



In Focus: ASEAN MRA on Type Approval for Automotive Products



The ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Type Approval for Automotive Products (APMRA) was officially signed by all ASEAN Member States (AMS) on 16 January 2021 and completed in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

According to the APMRA, all AMS shall accept or recognize the conformity assessment results which are issued by the Listed Technical Services (i.e. Technical Services authorized and accepted by all AMS or the ASEAN Automotive Committee/AAC). Once a regulated automotive product – defined as automotive components and systems – is tested and inspected by a listed technical service or are already UN Regulations (UNR) compliant according to the Arrangement (i.e. APMRA), the product can enter and be marketed in the importing Member State in ASEAN without being subjected to re-testing, even if it is incorporated in a vehicle.

The Arrangement will enter into force after all Member States have completed their ratification, or one year after the signing of this Arrangement (i.e. 16 January 2022), whichever earlier. Prior to implementation, a Guidance Document for the Implementation of APMRA will be issued around Q4 to facilitate the smooth implementation of the APMRA.

About the Bulletin

ASEAN for Business is a bulletin published by the Enterprise and Stakeholder Engagement Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.

This bimonthly bulletin provides quick updates on specific topics related to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) for businesses operating in the region.

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Objectives

The APMRA is aimed to facilitate the flow of automotive components and systems among AMS to contribute to the ASEAN economic integration. One of the reasons for the delay in entering an ASEAN market is due to the existing national regulations, which require, amongst others, compliance with mandatory national standards for consumer protection and development of the industry. National regulations decide the status of entry of the goods in terms of quality, technical safety and environmental protection. But when such measures are imposed beyond necessity (e.g. re-testing a product that had already obtained a certificate of compliance for the required standard by another competent body), they become technical barriers to trade (TBT) that hinder the entry of goods.

To facilitate the flow of automotive components and system while recognizing the need to protect consumers and develop the automotive industry, the APMRA allows mutual recognition of conformity assessment results from any technical service under the Listed Technical Services.

Automotive components or systems that are tested to have complied with the applicable UNR by the Listed Technical Services or are already UNR compliant according to the Arrangement shall not be re-tested. The mutual conformity assessment of results (test report or certificate) will be the basis for evaluating whether or not an automotive product has complied with the applicable UNR and be granted approval for entry into domestic markets of AMS.

Key Features

i. APMRA's Coverage

The technical requirements prescribed under the APMRA is based on the United Nations Regulations (UNR) annexed to the 1958 Agreement and the items that are commonly adopted in AMS. They will be applied to all new automotive components and systems of M1, N1 and L vehicle categories. According to Annex I or phase I implementation of the APMRA, the components and systems that are applicable are as follows:

NO.	AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCT	UNR
1	Braking System	R13
2	Braking System	R13H
3	Safety-belt anchorage	R14
4	Safety-belt and Restraint System	R16
5	Seats	R17
6	Head Restraints	R25
7	Audible Warning Device	R28
8	Pneumatic Tyre	R30
9	Speedometer	R39
10	Exhaust Emission	R40
11	Noise	R41
12	Safety Glazing Materials and their Installation	R43
13	Devices for Indirect Vision	R46
14	Exhaust Emission	R49
15	Sound Emission	R51
16	Pneumatic Tyre	R54
17	Pneumatic Tyre	R75
18	Steering Equipment	R79
19	Exhaust Emission	R83

Any of the nineteen automotive products that have been cleared by a Technical Service from the Listed Technical Services or certified to have met the required UNRs will not be required for repeated testing/certification procedure in another importing AMS.

ii. Equal treatment to accepted ASEAN and non-ASEAN Technical Service(s)

Regardless of the location of the testing site, the conformity assessment results (i.e. test report or certificate) issued by any Technical Service under the AAC's Listed Technical Services, should be accepted and mutually recognized by all AMS. The proposed Technical Service approved by the AAC may be located within AMS or without, to which the latter will need to make a formal application through a Designating Body/Regulatory Authority of an AMS to the AAC for endorsement. The accepted non-ASEAN Technical Services will be treated equally as ASEAN designated Technical Services.

iii. Criteria for Designation as Listed Technical Services (TS)

In order to be qualified as a Listed Technical Service to perform conformity assessment activities including testing, inspection

and issuance of results for the automotive product under the APMRA, a Technical Service must fulfil the designation requirements and technical competency in accordance with the APMRA.

The basis of a designation could be a designation from another Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement or accreditation of a Designating Body/Regulatory Authority by the Member States. More details on the relevant requirements and procedures to be qualified as a Listed Technical Service can be referenced from Annex 2 of the APMRA.

