



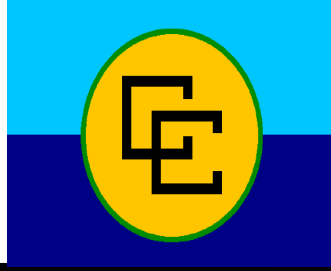
Quality Standards and Quality Requirements

*Fulgence St. Prix, Technical Officer - Standards
CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards
and Quality (CROSQ)*



Presentation Outline

- Brief History of CROSQ
- Strategic Plan
- Projects
- RQI
 - What is Quality Infrastructure (QI)
 - Benefits of Regional QI
 - Harmonisation of QI
 - Practical Application of QI



Establishment of CROSQ

- ❖ Created by the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) via Inter-Governmental Agreement
- ❖ Signed Belize City – 4 February 2002
- ❖ Inaugural (first) Council Meeting – St Vincent and the Grenadines – 10-12 April, 2002
- ❖ Headquarters Agreement (Secretariat to be located in Barbados): signed in Bridgetown -18 January 2007



Belize

Jamaica

Haiti

Antigua & Barbuda

Montserrat

St. Kitts & Nevis

Dominica

St. Lucia

Barbados

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Grenada

Trinidad & Tobago

Guyana

Suriname

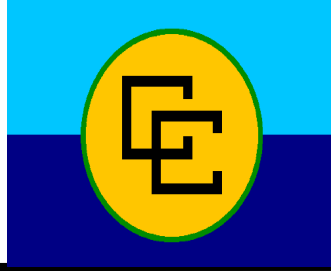
7/11/2018

CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality



CROSQ MISSION

- *“The promotion and development of standards and standards-related activities to facilitate international competitiveness and sustainable production of goods and services within the CARICOM Single Market Economy for the enhancement of social and economic development”*

