

TESTING TIME FOR APEC ECONOMIES:

**A Guide for
Conformity Assessment Bodies
to the
APEC TEL
Mutual Recognition
Arrangement**



**APEC Telecommunications &
Information Working Group**

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Testing Time for APEC Economies:

A Guide for Conformity Assessment Bodies to the APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group's Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (APEC TEL MRA).

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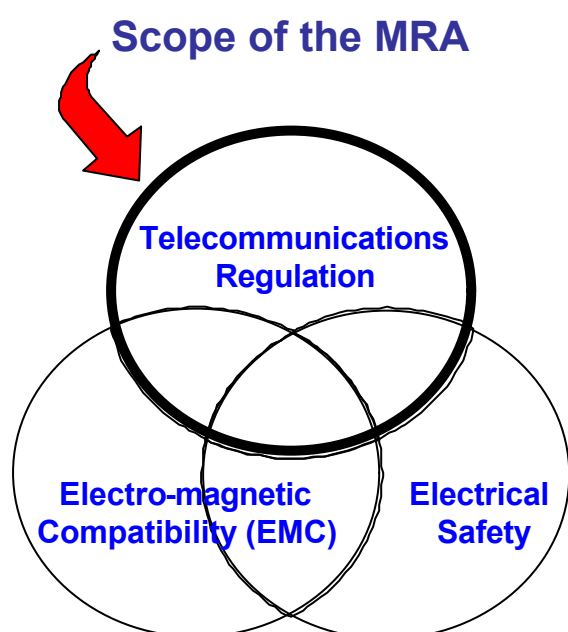
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1. What is the MRA?

In June 1998, the APEC¹ Telecommunications and Information Ministers agreed to update APEC-wide processes for the testing and type-approval of telecommunications equipment.

This landmark arrangement, the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment ([APEC TEL MRA](#)²), was the first multilateral agreement of its type in the world. It will remove a significant barrier to what is projected to be a US\$60 billion industry by 2010.



Its scope includes all equipment subject to telecommunication regulations, including wireline and wireless, terrestrial and satellite equipment. For such equipment, the APEC TEL MRA covers electromagnetic compatibility (**EMC**) and electrical safety aspects as well as purely telecommunications aspects of the conformity assessment requirements.³

This Arrangement is intended to streamline the Conformity Assessment Procedures for a wide range of telecommunications and telecommunications-related equipment and to facilitate trade among the APEC member economies⁴.

It provides for the mutual recognition, by an importing economy, of Conformity Assessment Bodies (**CABs**) and mutual acceptance of the results of testing and equipment certification procedures undertaken by those bodies in assessing conformity of equipment to the importing economy's own Technical Regulations.

¹ **APEC - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.** Since its formation in 1989, APEC has expanded to become the primary vehicle for promoting trade liberalization and economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region. APEC is committed to "open regionalism", striving for regional trade and investment liberalization as a building block to strengthen the multilateral trading system and expand the global economy.

² A copy is available at <http://www.apectel.org> or <http://mrams.com>.

³ Equipment, which is intended to be connected behind devices providing adequate network protection for a Public Telecommunications Network, will be excluded by the Parties from the scope of equipment certification as it applies to network terminal attachment.

⁴ The members are called **economies** in APEC. They include 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, Republic of the Philippines, Peru, Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam.

2. What are the opportunities to grow my business?

The opportunities to grow your business comes with the ability to assist manufacturers of telecommunications equipment in your economy perform testing to an importing economies requirements.

You can become involved by:

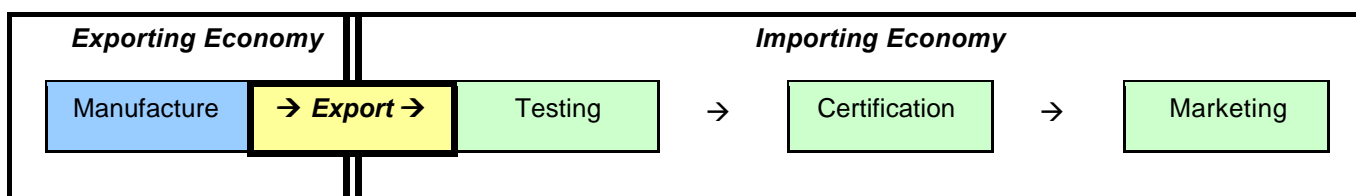
- ❑ Applying for accreditation to test or approve products to an importing economy's requirements;
- ❑ Informing potential customers by listing your services via the APEC endorsed internet site – the MRA Management System - at no cost to your organisation;
- ❑ Becoming a recognised expert in the requirements for other economy's standards and regulations and marketing these services to research and development groups;
- ❑ Providing a better return on investment on the test equipment that you already own by using it to perform additional tests against other economy's standards where appropriate; and
- ❑ Having access to an economy's available information on the regulations, technical standards, legislation and interpretations via the Internet.

