



## Multi-Country Workshop on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment

# **Some views on the challenges for stakeholders on conformity assessment activities**

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# INAIL

- The national institute of insurance against injuries in the workplace and professional illnesses (INAIL) is a non-economic public entity operating under the supervision of the Ministry of work and social policies.

# INAIL

With reference to the activities of the former ISPESL:

- **Activities in the technical/scientific sector and in research:**
- INAIL's activities in this field under Law 122/2010 regard research, experiments, control, consultancy, welfare and training.
- Activities in research, national and international, are the most important work of the former ISPESL, involving many technical areas and updates for safety.
- Projects include the prevention of injuries, workplace safety and safety awareness in general.

# INAIL

With reference to the activities of the former ISPESL:

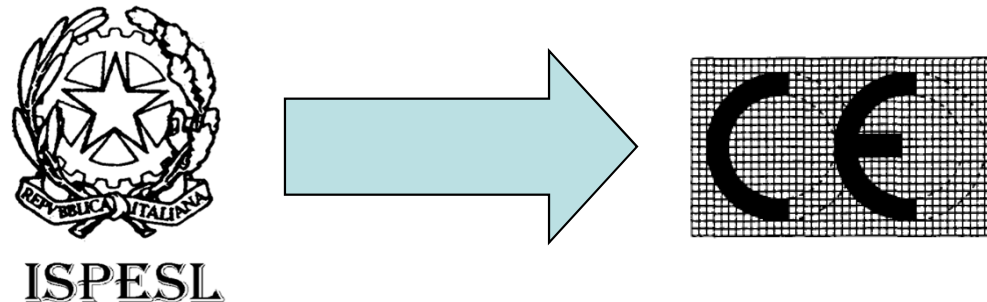
- Other functions regard, among other things, initial audits, audits by sampling of electrical systems and installation audits of work equipment.
- Participation at inspections and controls in industries with accident risks.
- Surveillance activities undertaken for the Ministry of economic development, controlling conformity to the requirements of health and the safety of products used by workers.

# The former ISPESL

- Before EU directives ISPESL dealt with testing and approving lifts, lifting machines, power stations etc.
- This work was based on the national system of testing and approval.

- The EC introduced certification:
- to have a harmonized approach in Europe;
- third parties are also used with European recognition.

- The directives of the New Approach have given some of the tasks of the former ISPESL to notified bodies, changing the Italian system.



**APPROVAL**



Technical regulations and mandatory standards

Public control bodies

Mark of the State



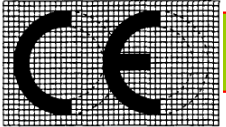
**CERTIFICATION**



Essential safety requirements

Notified bodies

CE mark





# An example

- The lift/elevator, until the introduction of directive 95/16/CE was the technical responsibility of ISPESEL:
- with project exam and report,
- approval test and report and maintenance booklet.

# An example

- Before going on the market, lifts undergo conformity assessment by notified bodies.
- After this, a CE declaration of conformity is issued for the lift.

# New approach

- Notified bodies operate under the new approach for conformity assessment as third parties.
- Member states notify the notified bodies after checking their:
  - Technical competence
  - Capacity to perform conformity assessments
  - Independence, impartiality and integrity

- The assessment of the notified body permits the member state to ascertain possession of the requirements for the activity in question.
- For this accreditation is a crucial instrument.

- I believe that the EU, by means of the directives of the new approach, has introduced a fair system for the conformity assessment of products marketed in the EU.
- The strength of the system lies in its uniformity and in the homogenous activities of control carried out by the notified bodies.
- If the notified bodies do not have the same technical competence or, more generally, proceed to the verification of requirements on a non-homogeneous approach, a different conformity assessment of products can be a risk.

- The Italian state, by his competent Ministries, decided initially for the authorization of the bodies to be notified without delegating this task to an accreditation body.

- After the creation of Accredia as the sole national accreditation body in 2009, since 2011 agreements have been signed between Ministries and Accredia for the performance of conformity assessment activities of bodies regarding the various product directives.

- This has resulted in a great deal of work for Accredia, checking the requirements possessed by the notified bodies with its highly qualified personnel, permitting an equivalence of the level of competence of the accredited notified bodies.



# The Sector Accreditation Committee for notified bodies

- The Sector Accreditation Committee is an Accredia institutional body which operates in the assessment of the conformity of bodies.
- Let's have a look at my activities in this Committee and some of its functions.

# The Sector Accreditation Committee for notified bodies

- This activity takes place in accordance with UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17011 “General requirements for accreditation bodies providing accreditation to CABs”.

# Tasks of The Sector Accreditation Committee for notified bodies

- To decide on the conformity of Certification, Inspection or Verification bodies regarding the issue, maintenance, extension or renewal of accreditation.

# Competences and the commitment to independence, impartiality and confidentiality

- The members of the Sector Accreditation Committee possess specific technical competences.
- This is fundamental as the Sector Accreditation Committee decides on accreditation and extension issued as a prerequisite for notification.
- The members of the Sector Accreditation Committee sign a declaration of independence, impartiality and confidentiality as well as the Accredia Code of Conduct.

# Accreditation files

- Accredia submits to the Committee the documents regarding audit activities for an evaluation of the accreditation procedures.
- The documents outline the activities concerning accreditation and extension and renewal.

# The accreditation files

- During meetings of the Committee, members participate as rapporteurs in their sector of competence, presenting, when necessary, the important aspects of the accreditation files.
- Technical experts may participate and present their opinions regarding the various sectors.

- I have attended 12 meetings since becoming a member in October, 2011.
- I have been a rapporteur for over 30 accreditation files.
- Relations among Committee members have always been positive and constructive.

# Conclusions

- In the light of experience I believe that accreditation as a pre-condition to notification constitutes fundamental support for the technical part of notification and that it is a crucial instrument for evaluating the competence, impartiality and integrity of bodies for the purposes of notification.



Thanks for your kind attention

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