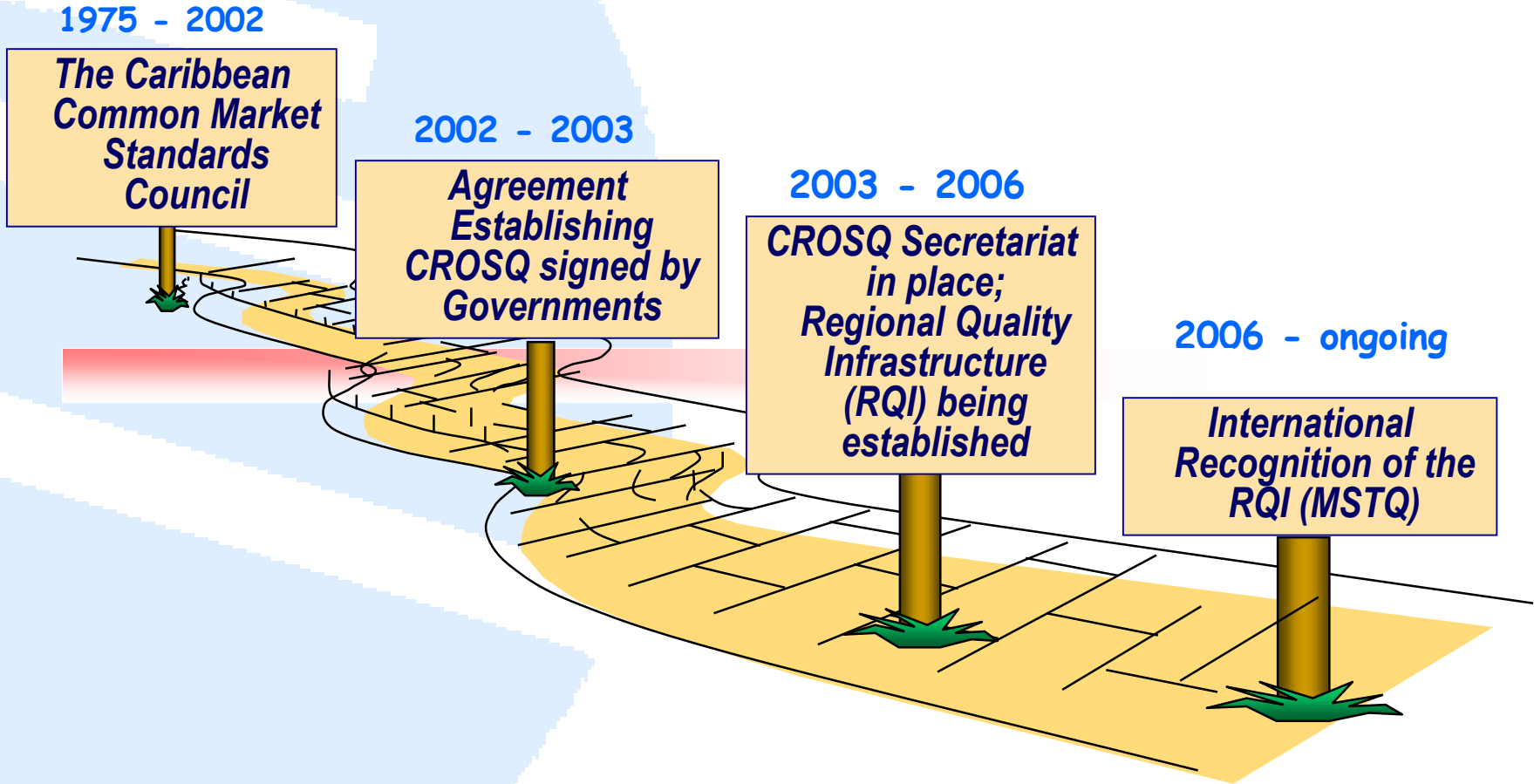


CROSQ VISION

- *“The premier CARICOM organisation for the development and promotion of an Internationally Recognised Regional Quality Infrastructure”*



Development Road Map





3 Year Strategic Plan
STRATEGIC INTENT
FROM
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT
TO
REGIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Approved by COTED / CARICOM

CROSQ 2009-2012 – STRATEGY MAP



Performance

Extra Regional Dynamics

Rapidly Liberalizing Trade & Investment Environment

CHALLENGES

- Regional Competitiveness
- CSME Growth
- Quality Matters Most !

Increasingly Educated and Sophisticated Populace

Intra Regional Dynamics



CROSQ Mission

The promotion and development of standards and standards-related activities to facilitate international competitiveness and sustainable production of goods and services within the CSME for the enhancement of social and economic development.

Strategic Themes

Harmonization of Standards

Metrology Capability

Conformity Assessment Capability

Accreditation Cooperation

Regional Quality Culture

Financial Self-Sustainability

Organisational Efficiency

Strategic Objectives

1. Develop relevant regional standards
2. Maximise usage of regional standards

1. Enhance regional metrology capacity in all areas (scientific, legal, industrial)
2. Harmonise metrology legislation & regulation

1. Build conformity assessment in quality infrastructure
2. Harmonize certification services

1. Coordinate regional accreditation services
2. Develop Caribbean Cooperation Accreditation Mech.

1. Improve Member State outreach as well as awareness and participation
2. Attract new Members

1. Enhance viable and relevant service base (training and consultancies)
2. Increase revenue earning opportunities

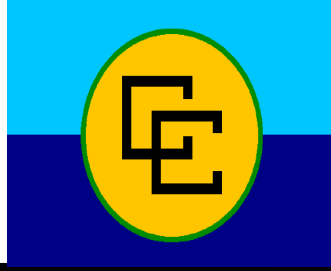
1. Evolve Quality Management System
2. Align HR Development to Strategy
3. Modernise regional knowledge infrastructure

