

Electrical Equipment

October 2009

In October 2008, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a Request for Information (RFI) from stakeholders on a proposal from the European Commission that OSHA permit the use of a Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) as an alternative to the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs) product approval process. OSHA is reviewing and analyzing comments that were submitted before the January 20, 2009 RFI deadline and will announce the results as soon after the October 2009 TEC meeting as feasible.

December 2008

In September 2008, the CPSC and DG SANCO and DG ENTR conducted a series of joint outreach seminars in China on U.S. and EU safety requirements for clothing, toys, and electrical products with a view to promoting compliance with the applicable safety requirements. This joint initiative was followed by a high-level trilateral meeting hosted by Commissioner Kuneva in Brussels in November to continue the common agenda.

Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC): Following through on its commitment at the May 13, 2008 TEC meeting, on October 20, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor published in the Federal Register a request for information to aid it in determining whether an SDoC regime would be a viable alternative or supplement to its current, third-party laboratory based regime for certifying certain electrical products as safe for the workplace.

May 2008

Since the TEC's November 2007 meeting, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has met with domestic and foreign stakeholders – including several meetings with European Commission counterparts – to better understand and discuss systems and issues related to conformity assessment (CA) of electrical products, including suppliers declaration of conformity (SDoC). On the basis of these meetings, OSHA has decided to publish a new request for information (RFI) concerning the use of SDoC for certain electrical and electronic equipment used in the workplace. Further, as an additional step to facilitate trade in electrical products with respect to conformity assessment procedures for the safety of such products, in April 2008 OSHA proposed to increase the number of locations where product certification functions can be performed by Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.

November 2007

In 2008, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission will review electronic products and information and communication technology products subject to mandatory third party testing to allow suppliers declarations of conformity for products with a good record of compliance with relevant standards, and report on progress to the Transatlantic Economic Council at its next meeting.

By the time of the next meeting of the Transatlantic Economic Council, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration will pursue discussions with the European Commission and will report on progress made to facilitate trade in electrical products with respect to conformity assessment procedures for the safety of such products.