Uniting Efforts for a Safer, More Sustainable and Resilient Future

Building Stronger Connections Between Quality Infrastructure and Regulation

6 December 2024

BIPM Headquarters, Sèvres, France

Pavillon du Mail meeting room

Draft Agenda

Regulations and standards have a complex system behind them. The regulatory system and the quality infrastructure (QI) for standards, measurement, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance are made up of institutions, rules, and processes that ensure that regulations and standards are reliable and deliver intended outcomes. While these systems take place in the public and private spheres respectively, they are closely interlinked.

This collaborative event, hosted by the BIPM and the OECD at BIPM's Headquarters, explores opportunities to strengthen the links between regulatory systems and QI in areas such as measurement, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance.

This event will provide an opportunity to:

- **Explore key findings** from a new OECD report, which outlines essential QI components, examines its current interactions with the broader regulatory landscape, and highlights both benefits and challenges.
- **Analyse case studies** demonstrating the role of QI and regulation in tackling issues like climate change and managing invasive digital technologies.
- **Discuss a priority checklist** designed to strengthen the connection between QI and regulatory systems, enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, and accountability of the combined "regulatory and quality system.

Why this conversation matters:

People and businesses make countless decisions each day, often without realizing the underlying risks. Whether riding public transport, buying groceries, or renting an apartment, they rely on products and services that can pose hidden dangers. A bus may have safety faults, groceries might carry foodborne risks, or an apartment lease could conceal structural issues. The larger community is also affected—pollution from a bus or unethical labour in the food supply chain can harm the environment and society.

Thankfully, a complex system of regulations and standards, often taken for granted, helps shield us from these risks. This system, led by governments, works to protect citizens' health and safety, ensuring that products and services are safe, of acceptable quality, and not harmful. Governments achieve this by setting regulations and standards, creating processes to monitor compliance, and addressing market failures to maintain public trust.

Public and private actors work alongside governments to establish these standards, assess conformity, and adhere to both mandatory and voluntary guidelines. This event will explore the findings of a recent report and present three sector-specific examples to illustrate the diverse regulatory and quality system landscape. It will highlight opportunities to enhance governance, benefiting public health, environmental safety and overall quality assurance.

Agenda: Interrelations Between QI and Regulation
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	From 9:00 – Coffee
9:30 – 9:40	<u>**Welcoming remarks**</u>: Dr. Martin MILTON, Director of the BIPM Ms. Anna PIETIKAINEN, Head of Regulatory Policy Division, OECD
9:40-11:00	**Session 1: Practical Checklist for Better Regulatory Outcomes** The building blocks for an effective, holistic and integrated approach to QI and regulation The OECD report developed with the support of PTB, BIPM and BSI concludes with a Practical Toolkit, to work towards a better "quality system" to protect citizens, health and environment. It presents five building blocks for an effective, holistic and integrated approach to QI and regulation. This session will give an overview of the OECD toolkit submitting for discussion among experts present the key elements of this toolkit, to enrich the proposed draft and finalise the report.
11:00 - 11:30	*Coffee break*
11:30 - 13:00	**Session 2: Moving from setting climate targets to meeting them** The role of QI, regulation, and their stakeholders in scaling globally-aligned and locally-relevant climate policy This session will discuss the current climate governance landscape, the action taken by NGOs and businesses, and the increasing ambition of governments to deliver against their climate goals, and how this scaling of climate action can be underpinned by international cooperation and consensus. The session will consider the core pillars of QI – standards, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology and market surveillance, their current interactions with business, civil society, and policymakers, to enable trust in the market, and interoperability across global supply chains. It will then dive into the climate action and policy landscape to discuss the challenges to scaling climate policy, and ensuring compliance, and the role that QI and regulatory actors, and their stakeholders might play to help business and civil society to transform towards a green economy.
13:00-14:30	*Lunch break*
14:30-16:00	**Session 3: QI in support of Regulation to Harness Innovation and Manage Risks Presented by AI** AI is an increasingly prominent tool across countries and sectors, as it brings many opportunities for innovation. Nevertheless, AI poses many challenges and risks regarding regulation. This session will use the case of AI to show how QI services can work alongside regulation for improved governance mechanisms and innovation promotion. It will discuss the various ways in which regulation and QI services are used for governing AI and raise issues for regulators across the globe in addressing the fast-evolving policy challenges posed by AI as well as the benefits that co-ordination between the two systems may have to achieve better results.

16:00-16:30	*Coffee Break*
16:30-18:00	**Session 4: Chemicals – Coordinating Between Regulators and QI bodies to Protect Human Health Against Toxic Chemicals** This session will discuss the interrelations of QI services and Regulation in managing toxic chemicals. While chemicals provide many benefits to humanity, such as the development of pharmaceuticals, food preservation and safety, the creation of cosmetics and clothing, an unsafe use of them can be harmful to people's health and the environment. As such, industry has a responsibility to produce and use chemicals safely and governments have a responsibility to verify this through their regulatory frameworks. This requires government collaboration, effective testing and certification mechanisms, and market surveillance. This session will address how QI services can provide the necessary tools to complement and ease government's regulation of toxic chemicals.
18:00-18:10	**Concluding remarks** **BIPM, OECD**
18:00-19:30	*Cocktail Reception*