Feedback



Projects

- ❖ IDB / CROSQ / PTB: *“Harmonized Regional Quality Infrastructure for Improving Market Access and Competitiveness”* RQI-1 Project (to 2011) (USD 2M)
- ❖ BMZ / PTB / CROSQ: *Strengthening of the basic metrological infrastructure in the Caribbean to improve participation in global trade* RQI-2 Project (2008-11) (€ 1 Million)
- ❖ BMZ / PTB / CROSQ: *Development of a demand-oriented & regionally harmonized Quality Infrastructure (QI) in the Caribbean* RQI-3 (2009-12), (€ 1 Million)



Projects

- ❖ CDB Caribbean Building Standards Project (USD2M)
- ❖ EC-CARIFORUM 10th EDF Project for CROSQ
Support to the EPA imp –(Euros 7.9 million)
- ❖ CDB CART Fund Strengthening the Testing
Laboratory Services Capabilities to Reduce Technical
Barriers to Trade in the Caribbean Region (USD 0.7M)



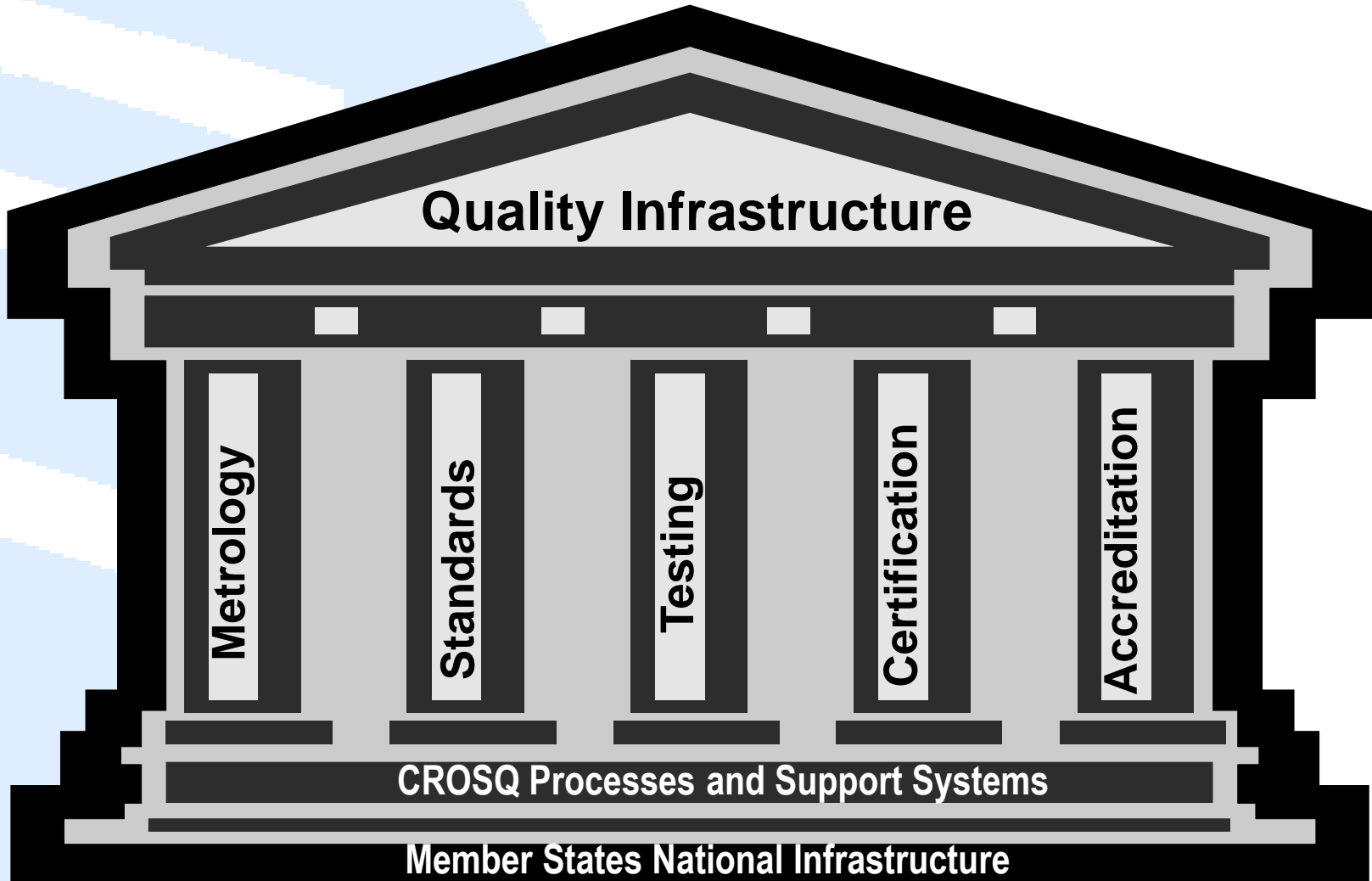


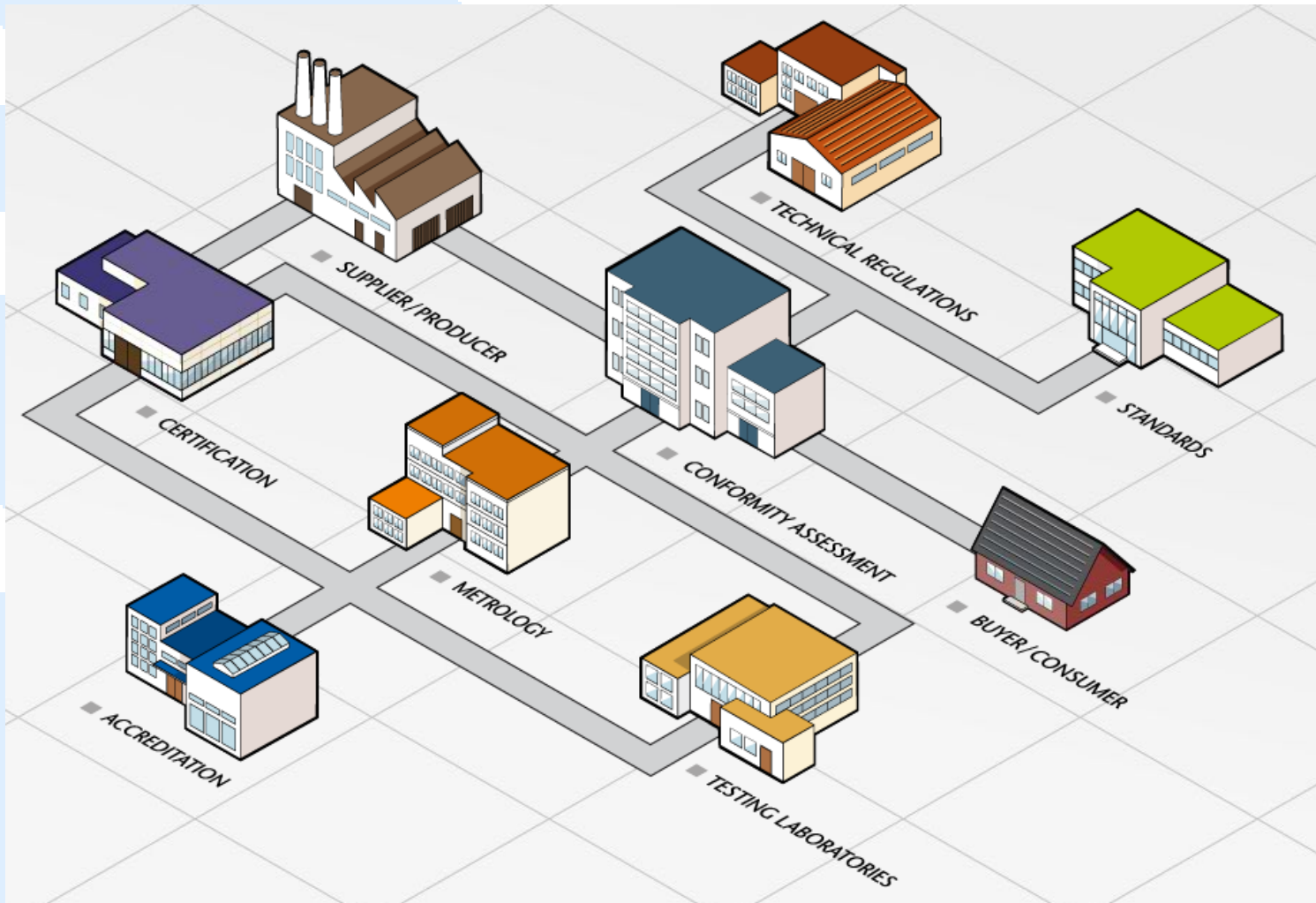
What is Quality Infrastructure?

