

APEC has recognised four Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) as the expert regional bodies responsible for the development of the standards and conformance infrastructure in the Asia Pacific.

## *Why are the elements of the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure important?*

The Standards and Conformance Infrastructure, comprising metrology, documentary standards, and accreditation and conformity assessment, impacts on the simplest daily activities, such as the accuracy of an alarm clock, the way the seatbelts in a car operate, and the safety of food.

The same infrastructure also underpins the complex technologies and industrial processes that drive economic growth, productivity and innovation.

Everyday commercial transactions and international trade could not take place without the support of a standards and conformance infrastructure.

It provides the essential framework for industry and government to maintain domestic and foreign confidence in the quality and performance of goods and services. It is also the key to enhancing global competitiveness, attracting investment, and fostering and supporting innovation.

*What are the roles of the key standards and conformance/quality infrastructure bodies identified by APEC?*

### **METROLOGY**

Metrology (the science of measurement) is an integral component of the [quality infrastructure](#) value chain. Traceability of measurement results to national measurement standards is fundamental, for example, to the optimisation of production, disease diagnosis and health care, food safety, forensic science, environmental monitoring, occupational health and safety, and consumer confidence and protection.

National measurement standards provide the basis for other conformity assessment activities in both the regulatory and voluntary sectors.

Many metrological requirements are supported by legislation or regulation. These aspects become part of an economy's "legal metrology system". Metrology is also fundamental to measurement of traded products.

### **DOCUMENTARY STANDARDS**

Documentary standards are voluntary documents that specify requirements and guidelines for products, services and systems. They encompass a wide range of areas, and are a fundamental enabler to industry competitiveness, product functionality and compatibility, and ensuring the safety and quality of products and services. By providing a coherent basis to harmonise technical specifications of products and services, international standards reduce barriers to international trade and lay the foundation to wider market access.

Documentary standards are voluntary by nature, but can be referenced in legislation, making them mandatory. Standards are written by international organisations, national standards bodies, regulatory authorities, and trade and industry associations, with the active participation of stakeholders and technical experts from industry, government, academia, consumer groups and other affected parties.

### **ACCREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

Accreditation is a third-party attestation that a conformity assessment body is competent to carry out specific tasks. Accreditation involves the peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies for their competence to carry out specified calibrations, tests, inspections, verifications and/or certifications of management systems, products, processes or personnel, to determine if they meet a required standard. These conformity assessment activities are critical to the quality and accuracy of the many products and services upon which all economies rely for, among other things, the health and safety of its citizens, and for trade.

**APEC SRBs:**



## Further information

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### APAC ASIA PACIFIC ACCREDITATION COOPERATION

[www.apac-accreditation.org](http://www.apac-accreditation.org)

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) was established on 1 January 2019 by the amalgamation of two former regional accreditation cooperations – the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). It is a cooperation of accreditation bodies and other interested parties from the Asia and Pacific regions.

APAC's primary role is to manage and expand a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region. The MRA facilitates the acceptance of conformity assessment results such as test reports/certificates, inspection reports and certification, across the region and with other regions around the world. The mutual recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results reduces the need to undertake duplicate testing, inspection or certification, thus saving time and money, increasing economic efficiency and facilitating international trade.

APAC operates within the framework of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and in cooperation with other regional groups of accreditation bodies around the world.



### APLMF ASIA PACIFIC LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM

[www.aplmf.org](http://www.aplmf.org)

The Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum is a grouping of legal metrology authorities in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies and other economies on the Pacific Rim, whose objective is the development of legal metrology and the promotion of free and open trade in the region through the harmonisation and removal of technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of legal metrology.

APLMF members collaborate to promote the coordination and integrity of legal metrology activities and services in order to achieve greater harmony of measurement and testing within the Asia-Pacific region and build mutual confidence in legal metrology activities and services among members.



### APMP ASIA PACIFIC METROLOGY PROGRAMME

[www.apmpweb.org](http://www.apmpweb.org)

The Asia-Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) is a grouping of peak metrology institutes from the Asia-Pacific region engaged in improving regional metrological capability through the sharing of expertise and exchange of technical services among Member laboratories. APMP is also a Regional Metrology Organization recognised by the International Committee for Weights and Measures for the purpose of worldwide mutual recognition of measurement standards and of calibration and measurement certificates.

APMP's mission is to promote and support measurement infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region that facilitates international trade, improves industrial efficiency and competitiveness, ensures equity in the marketplace, and enhances the quality of life and the environment.



### PASC PACIFIC AREA STANDARDS CONGRESS

[www.pasnet.org](http://www.pasnet.org)

PASC is an independent grouping of Pacific area national standards organisations. One of its primary objectives is to strengthen the international standardisation programs of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and improve the ability of Pacific Rim national standards organisations to participate in these programs effectively. As part of its role, PASC also facilitates information exchange between national standards bodies and entities interested in standardisation and conformance. It also initiates necessary actions to coordinate international standardisation activities to foster international trade and commerce, and address global needs.

## Membership

### APEC Economies with SRB Membership

SRB	APAC	APLMF	APMP	PASC
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brunei Darussalam	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓		✓
Chile		✓		✓
People's Republic of China	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hong Kong, China	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓		✓
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓		✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	✓
Russian Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Singapore	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chinese Taipei	✓	✓	✓	
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓
United States	✓	✓	✓	✓
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✓

### Non-APEC Economies with SRB Membership

Of the non-APEC economies, the following are members of one or more SRBs: Bahrain; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Bolivia; Cambodia; Colombia; Dubai; Egypt; Fiji; India; Iran; Iraq; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kiribati; DPR of Korea; Kuwait; Kyrgyz Republic; Laos; Macao, China; Mongolia; Nepal; New Caledonia; Oman; Pakistan; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, South Africa; Sri Lanka, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.