



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
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TBT Workshop – Geneva, 21 March 2005

Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)

Ludivine Tamiotti, WTO, Trade and Environment Division

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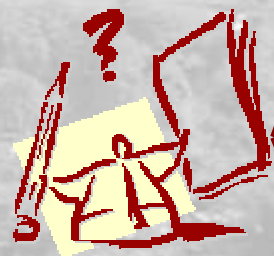


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A Conformity Assessment Procedure

Procedure by which a supplier provides written assurance that a product conforms to specified requirements

A supplier is the party that supplies the product and may be a manufacturer, distributor, importer, assembler, etc.





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SDoC in the TBT Context

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**Elements for Consideration in
the Use of SDoC**

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Existing SDoC Practice

4

Other Matters



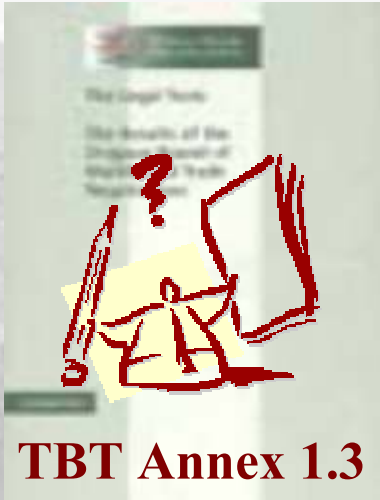
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SDoC in the TBT Context



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SDoC and the TBT Agreement



TBT Annex 1.3

Definition of a Conformity Assessment Procedure

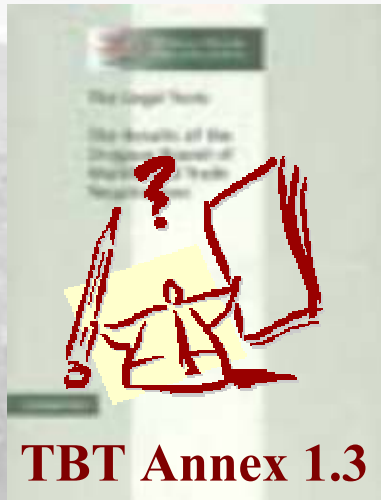
Any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled

...SDoC is not specifically mentioned



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SDoC and the TBT Agreement



TBT Annex 1.3

Definition of a Conformity Assessment Procedure

Sampling, testing and inspection

Evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity

Registration, accreditation and approval



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SDoC and the TBT Agreement

*The definition of the ISO/IEC
Guide 2: 1991*



Supplier's declaration:
Procedure by which a supplier gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements.



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*First Triennial
Review (1997)*

**SDoC is a cost saving approach to
conformity assessment**

*Discussions on SDoC
in the T*

*Second Triennial
Review (2000)*

**Indicative list of approaches to
facilitate the acceptance of
conformity assessment results**

**SDoC, when used in appropriate
circumstances and for certain
sectors, can be a less onerous
approach for conformity assessment**



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Discussions on SDoC

*Third Triennial
Review (2000)*

SDoC facilitates trade

**Suggests ways to improve its
usability and acceptance**

**Exchange information and
experiences and hold a workshop on
SDoC**



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*Elements for consideration
in the use of SDoC*



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Product Coverage

Liability Regime

Market Surveillance

International Standards

**Combination of SDoC with other
Conformity Assessment Procedures**



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Product Coverage

Mostly used for products and sectors which involve a low or medium risk to health, safety and the environment

The following elements may be considered in combination with the nature of the risks involved:

Particular characteristics of a given sector

Level of commercial confidence

Economic and social factors



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Product Coverage

Motor vehicles

Personal computers

Medical devices

Disposable lighters

Electronics

Electrical products

Telecommunications

Toys



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Liability Regime

It is the supplier rather than the regulatory authority who is responsible that products comply with relevant technical regulations

Incentive to suppliers to only put safe products on the market in order to avoid liability costs



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Market Surveillance

It consists of verifying in the market the actual conformity of products with existing regulations

in the use of SDoC

It may be done by means of products samples, remedial actions, penalties for false or misleading declarations, “spot checks”, customs inspections etc.



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International Standards

The use of relevant international standards could provide transparency to the SDoC process, and support the value and usability of SDoC

ISO/IEC 17050 on “Conformity assessment – Supplier's declaration of conformity”



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Combination of SDoC with other Conformity Assessment Procedures

Element of facilitation

Use of test/inspection reports or certification results from third parties or in-house laboratories, accredited on the basis of relevant international standards could facilitate reliance on SDoC



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SDoC Practice



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1. The Preparation of a Technical File

2. The Preparation of the Declaration

3. The Use of a Mark

4. The Involvement of a Third Party

5. The Follow-Up of the Declaration



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Other Matters



Flexible approach that can reduce the costs of conformity assessment

Economic Benefits for the Administration

Reduce administrative costs for regulators

Economic Benefits for the Supplier

Cut down expenses and improve competitiveness

Provide flexibility in the choice of location to have a product tested

General Benefits

Help promote product innovation and improvements

Benefits of SPS/C



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*Lack of technical infrastructure,
products liability regimes and capacity to
establish an effective market
surveillance system*

Concerns

*Needs in the area of technical assistance
and capacity building in order to
establish a market surveillance system
and train regulator staff*



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