In many cases, the test equipment that you already own can be used to provide these additional tests and providing you a better return on your investment in this equipment.

3. How does the MRA work?

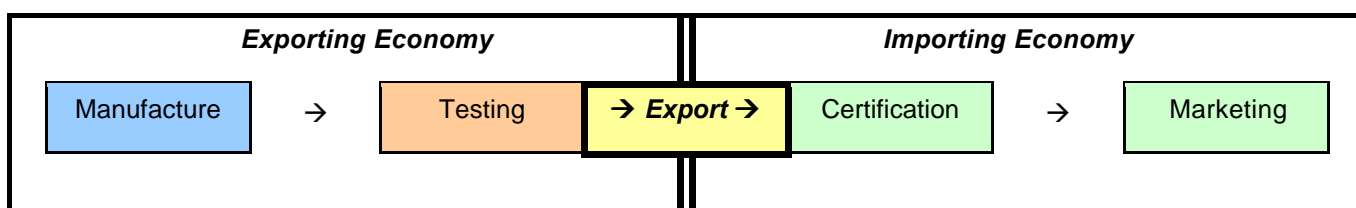
Current patterns

Most regulatory transactions involve testing and certification of equipment in the importing economy.



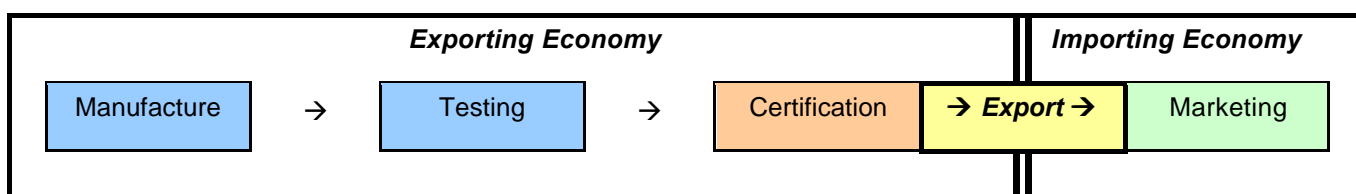
Phase One of the MRA

Phase One of the APEC TEL MRA provides for the mutual recognition of test results, which allows **technical testing** to be done in the exporting economy and having it recognized in the importing economy.



Phase Two of the MRA

Phase Two provides for the mutual recognition of certification, allowing **certification** to be undertaken in the exporting economy and having it recognized in the importing economy.

