

RF/EMC Regulatory Update

International Issue

Dear Colleague,

We have provided typical questions and answers that represent in most cases technical opinions with justification in international regulatory requirements. The particulars of the product for certification must be considered with respect to the applicability of these questions and answers. We hope you find our update valuable and welcome your feedback if you have any special needs or questions. Call us at 703-689-0368 for your product testing & certification requirements. You can view archived issues of MultiPoint at our [web site](#).

NOTE: We hope you enjoy reading our second monthly MultiPoint newsletter publication featuring Q/A on international regulatory requirements and developments.

Saudi Arabia - SASO Mark

QUESTION: One of our customers has asked if our product has the SASO mark. I have no idea what this is. Can you provide some insight?

ANSWER: The SASO mark is a mandatory Saudi Arabian quality mark. It is approved by the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO) to indicate conformity of the product to the relevant Saudi standard. The SASO was established on 3/3/1992 pursuant to Royal Decree No. M/10. Under this decree, the SASO and the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) have implemented the International Conformity Certification Program (ICCP), a mandatory product testing and certification scheme for a wide range of products imported into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Under the ICCP, products are required to meet essential requirements relating to safety, national security and the Islamic religion, as indicated in Saudi standards. The products covered include: toys, automotive, chemicals, electrical and electronics. If no applicable Saudi standard exists, an acceptable international standard may have been approved by the SASO, as most of the SASO standards are based upon the safety testing of IEC standards. In many cases, the SASO has its own national differences because of climatic/geographical conditions.

Russia: GOST-R Certificate with Multiple Models

QUESTION: Our company hopes to sell several models of our product in Russia. Can you tell me if multiple models are allowed on one GOST-R Certificate?

ANSWER: The Russian GOST-R Certificate should reflect only the models that are listed in the CB Certificate. This is a rule of recognition of foreign CB certificates under the IEC CB scheme. If a company has a CB Certificate for a base model only, and there are many similar models which are not listed on the CB Certificate, a Declaration of Identity from the manufacturer can be created and include all the similar models. The required documents are:

- CB test report
- CB certificate
- EMC test report
- ISO9000 certificate if available
- User Manual

Brazil: Approval for Cables

QUESTION: My client is a large conglomerate that not only produces electronics for import but also produces cables to work with these electronic devices. They've already successfully received type approval from Brazil for the electronic devices. Do the cables need approval?

ANSWER: Yes, cables require type approval just like any other product, and like most other products, you will be faced with a litany of questions. Be prepared to provide details for each cable such as the cable type (i.e. Ethernet vs. coaxial), length, connector types, rigidity/flexibility, intended use, and if flame retardant, which class. These issues and more are all considered in the type approval process for cables.

The test requirement is a local resolution based on international guidelines listed below:

- IEC 61034-1:1997 - Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions - Part 1: Test apparatus
- IEC 61034-1:1997 - Measurement of smoke density of cables burning under defined conditions - Part 2: Test procedure requirements
- NFPA 262:2002 - Standard Method of Test for Flame Travel and Smoke of Wire and Cables for Use in Air-Handling Spaces.
- UL 1581:1997 - Standard for electrical wires, cables and flexible cords
- UL 1666:1997 - Standard test for flame propagation height of electrical and optical-fiber cables installed vertically in shafts
- UL 1685:2000 - Standard for Vertical-Tray fire- propagation and smoke release test for electrical and optical-fiber cables

RFID Market Outlook

QUESTION: Our client has been thinking of breaking into the RFID field for years. They have products ready but are worried that the economy won't support more products in the market. What can we advise them?

ANSWER: I would tell your client that now is the best time to start introducing products into the field. A recent report by ABI Research predicts a steady growth in the RFID market for the next five years. They expect the RFID market to exceed \$8.25 billion over the next five years, which translates to a 14% compound annual growth rate. The news is even better if your client utilizes RFID for modernizing applications. Areas such as cargo tracking and supply chain management are expected to grow approximately 19% during the same five year period.

Mexico - New COFETEL Testing Requirements

QUESTION: My company has been exporting RF products to Mexico for years. We have a few devices operating in the acceptable 900 MHz and 2400 MHz ranges. We've always just submitted our FCC reports and they have been approved. I've heard that this may not be the case much longer, is this true?

