

Verband der TÜV e. V.
Benefits for the State, Economic
Operators and Consumers





INNOVATION REQUIRES TRUST

Trade in products and services is increasing every day. The value chain is becoming ever more complex, and safety cultures vary between different economic areas. This is why participants in the market have to develop a common understanding of the characteristics of products and services that have to be present and the requirements that have to be fulfilled. Herein lies the importance of binding rules, often in the form of standards, which describe these characteristics.

Products which circulate within the European Internal Market also have to fulfil legal requirements. Conformity of products is therefore a prerequisite for a functioning internal market and for worldwide trade. Products are said to conform when they provide the promised performance and fulfil the requirements in reality. Through its independent conformity assessments, TÜV makes a major contribution to the acceptance of innovation and technological progress as a basis for sustainable growth and wellbeing throughout society. For confidence in safety is a prerequisite for acceptance of innovation.

This is what the TÜV® brand stands for.

TRUST WON THROUGH COMPETENCE, NEUTRALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

Conformity assessment by an independent third party provides the necessary confidence in products, processes, systems, services as well as technical plant and equipment. The most important cornerstones in conformity assessment are competence, neutrality and objectivity. These three attributes are specified and described in detail in the ISO 17000 series of international standards.

An independent conformity assessment body such as a TÜV company is not involved in the design, manufacture, supply, repair or maintenance of the item to be assessed. This means that there is no conflict of interest with regard to assessment results, surveillance or certification. This is the great difference between independent conformity assessment and conformity assessment performed by a manufacturer or supplier.

The competence and impartiality of the conformity assessment body is ensured through a process of recognition and accreditation carried out by public authorities and continuously monitored by the State¹. This guarantees that the independent conformity assessment bodies throughout Europe possess the necessary competence. Official accreditation is the guarantee of reliability, credibility and trust.

1) "Accreditation is an impartial means of assessing and conveying an authoritative statement of the technical competence, impartiality and professional integrity of conformity assessment bodies operating both in the voluntary and the mandatory area." (http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/regulatory-policies-common-rules-for-products/new-legislative-framework/accreditation/index_en.htm)

TÜV, PARTNER OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

Independent inspection and certification bodies offer major benefits for:

1. The State/The Legislator /Public Authorities

2. Commercial and industrial organisations

3. Consumers

avoided as far as possible. As the TÜVs already test products before they are put on the market, they implement the precautionary principle in the sense of the legislator. This lessens the burden on the state, as nonconforming products do not need to be first identified by means of market surveillance financed through taxation - when they are often only withdrawn from the market after dangerous events and damage have occurred.

This precautionary approach is paid for by the manufacturer, importer or trader. The necessity for downstream state intervention, for which official bodies have to provide the necessary resources, is therefore much reduced.

Achievement of an internationally-accepted quality and safety infrastructure is the core task of German and European economic and industrial policy. It consists of the cornerstones of standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment. This closely interlinked system promotes product quality along with sustainable and dynamic economic development. International acceptance of these structures also promotes cross-border trade and helps to remove technical barriers. Independent conformity assessment is therefore a core element of modern, competition-based regulatory policy.

From the point of view of regulatory policy, the conformity assessment system also serves to correct and eliminate deficiencies within the market, particularly in connection with lack of balance regarding information. From the point of view of the State, conformity assessment therefore ensures that markets function correctly and that common interests are realised in practice.

Finally, the legislator can have recourse to the system of independent conformity assessment by recognised inspection organisations in order to reduce the burden on national enforcement authorities. Conformity assessment by independent players from the private sector therefore offers legislators an efficient instrument of deregulation.

2) Article 114, Clause 3, TFEU

3) Article 174, Clause 2 EC-Treaty

2. BENEFITS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

Increasing globalisation of the value chain and interlinking of international trade flows, worldwide higher safety and quality requirements and also ever more complex technical products present new challenges to commercial and industrial organisations every day – challenges which independent inspection organisations can help to overcome – flexibly and in many different ways.