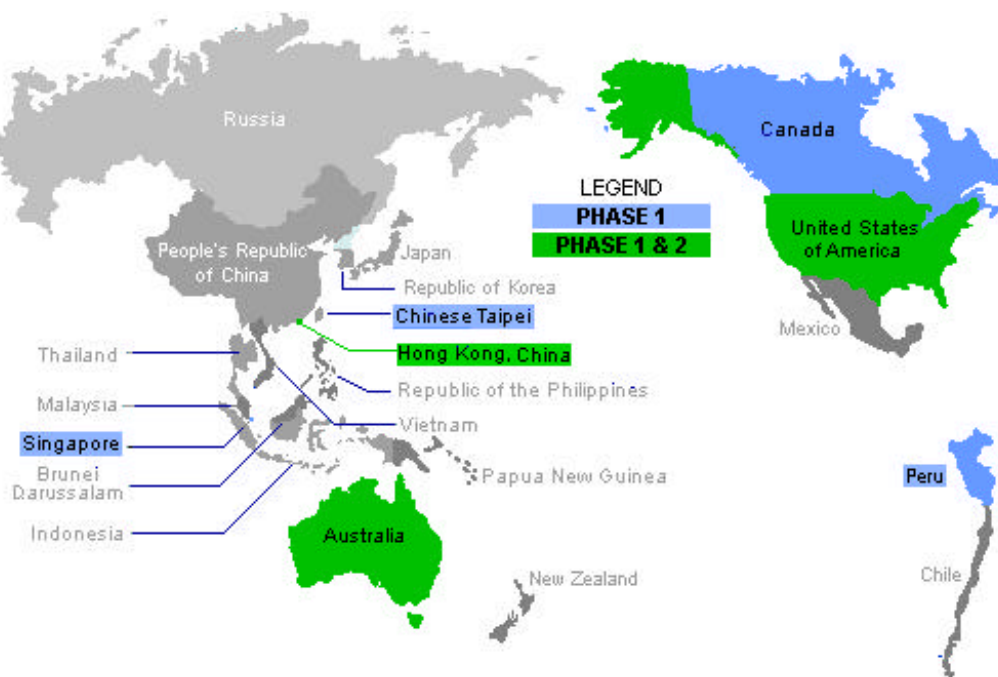


Confidence building is promoted by the development, within each economy, of rigorous systems of accreditation for Conformity Assessment Bodies, using guides such as ISO/IEC guides or recommendations issued by international bodies.

4. Where does it work?

Participating Economies as at July 2001¹

The APEC Leaders declared² that APEC economies would develop and begin to implement, on an elective basis, a model mutual recognition arrangement on conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment. The economies listed below are currently participating in Phase One or Phase Two of the APEC TEL MRA.



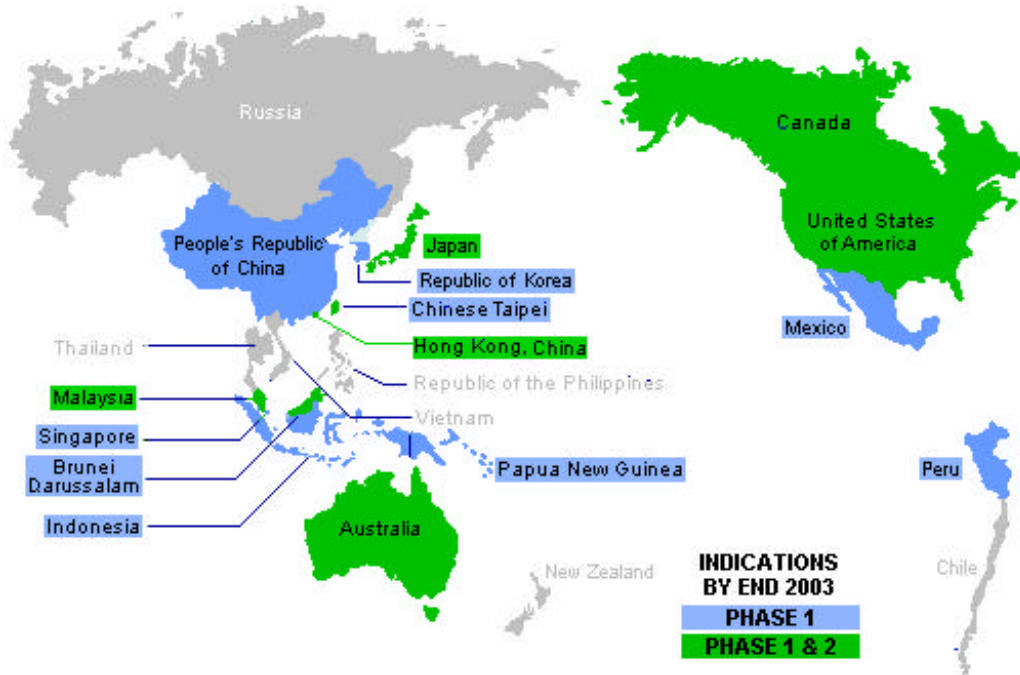
Phase One The mutual recognition of test reports:	Phase Two Recognition of certification of telecommunications products:
Australia Canada Hong Kong, China Peru Singapore Chinese Taipei United States	Australia ³ Hong Kong, China United States

¹ The responsibility for setting the standards for attachment to the telecommunications networks in New Zealand rests with network operators, not the Government – except in as far as electrical safety and electromagnetic compatibility are concerned. Recognizing its potential to contribute towards removal of Non-Tariff Measures in the APEC region, New Zealand endorsed the MRA.

² Osaka Action Agenda in November 1995. <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/virtualib/history/osaka/agenda.html>

³ A Suppliers' Declaration of Conformity is accepted now. Australia does not require certification.

