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The Commonwealth Standards Network

Department for International Development

UKaid from the British people

Standardization Strategy:

National Quality Infrastructure

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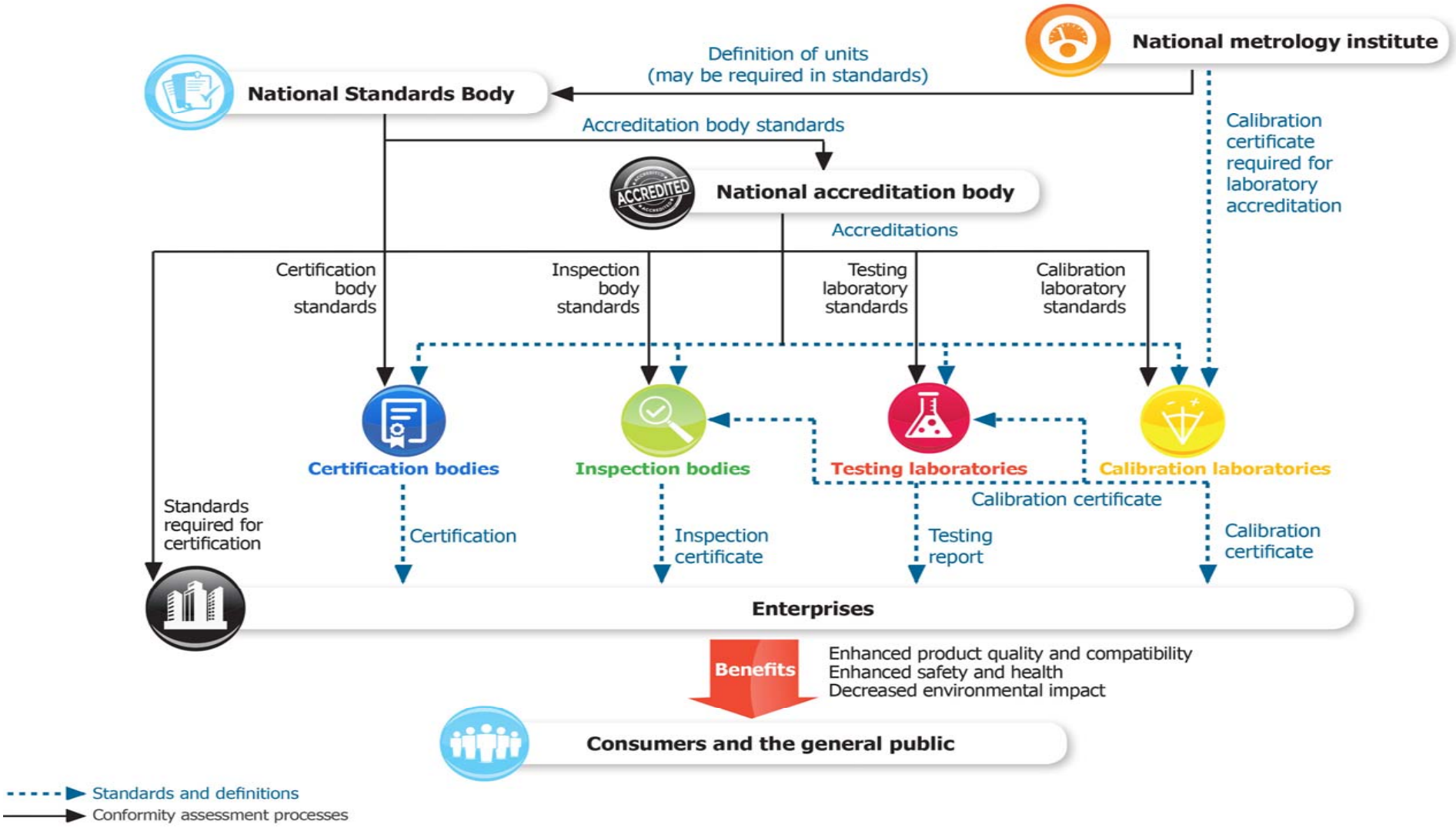
National Quality Infrastructure (NQI)

- Key NQI disciplines:

Standardization	Testing and Measurement	Certification	Accreditation
• Creates the national and international standards that specify how things should be made and done in a way that is mutually acceptable	• implementation of specifications and standards to ensure validity and consistency.	• ensures that those who use standards and codes are applying them in the right way.	• ensures that those who carry out testing, certification and inspection are competent to do so. • Accreditation is referenced in the WTO TBT agreements as a mechanism to support cross-border trade

- NQI structures are extremely complex;
- Requirement to access best practice and expertise – raise NQI levels to international levels;
- Different markets have needs for different international standards (business environment and sector focused);
- Need to increase capacity to:
  - Adopt and develop international standards and promote the benefit of using standards;
  - Disseminate information on standards;
  - Increase policy maker awareness to the benefits of having a developed NQI;
  - Increase stakeholder engagement.

- Trading nations with a well-regarded and trusted NQI enjoy a host of benefits:
  - Fewer duplicated or competing standards and conformity assessment – reduce trade costs;
  - Products and services become internationally competitive;
  - Increased domestic commercial activity;
  - Reduction in technical barriers to trade;
  - Safer and more sustainable products;
  - Increased innovation and product development;
  - Increased consumer protection.


National metrology institute
Definition of units
(may be required in standards)
National Standards Body
Accreditation body standards
Calibration certificate required for laboratory accreditation
National accreditation body
Accreditations
Certification body standards
Inspection body standards
Testing laboratory standards
Calibration laboratory standards
Certification bodies
Inspection bodies
Testing laboratories
Calibration laboratories
Calibration certificate
Standards required for certification
Certification
Inspection certificate
Testing report
Calibration certificate
Enterprises
Benefits
Enhanced product quality and compatibility
Enhanced safety and health
Decreased environmental impact
Consumers and the general public
Standards and definitions
Conformity assessment processes

'Standardization Strategy: National Quality Infrastructure

- Clear links between development and a country's NQI;
  - Economic growth leads to reduction of poverty and improving quality of life;
  - International Standards are central to the viability and achievement of the SDGs.

NQI: Economic benefits (UK)

- In the UK, 2% of GDP is directly dependent on a robust NQI measurement system;
  - Measurement interventions achieved cost benefit ratios in the range of 1:10 to 1:35;
- Independent research has confirmed that accreditation has a positive economic value of nearly £1bn on the UK economy each year;
- Every £1 spent on accreditation was seen in a study to produce a fifty-fold economic benefit for the UK, could be assumed to also apply where overseas bodies choose to use UKAS accreditation.

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