

## Nemko News in Brief for October 2021 (Final)

Dear Reader

The calendar shows mid-autumn and here in Norway we have already had freezing temperatures and seen some snow.

Global headlines are only rarely positive, and those in October are now exception, such as:

- Shortage of various vital raw materials and lack of electronic components, and at the same time low shipping capacity, limits the availability of in-demand goods in many countries and causes elevating prices.
- While in many countries, things are slowly proceeding towards a post-Corona 'new normal', other countries/ regions have major Corona challenges, mostly due to low vaccination rates, such as Russia and parts of Southeast Europe, USA and parts of South America.
- Fake news and conspiracy theories are undermining democracy in more countries.
- Leaked records reveal financial secrets and tax frauds of world leaders and rich celebrities.
- Countrywide blacked-out weekend in Lebanon and currently electricity only 1 hour/day due to fuel shortage.
- Cases of horrible violence, including suicide bomber in Afghanistan killing >100 people, insane man in Norway shooting with bow & arrow and stabbing 5 people to death, and a profiled British politician stabbed to death by an extreme Islamist.

The headlines of this October issue Nemko News in Brief are of a rather different character, covering the following topics:

- USA Introducing IoT cybersecurity labelling scheme
- Update on certification of telecom equipment in India
- Saudi Arabia introduces RoHS requirements
- The 85<sup>th</sup> IEC General Meeting conducted as 'hybrid'
- Continuing shortage of electronic components and vital materials
- Coming events

Best regards

[T.Sollie](#)

Editor

P.S. If you know of colleagues or others you think should get this monthly newsletter, please refer to [this link](#) for registration.

### USA Introducing IoT cybersecurity labelling scheme



The *IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act* introduced by the US government in November last year requires federal procurement and use of IoT devices to comply with basic security requirements to be determined by National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)).

At a recent workshop held by the NIST the main theme this time was a proposed labelling program for cyber security of IoT (Internet of Things), based on a Presidential Order from May this year concerning the security of regular consumers. Thereby, the US is joining the countries that either have introduced such labelling schemes or are about to do so.

The industry is worried about new requirements driving the cost of IoTs, which ultimately will be passed on to the consumers. A recent survey demonstrated, however, that consumers are willing to pay up to 40% more, if ensured greater security and privacy.

The workshop got practical input of representatives from Singapore and the UK, who have chosen the standard ETSI/EN 303 645, (which is same used for Nemko's IoT cyber security certification program).

As the main purpose is to increase security of products used by consumers, it is likely to be used a label shown on the actual product or its packaging.

Amongst the matters to be decided is also whether to have a label based on passing a fixed acceptable rating, or as typically used for energy efficiency, a label indicating which of predetermined classes/ratings the product is found to comply with. This is a crucial question, since recognition by the consumers is what really matters.

Another important issue is the form and extent of follow-up to ensure that the cyber security of the labelled products maintain the compliance of the initially tested/assessed product.

For more information, please contact [Geir.Horthe@nemko.com](mailto:Geir.Horthe@nemko.com)

## Update on certification of telecom equipment in India)



Since 2019, every telecom equipment manufactured or imported to be sold in India for connection to the telecommunication network, must undergo prior mandatory testing and certification. The program, denoted [MTCTE](#) (*Mandatory Testing & Certification of Telecom Equipment*), covers from the beginning 55 types of telecom products and associated variants.

The certificates are issued by the governmental *Telecommunications Engineering Center*, [TEC](#) (a part of *Department of Telecommunication*), based on testing at designated testing laboratories in India.

The much-awaited notification of *Phases III & IV* under MTCTE has now been released, which covers both EMC, Product Safety, RF & Performance parts and are denoted [Essential Requirements \(ER\)](#).

The *Phase III* shall not be enforced before 1 July next year, but applications are already accepted from 11 October this year.

Products covered under *Phase III* includes, amongst other, Equipment for cellular networks and Equipment operating in the 2.4 GHz & 5GHz bands, CCTV cameras, Smart watches, Smart electricity meters, Tracking devices, IoT gateway and End point devices for environmental monitoring.

*Phase IV* covers a total of 36 various types of telecom/radio products. For EMI/EMC and electrical safety, certification is mandatory already from 1 February next year while applications are also in this case accepted from 11 October this year.

For the other ER parameters, certification will be mandatory from 1 July next year with applications accepted from 1 January.

TEC has at the same time announced that test reports from ILAC accredited labs (anywhere) are for *Phase I* and *Phase II* extended to 30 November this year, and for *Phase III* extended to 30 June next year.

For further information or assistance with testing for Indian certification, please contact [Sanjay.Khemnar@nemko.com](mailto:Sanjay.Khemnar@nemko.com) or [Harsh.Rastogi@nemko.com](mailto:Harsh.Rastogi@nemko.com)

## Saudi Arabia introduces RoHS requirements (Based on [blog](#) by Lars Hjerpseth)



Saudi Arabia is introducing a regulation on Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) which shall be in force from 5 January 2022.