Projected Participating Economies by end 2003 ¹



<p style="text-align: center;">Phase One The mutual recognition of test reports:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Phase Two Recognition of certification of telecommunications products:</p>
<p>Australia Brunei Darussalam China² Hong Kong, China Indonesia Japan Korea Malaysia Mexico Papua New Guinea Peru Singapore Chinese Taipei United States</p>	<p>Australia³ Brunei Darussalam Canada Hong Kong, China Japan Malaysia Chinese Taipei United States</p>

¹ As per the “Annex to the Telecommunications Ministerial Declaration Indicative Schedule for Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization in the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment for Telecommunications Equipment” and information supplied to the APEC TEL MRA Task Force

² Terminal Equipment Only

³ A Suppliers’ Declaration of Conformity is accepted now. Australia does not require certification.

5. Where do I get information on the MRA?

Implementation of the MRA will generate a large amount of data and information, which will be very important to manufacturers, regulators, service providers, conformity assessment bodies and users.

This vital information includes:

- All available information on regulations, standards, legislation and interpretations relating to Telecommunications for the APEC economies.
- Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited and designated by exporting parties and recognized by importing parties; and
- Management and manipulation of the enormous amount of regulatory data associated with the MRA.

This information will soon be available on the internet from the MRA Management System at mrams.com.

If you do not have access to an internet connection, contact the regulator or point of contact listed at the end of this document to find out where you can obtain the information you need.

6. What is MRAMS

MRAMS – the MRA Management System ¹ - is the official, APEC endorsed, internet-based, communications tool for managing the APEC TEL MRA.



It can be accessed on the internet at mrams.com .

MRAMS is recognised as a key tool required for the rapid and orderly implementation of the MRA and is the first system of its kind employed to manage a multilateral arrangement of this type.

MRAMS contains copies of the documents, links to where they may be obtained or how they may be purchased noted above. It provides management and manipulation of the enormous amount of regulatory data associated with the MRA.

MRAMS provides a system to store the information outlined above and much more. It acts as a data warehouse or pointer site for information and also provides real time updates, threaded discussion systems to aid in communications between member economies and users and multiple searching capabilities. ²

MRAMS is a neutrally-hosted, not-for-profit, system that relies on sponsorship to fund its ongoing development and deployment. If you are an organisation that supports a reduction in non-tariff barriers to trade and are interested in supporting the APEC TEL in its work, please review the section “What Can I Do To Help” in this document.

If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please send an email to the developer of this system, The Colony Park Group; mail@colonypark.com.

¹ MRAMS is a neutrally hosted, not-for-profit, system developed and deployed by [The Colony Park Group](http://www.colonypark.com) (www.colonypark.com) and supplied under contract to the APEC Secretariat.

² MRAMS is purely the ‘transportation’ method for the data, each economy and User is responsible for, and owns, the data that they have provided on this site.

7. How do I register for MRAMS?

Register as a user of MRAMS

You may register online by going to mrams.com and selecting [Register Now](#), which takes you to the online registration form.

Select the economy or country where you are located.

In the “Group to add the user to:” selection box, select the most appropriate group to join. In this case, it will most probably be:

[NON-Accredited Testing House or Conformity Assessment Body](#)

When you are accredited, your status will be changed to [MRA Accredited Conformity Assessment Body](#) or [MRA Accredited Designated Certification Body](#) as is appropriate to your accreditation

Before you complete the form, make sure to make a note of your password.

You will then be able to create a [Certificate Holder Parent](#) profile detailing your organization and its contact details.

You will then be able to complete the [Application for Registration as a Conformity Assessment Body](#) with a profile detailing your organization, its current certifications and its contact details.

Information on how to use MRA Management System is available from the MRAMS website.

8. Some frequently asked questions.

Note: Points relating to sections in the MRA are indicated by [Square Brackets].

1) How do these changes affect standards?

The APEC TEL MRA is not intended to displace private sector arrangements among Conformity Assessment Bodies, or to displace regulatory regimes allowing for manufacturers' self-assessments and declarations of conformity. It is an expression of intent by the participating economies to work together, in their mutual interests, to accept test reports and/or equipment certifications. It is not an arrangement to harmonize standards.

2) How do I keep up to date with changes in requirements for economies?

The MRA requires the variations to information supplied under section 4.1 to be notified to the APEC Tel MRA Chair and to all Economies Party to the Arrangement within 60 days.

These notifications will be done via MRAMS. The variations to be notified are:

- ❑ Variations to the notified Technical Regulations. [10.1]
- ❑ New technical regulations within the scope of the MRA. [10.3]

Any changes to lists of:

- ❑ Designating Authorities [10.4]
- ❑ Accreditation bodies [10.4]
- ❑ Designated Conformity Assessment Bodies [10.4]
- ❑ Recognised Mutual Recognition Arrangements among accreditation bodies [10.4]
- ❑ Recognised Conformity Assessment Bodies [10.4]

3) Do I need accreditation for each Economy?

