

AGREEMENT
between
the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing
and
the State Agency for Standardisation and Metrology
of the Republic of Bulgaria
on
Mutual Co-operation in Conformity Assessment

The Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing and the State Agency for Standardisation and Metrology of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter "the Contracting Parties"

- taking into consideration their mutual interest in the protection of consumer rights as it is set out in the laws of the Contracting Parties' Countries, and the assessment of the safety of products produced in one of the Contracting Parties and placed on the market in the other Contracting Party,
- with the aim to remove technical barriers in trade between the countries and to simplify the formalities for testing of imported products specified for conformity assessment in the Czech Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria before their placing on the market,
- with the aim of preparation of a future agreement on the mutual recognition of the certificates and test results of products produced in one of the Contracting Parties and placed on the market in the other Contracting Party,
- recognizing the mutual advantage of co-operation in the sphere of the exchange of information on conformity assessment,
- taking into consideration the dissimilar legislation in the sphere of conformity assessment in the Czech Republic and in the Republic of Bulgaria,

HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Article 1

PRINCIPLES

For the purposes of this Agreement (hereinafter "the Agreement") the conformity assessment shall be regarded as activities and procedures (especially testing and certification) by which the Contracting Parties and their appropriate bodies ascertain whether the properties of products meet the requirements of technical regulations and standards.

Article 2

CO-OPERATION

1. Each Contracting Party shall enable the other country to acquaint itself with the relevant technical regulations of its country so that the area of mutual recognition of certificates and test results can be defined in the future. For this purpose the following shall be organized:
 - a) visits and mutual consultation on technical matters;
 - b) attendance of experts at conferences and seminars organized by the Contracting Parties;
 - c) supporting contacts between conformity assessment bodies.
2. The Contracting Parties shall provide each other with information on:
 - a) preparation, drafting and issuing of legal regulations, methodologies and other documents dealing with matters related to conformity assessment;
 - b) conformity assessment bodies carrying out testing of products and issuing certificates for conformity assessment which could be a subject to mutual recognition in future;
 - c) specimens of certificates and conformity marks;
 - d) programs on training and qualification improvement of specialists of the conformity assessment bodies.
3. Information obtained from the other Contracting Party may be passed on to a third party or disseminated only with the consent of the Contracting Party which has provided the information.

Article 3

FINANCING

Financial costs related to the implementation of the Agreement shall be covered by each of the Contracting Parties.

Article 4

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

This Agreement may be amended only by mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties. Amendments and additions shall be presented in a separate protocol, signed by both Contracting Parties. They come into force according to the order for acceptance provided in Article 5.

Article 5

JOINT AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

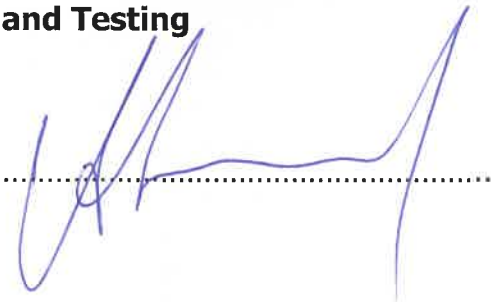
1. This Agreement is concluded for an unfixed period of time and it comes into force on the date of its signing.
2. Each of the Contracting Parties may, however, denounce this Agreement by informing in a written form the other Contracting Party. The effect of the Agreement as well as all related activities and obligations terminate six months after the date of receiving such notification for the denouncement of the Agreement.

This Agreement was made in two original copies each in Czech, Bulgarian and English languages; each of the three texts having the same force.

In case of differences in the interpretation of the Agreement the text in English shall be considered authoritative.

Signed in Prague on 11th December 2000.

**On behalf of
the Czech Office for
Standards, Metrology
and Testing**



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**On behalf of
the State Agency for
Standardisation and
Metrology of the
Republic of Bulgaria**



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