检验采信管理办法（海关总署第259号令）.

As part of the growing trust in the TIC sector, the Customs in China accept inspection results conducted by institutions included in the registered catalogue as of December 2022, whilst in the past the inspection of import and export goods was mandatory and conducted by the designated laboratories of the Customs. TIC Council China welcomed this development and organised a webinar together with the China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Association (CIQA) during which officials from the General Customs answered questions from members.

The activities of the Europe Regional Steering Committee focused on a few main pieces of legislation: the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the Taxonomy Regulation, and the Cyber Resilience Act.

The EU Public Affairs Committee, tasked with implementing strategic priorities and developing tailored advocacy plans, worked on a certain number of publications, such as position papers, and events to support the sector's position.

The TIC Council is particularly proud that Hanane Taidi was invited by the European Commission to speak at the Conference on Sustainable Carbon Cycles, where she highlighted the key role that the TIC sector can play in the verification of carbon removals.

This goes hand in hand with the TIC Council being invited as an expert on the European Commission's expert group on the Certification of Carbon Removals, which will advise the European regulators on the implementation of certification schemes and the guarantee of quality that TIC members can ensure.

In order to familiarise a wider audience with these concepts, an event was organised with influential media outlet Euractiv in April 2022, entitled "Carbon removals - How best to implement and validate?". The event focused on how independent measurement and verification is essential to ensure that carbon removals have been properly conducted and that the carbon is effectively and permanently removed from the atmosphere; the panel was notably composed of Lukas Visek, Member of Cabinet of EVP Frans Timmermans and MEP Norbert Lins MEP, Chair of the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament.

In digitalisation, the TIC Council continued to be active in the European Commission's expert group on cybersecurity (the Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group), tasked with implementing the EU's Cybersecurity Act in cooperation with EU Member States cybersecurity authorities. The group was consulted on the development of a certification scheme for 5G networks and on the final stages of the general Cybersecurity Certification that will be part of the Cybersecurity Act.

A strong effort was put into positioning the industry as an enabler for the ambitions of the Cyber Resilience Act, a landmark legislation that sets baseline requirements for the cybersecurity of connected devices and all connected objects, and that will influence other legislative frameworks and markets across the world.

Finally, the TIC Council is proud that the European Commission requested, in the summer of 2022, that experts help the European Commission and its Joint Research Center to develop an Assessment Framework for Energy Efficiency in Data Centres. The Assessment Framework provides auditors with the necessary tools to verify whether a data centre correctly applies the Practices in the Code of Conduct for the Energy Efficiency of Data Centers. Thus, it allows market players to accurately complete their disclosures for Taxonomy alignment as part of their non-financial reporting without any ambiguity. It also allows investors to have certainty over which data centres are striving to reach environmental objectives. The assessment framework was developed by a specialist group of a dozen experts, coming from the TIC Council members.

Horizontal Committees

Strategic Coordination Committee

In 2022, the Strategic Coordination Committee (SCC) replaced the former Public Affairs and Strategic Priorities Committee. It provides global strategic guidance and serves as a platform for discussion among regions on emerging policy topics. Sustainability reporting and cybersecurity were among the most discussed topics in 2022.

All Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all four Regional Steering Committees (RSC) participate in the SCC. All interested global public policy professionals of the TIC Council members are invited to join.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The global Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Working Group operates under the direct supervision of the Global Board. In 2022, the ESG WG lead the TIC Council's positioning and visibility of the sector in response to the continuous development of draft measures under the EU Green Deal. These, in turn, have been echoed in other global regions and have provided an opportunity for global alignment on matters of non-financial reporting, sustainable finance, and energy and carbon related campaigns.

Key areas of focus for in 2022 were:

- **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)**
- **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D)**
- **EU Taxonomy Regulation**
- **Energy Efficiency Directive**
- **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**
- **Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition**

Furthermore, thanks to the ESG WG work TIC Council was selected as a member of the Commission Expert Group on the Certification of Carbon Removals, providing a platform for active participation as the Regulation takes shape in 2023.

Accreditation and Standardisation

The TIC Council engages with international and regional accreditation and standardisation stakeholders in order to maintain and enhance the recognition of the competence of the members.

TIC Council's Accreditation Committee provides the forum where members develop their input on accreditation matters as well as relevant conformity assessment

standards by expertly managing TIC Council's collective dialogue.