Cost reduction through prevention

The involvement of independent third parties leads to considerable cost reductions for both manufacturers and service providers, and increases their competitive capability. The earlier conformity assessments are carried out within the value chain, the more cost efficient production processes can be. The TÜVs already test products and their components reliably at their place of manufacture and therefore at a very early stage. This means that any corrections needed within the manufacturing processes can be identified in good time and any necessary adjustments can be carried out at the prototype stage. Accidents and time-consuming recalls, with the associated use of valuable resources and damage to image and reputation are avoided, and liability risks are minimised.

Image enhancement

Products subjected to independent conformity assessment stand for safety and fitness for purpose. This increases consumers' confidence in the product, and the brand image and reputation of the manufacturer is enhanced on a permanent basis.

Benefits for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Involvement of neutral third parties offers a low-cost opportunity to show that regulatory requirements and the stipulations of standards have been fulfilled in the manufacture and marketing of products. This applies in particular when



companies wish to open up new target markets abroad and therefore must ensure that their products fulfil all the local requirements. If the assessments are performed by independent third parties, the conformity declaration of the manufacturer carries more weight and greater credibility. Product characteristics become more transparent and are comparable with competing products, which is the prerequisite for global trade. Through their worldwide presence and long experience in all the growth regions throughout the world, the TÜVs are always the right point of contact when it comes to meeting challenges on the international stage.

Outsourcing of testing an inspection

By making use of the services offered by the TÜVs, companies – and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, can avoid the need to invest in and maintain necessary, but costly, test infrastructure and the associated knowledge of legal requirements and standards. Involvement of an independent third party also ensures adherence to in-house quality standards and can serve as evidence that the duties of care incumbent upon the company have been fulfilled. The resulting reduction in liability risks has a positive effect on relationships with insurers.

3. BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS

TÜV marks serve to provide the consumer with a valuable means of orientation within the jungle of international goods and services. They create transparency. A seal of approval summarises and documents the presence of characteristics that are relevant for the particular product. In particular, they testify to fulfilment of safety and environmental requirements in a way that can be clearly seen by all. This means that consumers are able to compare products and services on a like-for-like basis, and at the same time the fact that the manufacturer or supplier has an advantage over the consumer in terms of information is compensated for. This effect is of particular importance in the age of the “global marketplace” and increasing use of online shopping. For only a well-informed consumer is a mature and capable consumer.



Transparency creates trust

This transparency is the basis for the trust that consumers place in products and services. The TÜV seal, based on neutrality and competence, therefore makes a vital and positive contribution to the confidence of market participants and, in the last analysis, to the very functioning of the markets themselves.

VDTÜV

VdTÜV represents the policy and technical interests of its members in the worlds of politics, administration, industry and commerce and also with the general public. It maintains offices in the decisionmaking centres Berlin and Brussels.

VdTÜV is committed to:

- ▶ promoting neutral testing and inspection, dealing with potential technological risk in a responsible way
- ▶ technical progress and framework conditions which encourage innovation and the development of highest quality technologies
- ▶ high quality and safety levels for products, technical equipment and services
- ▶ economically sound, socially acceptable and sustainable solutions when considering possible technological risks
- ▶ fair competitive conditions for independent testing and inspection organisations within the European and international markets
- ▶ reducing the burden on the state in the area of technical safety

The TÜVs work as neutral service providers in almost all sectors of industry and commerce. Their services affect all aspects of our everyday lives, in particular in our daily use of products of all kinds and the use of services. The TÜVs ensure that means of transport are safe and energy supplies are secure. They stand for values within society such as sustainable environmental protection and sparing use of natural resources. They take care of the maintenance of health and safety standards in the workplace.

TÜV stands for neutral and independent conformity assessment, such as testing and certification of medical devices, toys, household appliances and sports equipment, for inspection of steam boilers, power plants, lifts, escalators, pipelines, tank installations and cable cars, and also for certification of safety, quality and customer orientation of services.

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