QI is a network of **measurement systems (metrology), standards, technical regulations, testing laboratories, certification and accreditation bodies.** A reliable quality infrastructure has always played a key role in the question of what and how much we are getting for our money and is a prerequisite for successful participation in the global economy.



Building Blocks for RQI







Role of QI in Value Chain



Tourism



Services



Agri. / Industry



NATIONAL QI SYSTEM

Standards

Metrology

Testing

Certification

Accreditation



INTERNATIONAL QI SYSTEM



Benefits of Regional QI

- International recognition of the conformity assessment mechanisms of the region;
- Improved competitiveness, market access, environmental and consumer protection by applying internationally recognised assessment practices and overcoming technical barriers to trade;
- Improvements in the number and traceability of the measurement of basic physical quantities in the area of metrology;



- Facilitates the accreditation of laboratories important to critical economic sectors; the so-called value chain. Accreditation will help to strengthen the technical capabilities of the laboratories in the region;
- Facilitates the harmonization of regional practices with international norms, via the application of the regional development models for standards, metrology, and accreditation, in order to achieve international recognition.

The Economic Impact of QI



Standards and Food Safety related Market Requirements become more stringent

Newsflash

September 2002



The European Union has changed the requirements for the antibiotic (chloramphenicol) content in imported seafood from 1.5 ppb gram to 0.3 ppb gram. As a result, the National Fisheries Quality Control Center (Nafiqacen) of Vietnam will revoke all licenses for seafood producers not complying with the new standard.

The Vietnamese shrimp industry is rapidly growing and central to Vietnam's economic growth projections. Last year Vietnamese shrimp exports reached US\$ 780 mn..



AFLATOXINS

- Found in African cereals, dried fruits and nuts - causes liver cancer
- Treated as carcinogenic food contaminants
- EU regulation based on the objective to reduce health risks by about 1.4 deaths per billion annually
- impact of this regulation would cut African exports of nuts, cereals, and dried fruits products by 64% or US\$ 670 mn., compared with their level under international standards

Source: Otsuki, Sewadeh & Wilson, "A Race to the Top? A case study of Food Safety Standards & African exports", The World Bank, 26 Feb 2001

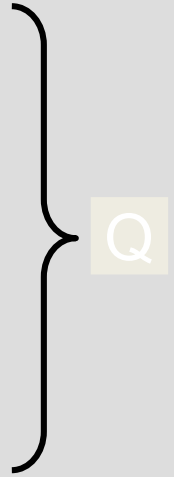
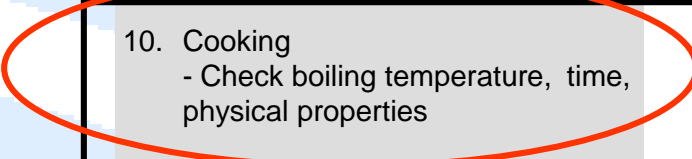
*www.wto.org, www.iso.org