This was decided after the Saudi authorities having discovered several products on the market containing substances that represent danger to the safety of both consumers and the environment.

The regulation was published in July this year by SASO (*Saudi Arabia Standards, Metrology & Quality Organization*) and concerns the following six chemical substances: Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent chromium, Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs), and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs).

Relevant products must be tested/assessed to ensure that any content of the restricted substances do not exceed defined limits. The concerned substances as well the limits are in line with the European RoHS Directive, (while this Directive has since 2015 also restricted four additional substances, the phthalates DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP).

The Saudi RoHS regulation will apply to Household appliances, IT&C equipment, Lighting equipment, Electrical & electronic tools, Monitoring & control equipment and Leisure, recreational & sporting equipment. Exceptions include Medical devices, Military equipment, Large-scale industrial stationary machinery, Large-scale fixed installations and Aerospace equipment.

An important difference from the European RoHS Directive is that self-declaration will not be sufficient. The manufacturer or importer must arrange for necessary testing/assessment and certification of the products by a designated Notified Body, such as Nemko.

RoHS compliance will be a part of the Saudi SABER system for registration of certified products, whereby annual renewal is required.

For further information or assistance with certification for Saudi Arabia (as well as for other countries worldwide), please contact [Lars.Hjerpseth@nemko.com](mailto:Lars.Hjerpseth@nemko.com)

## The 85<sup>th</sup> IEC General Meeting conducted as 'hybrid'



This year's [IEC](#) General Meeting took place in Dubai 2-7 October, hosted by the *Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology* (MoIAT), which is the United Arab Emirates' National Committee of the IEC.

Due to travelling limitations caused by the Corona pandemic, the meetings and associated events were made hybrid, i.e. with some people attending at site, while the majority were attending remotely online.

The participants represented industry and relevant bodies in the 88 IEC Member countries and the 84 IEC Affiliate countries (essentially developing countries).

In 2020 this annual event was exclusively online from the IEC Central Office in Geneva.

In 2019 it was taking place physically in Shanghai, and was biggest such event ever, with nearly 4000 people attending, including members of many Technical Committees (TCs).

Like in 2020, there were this year no TC meetings, so the agenda was mainly limited to the regular managerial meetings of:

-Standardization Management Board (SMB), -Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), -Council Board and -Council.

At the CAB meeting, status reports were given on regional certification in the Arabic Gulf region (G-marking scheme) and in the EurAsian region (EAC-marking scheme), respectively.

Some additional meetings took place, including: -Affiliate countries' Forum (AF), -Workshop for Industrializing Countries (WIC), -Young Professionals workshops.

The top level IEC Council meeting (general assembly) was online only and attended by about 180 people around the world, which is certainly amazing not least because of the local time differences.

More information is available at <https://gm2021.iec.ch/>

The editor of this newsletter participated in several of the meetings as member of the CAB and also in the role as IEC Ambassador for training of developing countries in the IEC Conformity assessment systems, primarily the IECEE/CB scheme.

Since attending online, it was unfortunately little opportunity also this time for bi-lateral discussions and consultations with managers of standards organizations and product approval bodies in various countries worldwide.

For further information, please contact the [editor](#)

## Continuing shortage of electronic components and vital materials



Soon after the Corona infection was discovered in Asia and started spreading, the shortage of electronic components, such as semi-conductors and PCBs, became an issue for manufacturers of electronic end-products. It firstly hit the automotive industry which nowadays highly depends on such components and also on special metals, such as lithium for batteries in electrical vehicles. The shortage was mostly due to break down of regular supply chains and logistics, and the result of this was significantly delayed

production of electronics and even shutdown of plants.

F.ex. in Norway, where presently 75% of imported new cars sold are fully electrical or hybrid, there are now waiting lists of 12 months for delivery of many new cars.

The situation has increasingly also affected consumer electronics, especially devices such as PCs, equipment for home entertainment and mobile phones, and in addition threatens sectors such as security systems and infrastructure.

Other than the pandemic's negative effects on supply chains and production, the various needs for spending much more time at home to avoid contact with others have significantly increased the demand for such equipment and systems.

Although being basically a positive effect for the industry, the pressure of high demand, increased cost of vital components and materials combined with slow delivery are hurting the financial results.

However, as the high demand for consumer electronics may be flattening out, electronics companies are apparently readjusting their manufacturing capacity allocation from consumer electronics to automotive.

While this may cause better balance between supply and demand, according to experts, it is not expected to help much soon and may take more than a year from now to recover.

## Coming events

### **IEC Academy courses and webinars**

Information may be seen [here](#).

### **GSO courses in the Arabic Gulf Region**

Information about themes, places and times may be seen [here](#)

### **Receive invitations to Nemko webinars on current compliance matters**

The webinars will be conducted in English, and one will be able to access the recordings afterwards, for own use and sharing with others.

Please [register here](#).