ANSWER: Yes, this is true. In June 2010, a new Mexican regulation for spread spectrum will take effect and will create major changes in Mexican COFETEL approvals. The new applicable standard will be NOM-121, and it is expected that in-country wireless testing will be required. Once the NOM-121 is published we will know for certain, but at this time it appears that testing will be required for products that use the following bands:

- 2,400 - 2,483.5 MHz
- 5,725 - 5,850 MHz
- 902 - 928 MHz

Brazil - Product Categories and Test Requirements

QUESTION: Our company manufactures VHF/UHF FM transceivers and battery charger products. We would like to sell these products in Brazil for occupational use. We understand these products fall into one of three categories in Brazil and we have the following questions:

1. Which category will the VHF/UHF FM transceiver (including hand-held radio, mobile radio and base-repeater) and charger products fall into?
2. What kind of certifications and tests will be required for these products?

3. How many samples should we plan to send to Brazil for testing?
4. What is the timeframe from the time the samples arrive at the test lab to approval?
5. Are there any additional requirements or concerns we should be aware of?

ANSWER: Please see below the answers to your questions:

1. The category can only be determined after Brazil's OCD reviews the product specifications. As you know, the three categories are:
 - o Category 1 products used by the everyday consumer. An iPod is an example of a Category 1 product. Category 1 products require a review every year and the user manual must be in Portuguese.
 - o Category 2 products used by both the everyday consumer and a trained technician. A cable box is an example of a Category 2 product. Category 2 products require a review every 2 years and the user manual must be in Portuguese.
 - o Category 3 products used only by a trained technician. An oscilloscope is an example of a Category 3 product. Category 3 products do not require a review and the user manual can be in English.
2. The required certifications and tests will be determined by the OCD after a review of the product specifications. Your company's product as described above will need at a minimum 442(EMC) and 529(Safety), and possibly 506(RF) and 533 (SAR).
3. Typically, Brazil requires that two samples be sent to for testing. One sample should be set up for conducted tests (leads wired directly to the PCB where the antenna is so output can be directly measured) and one normally functioning sample for radiated testing.
4. The timeframe for approval is approximately 10 weeks from the time the samples arrive at the test lab. The testing itself will require 2-4 weeks, depending on how many and what type of tests the OCD requires. The OCD then takes 2 weeks to prepare the application, or Certificado de Conformidade, and then ANATEL takes approximately 4 weeks to review and approve the application
5. You should be aware that Brazil requires an "in-country" Brazilian entity to hold the certificate. Additionally, you may want to use a customs broker to import the test samples. All test samples must be new; used samples will probably be stopped at customs and not released. Following product approval, you will be required to show the ANATEL symbol on your product. Please see the sample below.



INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY UPDATES

VIETNAM: TEST REPORT REQUIREMENT

On March 24, 2009, Vietnam's Ministry of Information and Communication, MiC, released its Circular 06/2009/TT-BTTTT, stating that foreign test reports would only be accepted for the purpose of type approval if they were issued by accredited laboratories and were no more than two years old. Furthermore, new type approvals issued by MiC would be valid for three years. There has been little impact on the initial type approval application process as most applicants already have valid test reports from MiC-recognized laboratories and thus local testing can still be avoided. However, MiC has recently begun enforcing the requirement that test reports are to be no more than two years old and this is impacting applications to renew type approval certificates. For renewal applications, test reports must be reissued or products will be subject to local test requirements.

MEXICO - NEW NOM-121 STANDARD (IN-COUNTRY TEST REQUIREMENT)

In June 2010, changes to Mexico's approval process are expected to come into effect. These changes include mandatory in-country testing for RF Type Approvals. FCC reports will no longer be acceptable for the purpose of COFETEL Type Approval. The updated regulation (NOM-121) is scheduled to be published this month, with the expectation that the in-country test requirement will come become effective in June/July 2010. Confirmation of the affected product types will be provided upon publication of the updated NOM-121.

INDONESIA - NEW 802.11a REGULATIONS

Regulations are now being drafted to permit the use of 802.11a technology in Indonesia. It is expected that this technology will be permitted within the next couple of months



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ABOUT US

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