The impact of APMRA on Automotive Industries

Manufacturers and traders of automotive components and systems will find it easier and less costly to export their products to AMS. AMS, which regulates particular automotive components or system prior to allowing them to be placed in their market, will accept and recognize the conformity assessment results issued by Listed Technical Services, thereby facilitating the processing of the product, instead of having the product re-tested or recertified again.

With this, manufacturers and traders can plan their new product launches with greater certainty and shorter time-to-market. They will save on the cost of testing, inspection and management system certification from unnecessary re-testing, re-inspection and/or quality management system re-certification, respectively.



E.g. Safety-belt and its anchorage - UNR 16 & UNR 14



E.g. Safety glazing materials and their installation- UNR 43



E.g. Exhaust Emission Testing of M1 category vehicle

More Information

- The full text of the signed APMRA is available at this [link](#).
- For more information please contact Mr. Toh Heng Guan of the ASEAN Secretariat at toh.hengguan@asean.org and copying to scd@asean.org.

Recent Updates

27th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat

[The 27th AEM Retreat](#) was held on 2-3 March 2021 via videoconference. The meeting discussed the post-pandemic recovery efforts across the region, progress in the ASEAN Economic Community Building, and ASEAN's external economic relations. In addition, the meeting endorsed 10 Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under the Economic track and 3 additional PEDs under the Finance track. These PEDs focus on recovery, digitalization, and sustainability. Furthermore, the meeting reaffirmed the AEM's commitment to work on the domestic ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. The AEM also held consultation with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on various issues in relation to the ASEAN Economic Community, including the ASEAN-BAC's priorities in 2021, post-pandemic recovery efforts, and several ASEAN-BAC's legacy projects.

1st ASEAN TVET Council Meeting

The 1st ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) Meeting was held virtually on 10 March 2021. ATC envisions to improve TVET in ASEAN and comprises a mix of governmental and non-governmental members, including the private sector. The meeting was hosted by the Council's chair from Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines. The meeting selected Singapore as the Council's vice-chair, endorsed the rules of procedures, and discussed development of an ATC's work plan. The priority areas of ATC include creating a market-responsive workforce, conducting research, improving TVET image, enhancing trainers' capacity, ensuring TVET quality assurance, and promoting TVET financing.

The Development of Digital Trade Standard in ASEAN

The Digital Trade Standards and Conformance Working Group (DTSCWG) was established in 2019 as a forum for discussing issues, sharing information

and programmes associated to digital trade, standards, and conformance. The DTSCWG has finalized its work programme for 2021-2025. The DTSCWG is committed to strengthening its engagement with the private sector and Dialogue Partners in advancing digital trade standards and conformance in ASEAN. Also noting the need to mitigate the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic, the DTSCWG is committed to fulfil its commitment on measures to support the implementation plan of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

7th ASEAN Network of Intellectual Property Enforcement Expert Meeting

The 7th ASEAN Network of Intellectual Property Enforcement Expert (ANIEE) Meeting was held virtually on 12 March 2021. The meeting agreed to increase awareness and enforcement of Intellectual Property (IP) in ASEAN. In this regard, the meeting agreed to conduct a campaign to raise awareness on IP in 2021. Additionally, the meeting discussed each ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the relevant agencies' capacity to conduct site-blocking, which will serve as the preliminary step to protect IP in the region.

18th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Electronic Commerce

The 18th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Electronic Commerce (ACCEC) was conducted on 18 February 2021 via videoconference. The meeting approved the timeline in the development of the ASEAN E-Commerce Agreement's implementation work plan. The work plan includes the mapping exercise of the current state of play in ASEAN, work plan drafting, various consultations through regional workshops and direct engagement between consultants and individual AMS. During the meeting, ACCEC also held a consultation session with the Joint Business Council (JBC). ACCEC agreed to continue the engagement with the JBC, particularly to support the ASEAN Digital Trade Connect Project led by ASEAN-BAC.

Upcoming Events

26 th ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee Meeting	Virtual, 7-9 April 2021
34 th Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC) Meeting	Virtual, 27-29 April 2021
43 rd ASEAN Air Transport Working Group (ATWG) and related meetings	Virtual, 17-21 May 2021
6 th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Dialogue	Virtual, 19 May 2021
20 th ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC)	Virtual, 24-25 May 2021

ASEAN Business Sentiment Study

The ASEAN Secretariat, with the support from the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program (AADCP II), is conducting a study to measure the ASEAN indigenous enterprise's sentiment on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and services trade liberalization in ASEAN. If you are an indigenous ASEAN Enterprise, and your company has not received an email with the questionnaire link from our partner, IPSOS Strategy3, you can participate in the study by filling the questionnaire available in this [link](#). The questionnaire will take around 15 minutes to fill, and all the questions should be answered in one attempt. We would highly appreciate if you could participate and fill in the questionnaire by **22 April 2021**.