In 2022, the Committee met 4 times and provided input to 50 documents and consultations. The Committee was successful in 2022 in continuing to ensure the participation of TIC Council experts in a variety of relevant international groups. In doing so, we continue our close collaboration with organisations such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and others.

In late March 2022, we published the very well-received report "[Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment](#)". This was the result of months of collaborative work among members of several TIC Council committees to address the challenges presented by the pandemic and the need to carry out conformity assessment activities in a new way, virtually. Two successful webinars were carried out to spread the views of TIC Council members on this new way of doing business.

Ethics and Legal

The Ethics and Legal Committee has supported the TIC Council Committees by reviewing their publications and providing recommendations on legal matters throughout the year.

It has reviewed the Metals and Minerals Field Inspection Safety Code, the Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Field Inspection Safety Code, the updated Consignment-Based Conformity Assessment Code of Practice, the updated Petroleum Inspector Certification Programme non-member application

requirements, and several technical bulletins produced by sectoral Committees. It has also updated the Model Committee Terms of Reference to strengthen the clause related to Committee participation. All TIC Council Committees are currently implementing the updated rules.

The Committee has developed a voluntary disclaimer related to sanctions compliance that TIC Council members are free to use it in their own nominations and/or test reports. It has also kept members informed of the latest measures against Russia and their impact on the TIC sector.

The Committee has redesigned the TIC Council Complaints Handling Procedure. A dedicated Working Group is currently working on setting up the future Independent Dispute Resolution Body. It is expected to finalise the procedure in 2023.

The revision of the Complaints Handling Procedure has also required amending the TIC Council Compliance Code, its Implementation Guidelines, and the Articles of Association to comply with EU competition and US anti-trust laws, as well as the new Belgian Code of Companies and Associations. In parallel, the Committee has updated the reporting templates (Annexes B and C) to ensure they are fit for purpose. All amendments have been approved by the General Assembly with the updated reporting templates becoming applicable to all TIC Council full members in 2023.

Sectoral Committees

Commodities

The Commodities Committee ensures that strategic relationships and alliances with key stakeholders in the commodities sector are nurtured and maintained. Notably in 2022, the TIC Council successfully applied to become a consultative member of the International Maritime Organisation.

Several new technical bulletins have been developed and published. These include:

The [PetCom Technical Bulletin](#) explaining the role and responsibilities of inspection companies regarding Inhibited Cargoes and the addition of chemical inhibitors,

The [MinCom Technical Bulletin](#) explaining the concepts of precision and uncertainty of different weighing systems for the weight determination of dry bulk cargoes

The [MinCom Technical Bulletin](#) explaining the use of seals by inspection companies to indicate cargo/sample integrity.

The [MinCom Technical Bulletin](#) providing guidance for Member Companies when faced with entities that restrict access and prevent inspections, with the final draft under review for publication by the end of the year.

The joint [AgriCom and PetCom Technical Bulletin](#) covers challenges related to conflicting or non-compatible standards in inspecting bio-fuel components at different points of the value chain.

The committee has also reviewed and reaffirmed nine Technical Bulletins of the AgriCom and five of the PetCom, updating their contents to ensure their validity.

Progress has been made in the development of Field Inspection Safety Codes for the Metals and Minerals, as well as Agricultural and Vegetable Oils commodity inspection markets. These codes are set to be published in 2023.

Furthermore, an Energy Transition Working Group has been established, jointly representing PetCom and AgriCom, to address cross-sectorial issues arising from the Energy Transition and the inspection of new fuels, bio-fuels, and bio-fuel components.

Finally, the ongoing development of a Laboratory Safety Code for the Petroleum and Petrochemicals markets is also being explored, with potential expansion to cover a wider range of commodities for inspection and testing purposes.

Product Testing and Certification

The Product Testing and Certification Committee intently focused on accompanying the positioning of the sector on specific topics of the twin transition, specifically the rise of the use and associated risks of connected devices, as well as the growing relevance of artificial intelligence and machine learning in everyday life. In parallel, regulatory obligations regarding the circularity of products are increasingly factoring into the work done by the sector and forcing TIC companies and their clients to adapt their practices and services.