Yes. You will need to apply for accreditation against the requirements for testing to each economy's regulatory requirements that you wish to test to.

4) I'm already accredited to test in a number of countries. Do I have to do more accreditations?

No. If you hold current accreditation, register them on MRAMS and the importing economy's body handling accreditation will confirm them.

5) Do I have any say in the development of the standards and regulations I have to work with?

A Party must ensure that arrangements are established within its Economy:

- ❑ To consult as necessary to ensure the maintenance of confidence in Conformity Assessment Procedures and to ensure that all Technical Regulations are identified and are satisfactorily addressed. [10.2]
- ❑ To provide any interested person, including manufacturers within other Parties, an opportunity to comment, unless expressly prohibited under a Party's law, on the relevant part of the new or amended Technical Regulations in advance of their adoption. [10.3]

6) What is the relationship between governments and Conformity Assessment Bodies of participating Economies?

A member economy's government shall ensure that the Conformity Assessment Bodies within its jurisdiction:

- ❑ Publish and maintain a list of all equipment certifications. [6.5]
- ❑ Identify equipment certified by it on request from a Party. [6.5]
- ❑ Ensure that their designated Conformity Assessment Bodies maintain the necessary technical competence to undertake the Conformity Assessment Procedures for which they have been designated. [5.2]
- ❑ Ensure the CABs designated under their authority are available for verification of competence and compliance with Appendix A of the APEC TEL MRA in the event of a contest of their competence being made by another Party. [8.4]

7) Where can I get a copy of the APEC TEL MRA?

A copy of the [APEC TEL MRA](#) can be obtained from:

The APEC Telecommunications & Information Working Group website:

<http://www.apectel.org>; or

The MRA Management System site: <http://mrams.com>

9. MRA Contacts

1) The MRA Management System - mrams.com

2) The member economy:

Economy	Contact	Website	Telephone	Fax
Australia	Australian Communications Authority	www.aca.gov.au	+61 2 6256 1111	+61 2 6256 5200
Brunei Darussalam	Ministry of Communications	www.mincom.gov.bn	+673 2 38 2838	+673 2 38 0389
Canada	Industry Canada	www.info.ic.gc.ca	+1 613 990 4225	+1 613 952 1231
Chile	Telecommunications Sub-secretariat (SUBTEL)	www.subtle.cl	+56 2 672 6503	+56 2 679 5138
China	Ministry of Information Industry (MII)	www.mii.gov.cn	+86 10 6602 1330	+86 10 6601 1370
Hong Kong, China	Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA)	www.ofta.gov.hk	+852 2961 6333	+852 2803 5110
Indonesia	Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunications (DGPT)	www.postel.go.id	+62 21 383 8501	+62 21 386 0754
Japan	Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications	www.soumu.go.jp/English/Index.htm	+81 3 3504 4792	+81 3 3504 0884
Korea	Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC)	www.mic.go.kr	+82 2 750 2002	+82 2 750 2009
Malaysia	Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)	www.cmc.gov.my	+60 3 294 2121	+60 3 4042 3337
Mexico	Comision Federal de Telecomunicaciones (COFETEL)	www.cft.gob.mx	+52 5261 4203	+52 5261 4055
New Zealand	Commerce Commission	www.comcom.govt.nz	+64 4 471 0180	+64 4 471 0771
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea Telecommunications Authority (PANGTEL)	www.pangtel.gov.pg	+675 325 8633	+675 300 4829
Peru	Organismo Supervisor De Inversion Privada En TeleComunicaciones (OSPITEL)	www.ospitel.gob.pe	+51 1 215 1313	+51 1 475 1816
Philippines	National Telecommunications Commission	www.ntc.gov.ph	+63 2 924 4048	+63 2 921 7128
Russian Federation	Ministry of Communications	---	---	---
Singapore	Infocomm Development Authority (IDA)	www.ida.gov.sg	+65 211 0888	+65 211 2222
Chinese Taipei	Directorate General of Telecommunications (DGT)	www.dgt.gov.tw	+886 2 2343 3969	+886 2 2371 3984
Thailand	Post and Telegraph Department	www.ptd.go.th	+66 2 272 6888	+66 2 271 3512
United States	Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	www.fcc.gov	+1 202 418 0200	+1 202 418 0232
Vietnam	Department General of Posts and Telecommunications	---	+84 4 822 9267	+84 4 822 6590

10. What can I do to help?

The MRA Management System is provided to the telecommunications community free of charge at this time. The APEC TEL is looking for sponsors to support its deployment. Please go to the MRAMS website and review the sponsorship opportunities document available there and give it your serious consideration. Your assistance is vital.

