

**STATEMENT ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES
IMPLEMENTED IN JORDAN**

Special Meeting of the TBT Committee Dedicated to Conformity
Assessment Procedures held on 29 June 2004

The following communication, dated 1 September 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

1. This document describes the current status of the applied conformity assessment procedures in Jordan and states future plans and actions in this area.

2. The overall conformity assessment systems including inspection, market surveillance, testing, certification and accreditation, are mainly implemented by governmental bodies. Some private bodies also perform certification and testing. The major official agencies working in this area are the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

3. Following is a description of these activities:

I. INSPECTION AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE

4. The Control Department at JISM inspects imported and locally produced products to ensure their compliance with the Jordanian standards and technical regulations.

5. Inspection on imported products starts at the borders before entry into Jordan and includes examination of each consignment, sampling and testing of products subject to the Jordanian technical regulations.

6. Locally produced products are monitored regularly by conducting systematic visits to factories according to annual and monthly plans that are prepared based on the risk of the product and the previous inspection results. During the visits, the production lines and storage areas are inspected and samples are withdrawn and sent for testing. In cases where deviations are identified, the manufacturer will be subject to the applicable penalty.

7. Due to the incomplete infrastructure of testing in Jordan, the control system does not cover all products that are placed in the Jordanian market, which decreases the effectiveness of health and safety insurance of the Jordanian citizens and environment protection. In order to solve this problem and ensure the protection of human health and safety and environment protection, JISM introduced two new systems:

A. THE INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT CONFORMITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (IPCCP) (KNOWN AS DAMAN)

8. This programme is implemented by an international certification body that performs inspection and testing at the country of supply or origin and issues certificates of conformity accordingly on behalf of JISM.

9. Four groups of products are covered under this programme on a mandatory basis. These are Toys, Electrical and Electronic Appliances, Safety Equipment, Vehicles and Tyres. Food products are covered on a voluntary basis.

10. The programme is also implemented on the locally manufactured like products, where the factories are subjected to the licensing procedure under which they are audited to verify the competence of their quality management system and manufacturing process. Samples will be taken for full testing to verify their compliance with the applicable technical regulation. After that, the manufacturer will be granted a type approval/license certificate that is valid for three years and will be allowed to place the DAMAN mark on the licensed products. Surveillance audits will be conducted during the period of licensing to check continued compliance, in addition to the market surveillance

B. THE RISK-BASED SYSTEM

11. This system is implemented on imported products based on a risk assessment of the product and is currently implemented only at the Aqaba and Amman customs centres. JISM is working now on developing this system to include other risk factors, such as the exporter and importer. Implementation of such a system will be expanded to include all customs centres.

12. The Ministry of Health, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture share with JISM the responsibility of ensuring the compliance of the locally produced and imported food products with the Jordanian technical regulations and the control of their entry into the local markets.

13. Local municipalities, in addition to the above-mentioned authorities, depending on their scope of work, conduct regular inspections of the local markets. JISM conducts market surveillance on a random basis and on a small scale based on complaints received from consumers. It also conducts inspection on elevators against safety requirements after installation and prior to use.

14. JISM is now working on developing the internal system of the Control Department to be able to fulfil and implement effectively the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies.

II. TESTING

15. The testing laboratories in Jordan are:

- Royal Scientific Society (RSS) laboratories that perform a wide number of tests. 15 of these laboratories are accredited in the scope of electricity, food, chemical analysis, construction, mechanical tests, and water, in addition to limited scope of calibration;
- JISM laboratories for testing food products, chemical products, cosmetics, and precious metals, in addition to a mass calibration laboratory with limited scope;
- Amman Municipality Laboratory for testing of food products;
- The Central Laboratory of the Ministry of Health for testing food products and cosmetics; and

- The National Center for Agriculture Research and Technology Transfer/Ministry of Agriculture Laboratories for testing fertilizers, pesticides and pesticide residues.

16. Other laboratories are working in the private sector; the number of these laboratories is not clearly defined. Some of these have already applied for national accreditation.

17. The above information shows that testing in Jordan is focusing mainly on food products, while testing of other products is very limited. RSS laboratories are the main laboratories in Jordan, out of which 15 laboratories are accredited. Other non-accredited RSS laboratories have good technical infrastructure and competent human resources.

18. Nevertheless, there are areas where no means of testing of locally produced and imported products exist at all, which makes the conformity assessment activities and the task of ensuring the health and safety of the consumers in Jordan weak.

III. CERTIFICATION

19. Certification in Jordan includes a quality management system, an environmental management system, and product certification.

20. Certification bodies working in this field are from both the private and governmental sectors.

21. The certification department in JISM supervises product certification and grants the Jordanian Quality Mark for products according to specified instructions that include technical requirements higher than those stated in the Jordanian Standards and management requirements that comply with the ISO 9001/2000.

22. The certification department implements a quality management system that complies with the requirements of the ISO/IEC Guide 65 and is working on adopting international systems for quality marks. The department intends to seek accreditation and sign mutual recognition agreements so that its results would be accepted internationally. It is also intending to establish a national safety certification system to prohibit the entry of unsafe products to the local markets and thus protect human health and life.

23. Two internationally accredited certification bodies, Lloyd's and SGS, are working in Jordan in the field of quality management system and environmental management system certification. Both are active in this area and have audited and certified a wide number of Jordanian companies against ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 (about 500 companies).

IV. ACCREDITATION

24. The accreditation unit (AU) at JISM is the National Accreditation Body in Jordan. It was established in 2001, based on the Standards and Metrology Law No. 22 of the year 2000, to organize and run the Jordanian Accreditation System (JLAS). AU is the official successor of the Laboratory Accreditation Department (LAD), which was established in 1997.

25. AU accredits testing and calibration laboratories according to the International Standard ISO 17025. The number of laboratories accredited by AU has reached 17 and they are in the process of accrediting more.

26. The accreditation body in Jordan is currently an associate member of ILAC.

27. In order to become a full member of ILAC, IAF and EA, and be able to sign multilateral agreements with the international accreditation organizations to facilitate the acceptance of Jordanian

exports to international markets, and to enhance the acceptance of Jordanian conformity assessment results abroad by accepting testing reports, calibration certificates or certificates of conformity issued by accredited bodies, AU is working on fulfilling and implementing effectively the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17011.

28. A new law for establishing an independent Accreditation Body has been approved by the cabinet recently and is awaiting the approval of the Jordanian Parliament. The new law will allow the new national accreditation body to accredit inspection and certification bodies (personnel, products, management systems) in addition to the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories.

29. It is expected that the new body will start operating by the beginning of 2005.
