

## Testing and Certification

Testing and certification is an industry with good development potentials. Over the years, the industry has established a good foundation, based on a robust accreditation system, high professional and integrity standards and an excellent reputation.

**Promoting the Testing and Certification Industry:** The Government established the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) in September 2009 to advise it on the overall development strategy of the testing and certification industry.

HKCTC has been adopting a market-oriented approach to promote the development of the industry. On the general front, continued enhancement has been made to the accreditation service and the factors of production of the industry. On the other hand, HKCTC is also exploring new testing and certification opportunities in different business areas.

To reinforce the branding of "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong", HKCTC promotes Hong Kong's testing and certification services through different channels, including participation in major trade fairs locally and overseas, organising seminars in Hong Kong, and placing interviews and articles in the media.

For details of the work of HKCTC, please refer to HKCTC website ([www.hkctc.gov.hk](http://www.hkctc.gov.hk)).

**Opening Up of the Mainland Testing and Certification Market to Hong Kong:** Since the implementation of Supplement VII to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the Mainland has been gradually opening up its market to Hong Kong's testing and certification industry.

The Agreement on Trade in Services signed under the framework of CEPA was amended in November 2019 to expand the scope of China Compulsory Certification (CCC) testing that can be undertaken by Hong Kong testing organisations to cover all products requiring CCC that are processed or manufactured anywhere in the world (including places outside China). This extended coverage came into effect on 1 June 2020.

Promulgated in February 2019, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area reinforces that the implementation of CEPA liberalisation measures for Hong Kong's services sector, including testing and certification, will be deepened. It also mentions supporting Greater Bay Area enterprises in using services of Hong Kong such as testing and certification.

These developments would assist the local testing and certification industry in further exploring the markets in the Mainland (especially the Greater Bay Area) and overseas.

**Contributions of the Industry:** In 2019, there were about 770 private testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies in Hong Kong, engaging 14 790 persons. Their direct contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was about HK\$7.3 billion. In addition to its direct contribution, the industry also supports manufacturing, export and other service industries, and is an integral part of the overall supply chain.

**Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS):** Having a robust accreditation system is also one of Hong Kong's key advantages in developing the testing and certification industry. HKAS improves the standard of local conformity assessment services (e.g. testing, inspection and certification) and supports the development of the industry by providing a wide range of accreditation services through three accreditation schemes, namely, the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS); the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS); and the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (HKIAS). Performance of laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies are evaluated through rigorous on-site assessments before they are recognised as competent in performing the conformity assessment activities listed in their respective scopes of accreditation. Users of conformity assessment service may select the services provided by accredited organisations to support their business through the directory of accredited organisations published on the HKAS website ([www.hkas.gov.hk](http://www.hkas.gov.hk)).

Through participation in Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements administered by international accreditation cooperation bodies, conformity assessment results issued by HKAS accredited organisations are widely recognised in over 100 economies, including all major trading partners of Hong Kong. This greatly facilitates cross-border trade with the related economies.

**Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB):** PSIB of the ITC promotes general awareness of the importance and benefits of standards and facilitates manufacturers and exporters in understanding and complying with standards and requirements. In addition to operating a product standards resource centre, PSIB offers standards sales and technical enquiring services. PSIB also encourages interested parties to take part in international standardization activities. For detailed information about PSIB, please visit its website ([www.psib.gov.hk](http://www.psib.gov.hk)).

**The Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL):** The SCL of the ITC is the custodian of Hong Kong's reference standards of physical measurements. The SCL also provides comprehensive calibration services to ensure that measurements made in Hong Kong are traceable to the

International System of Units (SI). The SCL is a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM). Through that MRA, calibration certificates issued by the SCL are internationally accepted by 106 metrology institutes, encompassing 102 economies and 4 international organisations, and a further 152 designated institutes. For details, please refer to SCL website ([www.scl.gov.hk](http://www.scl.gov.hk)).