A letter from the Chair of the APEC TEL



ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION Telecommunications and Information Working Group


To whom it may concern

APEC Telecommunications and Information Ministers have endorsed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to streamline APEC-wide procedures for testing and type approval of telecommunications equipment.

Ministerial endorsement and regulatory changes are now being followed up with outreach to industry, especially manufacturers and test houses, to alert them to the opportunities for cost savings and a simplified path through technical regulatory requirements in participating economies. The MRA Management System is an 'information age' tool for providing online information and assistance to experts, test houses and regulators, helping them to apply the MRA, find relevant standards, regulations and technical rulings by regulators, and initiate action to support mutual recognition of test results and (in future) certification. The Colony Park Group has been commissioned by APEC to operate and maintain the MRA Management System on a non-profit basis with industry sponsorship.

Guides now available will assist industry and test houses to better understand and use the MRA to reduce their costs and time to market.

APEC's Telecommunications and Information Working Group welcomed industry involvement and support in developing this world-first multilateral MRA for telecommunications equipment. That support continues to be needed as APEC members implement the arrangement. Your sponsorship and support for the information and management system will help to ensure that the benefits of the MRA are fully achieved.



Richard Thwaites
Chair, APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group

Richard Thwaites, Chair
APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group
Office of the APEC TEL Chair
GPO Box 8771
CANBERRA ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

11. Glossary

Term	Definition
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
Accreditation	The official endorsement by a designating authority or an accreditation body of a CAB as having met the standards required to perform tests against a standard or set of standards.
Administrative Arrangements	Any publicly available procedures or legal or contractual arrangements within a Party's jurisdiction which impact on the Conformity Assessment Procedures for the telecommunications equipment within the scope of this Arrangement, as described in paragraph 4 of this Arrangement.
APEC TEL	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Telecommunications and Information Working Group
APEC TEL MRA	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Telecommunications and Information Working Group's Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
Certification	The official endorsement by a CAB of a product as having met the standards required.
Certification Body	A Conformity Assessment Body that has been designated and accredited to approve products against an importing economies technical regulations and requirements.
Conformity Assessment Body	A body, which may include a third party or a supplier's testing laboratory, or a certification body, that performs conformity assessment, or testing, to an importing Party's Technical Regulations.
DCB	A designated Certification Body.
DESIGNATING AUTHORITIES	Typically, the Regulator (see below) who has the authority and competence to designate, list, verify the compliance of, limit the Designation of, and withdraw the Designation of Conformity Assessment Bodies within their jurisdictions. They should have the authority and competence to recognize Conformity Assessment Bodies outside their jurisdictions.
Economies	APEC members are called economies in APEC. They include 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, Republic of the Philippines, Peru, Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam.
EMC	Electromagnetic compatibility
Exporting economy	The economy from which goods have been exported by a manufacturer or supplier.

Term	Definition
Importing economy	The economy accepting goods that have been exported by a manufacturer or supplier.
MRAMS	The MRA Management System - mrams.com – is the official, APEC endorsed, internet-based, communications tool for managing the APEC TEL MRA.
Party	An APEC member economy that chooses to join this Arrangement.
Phase 1	The mutual recognition of testing laboratories as Conformity Assessment Bodies and mutual acceptance of test reports relating to the conformity of equipment with the Parties' respective Technical Regulations.
Phase 2	The mutual recognition of certification bodies as Conformity Assessment Bodies and mutual acceptance of equipment certifications relating to the conformity of equipment with the Parties' respective Technical Regulations.
Regulator	Typically, a government body charged with the specific duty to govern the standards and regulations as they apply, in this case, to telecommunications equipment.
Suppliers' Declaration of Conformity	A declaration in writing made by a manufacturer or supplier of a product, that it meets the technical regulations and requirements of an economy's regulator.
Technical Regulations	Those technical requirements, legislative and regulatory provisions, and Administrative Arrangements that a Party has specified under Annex I of the Phase I or Phase II Procedures pertaining to the registration, testing or certification of equipment with respect to which compliance is mandatory.