In the field of digitalisation, the Conformity Assessment of Connected Devices Working Group has led the work to position the sector on key legislative initiatives that will significantly impact the sector, such as the Cyber Resilience Act in Europe, which will mandate minimum levels of cybersecurity for all connected products that will be placed on the EU Single Market, with associated conformity assessment procedures for specific products in higher risk categories. The Working Group helped develop the TIC Council's position paper on the proposed legislation and helped organize, in September 2022, the first public discussion in Brussels on the topic, with the presence of officials from the rotating Presidency of the European Council and the European Commission. In parallel, the working group continued to develop a global white paper on the added value of the TIC sector in ensuring safe and secure consumer IoT devices, which will be published in the course of 2023, with a specific focus on each region where the TIC Council is present.

Secondly, regarding artificial intelligence, discussions were organised with various stakeholders, including the Cyber Security Authority of Singapore and TEMASEK, a major investment company in Singapore, in order to work together on developing minimum testing criteria for consumer devices embarking or using artificial intelligence or machine learning; This is identified as a key best practice to ensure the highest quality of service among the TIC sector and for proper uptake of AI in our societies.

ESG was another broadly discussed topic in the product testing and certification community. The Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Union, as well as the planned introduction of a Digital Product Passport for a dozen product categories in the EU with obligatory information to be provided on the circularity of products, has acted as a strong driver for all economic operators. The Product Sustainability Working Group published a paper on the added value of the sector in ensuring the validity of environmental claims and started working on how to position the sector on the circularity of textiles, a topic that is of growing societal and environmental importance.

In 2022, the TIC Council assessed electrical consumer products in the EU with CE markings. Testing 120 samples from six EU nations revealed 85 non-compliant products, 28 grossly so, indicating a 23% increase in severe non-compliances compared to 2017. A 2023 study will examine similar products in the U.S., including e-bike battery packs and toy chemical values.

Industrial Life Cycles Services

The Industrial Life Cycles Services (ILCS) team focuses on various aspects to educate and raise awareness about the added value of the TIC sector for key stakeholders. This includes liaising with relevant stakeholders, promoting the digitalization of industrial inspections across all business areas, developing common TIC methods and principles for inspector qualification, and establishing common TIC positions on pressure equipment and aging installations.

In the first and second quarters, the ILCS team achieved significant progress. They produced and published the first ILCS Technical Bulletin on "Lift Inspections and the Use of State of the Art Testing Techniques."

Additionally, a Digitalization Working Group was established with a specific focus on evaluating opportunities and facilitating cooperation to demonstrate the added value of third-party TIC services in the digitalization of industrial inspections. The Digitalization Working Group is currently working on developing a common approach to Remote Activities of Conformity Assessment in the industrial inspection market.

Furthermore, a Hydrogen Taskforce was established to explore and address the risks, challenges, and opportunities related to the use, transportation, and storage of hydrogen in an industrial context. The taskforce also focuses on understanding its impact on aging industrial installations such as pipelines and other pressure equipment.

The Pressure Equipment Working Group has been collecting additional data through surveys on risk-based approaches, national

requirements, and procedures related to pressure equipment. Additionally, the ILCS team is gathering data on a comparison of national regulations for lifts, cranes, and lifting tackle, as well as accident and fault statistics.

Engagement with various stakeholders is a crucial part of ILCS's work. They actively collaborate with organizations such as EFNDT (European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing), the European Commission Expert Group on Lifts, the European Commission Expert Group on Machinery, and the European Commission Expert Group on Pressure Equipment. These engagements ensure a comprehensive and informed approach to addressing industrial life cycles and promoting best practices in the TIC sector.

Food and Health

The Food and Health Committee works on improving the sector's image among the food ecosystem, working closely with peer associations and with industry. Moreover, the Committee developed TIC Council's responses to the EU's consultations that will shape the upcoming rules on food labelling.

The Health Subgroup of the Food and Health Committee was formed on the basis of proposal for a project on the fight against anti-counterfeited medicines. The Subgroup has met with key stakeholders to start developing best practices documentation to provide guidance to purchasers for the authentication of goods, and to provide a training platform for auditors and inspectors to help them in becoming knowledgeable and proficient in the identification of adulterated products during the examination of pharmaceutical goods.



TIC Council is a global association representing over 90 international independent third-party testing, inspection, certification and verification organisations. Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) companies cater to a diverse range of industry sectors and a variety of standards and legislation. The industry represents an estimated one million employees across the world with annual sales of approximately USD 200 billion.