Processing : Extract for MSTQ Involvement From Cooking To Weighing



Processing Chain	MSTQ Involvement		
1. Raw shrimp - Sizing - Sulfite / antibiotic residue - Any defects, contaminants	M	S	T
2. Washing		S	
3. Draining / weighing		S	
4. Washing		S	
5. Keeping in cold water		S	
6. Deheading / Peeling / Deveined / Washing - Check temperature (shrimps, washing water)	M	S	T
7. Soaking with dry ingredients - Check temperature (shrimps)	M	S	T
8. Sizing - Check size	M		
9. Arranging - Check temperature (shrimps)	M		T
10. Cooking - Check boiling temperature, time, physical properties	M		T
11. Cooling / Separating defects / Trimming - Check temperature of cooling tank, shrimps	M	S	T
12. Freezing (N ₂ – Freezer)	M		
13. Weighing / Glazing - Check weight, temperature - Check product size after freezing	M	S	T



Processing : - Extract MSTQ for Cooking Process

Processing Chain

MSTQ Involvement

10. Cooking
 Check boiling temperature, time, physical properties, defects, contamination



M

Metrology
 Calibration of thermometer, timer, using RM

T

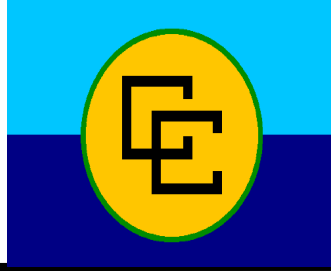
Testing
 Sensory test, physical test, microbiological test, contamination

S

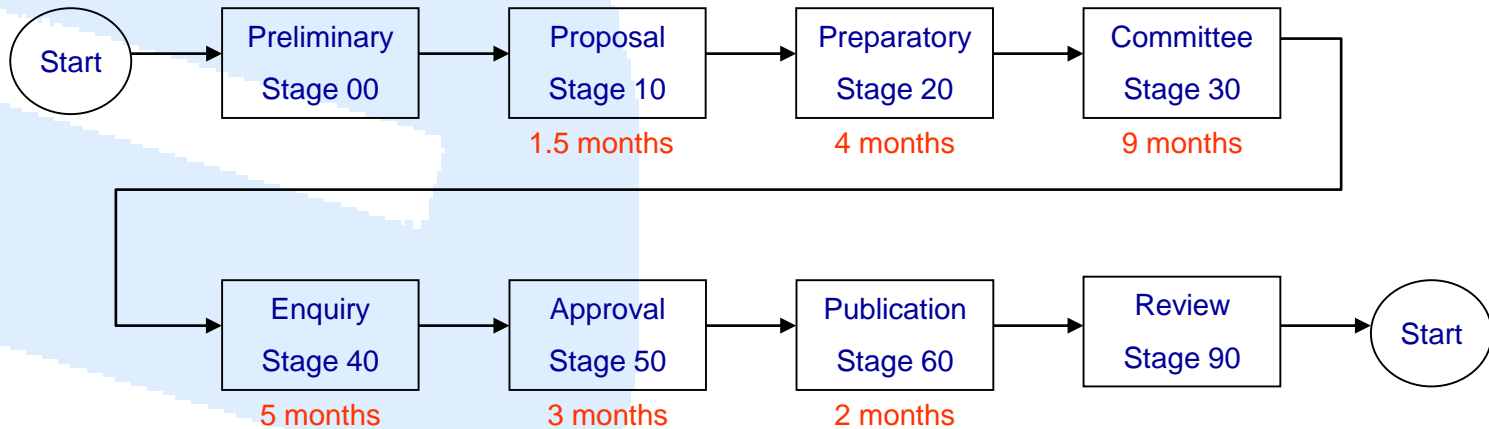
Standards
 CROSQ, Codex, ISO

Q

Quality Management
 GMP, HACCP, ISO



Standards Development Process



Total Time = 24.5 months



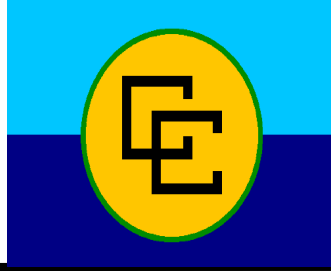
- *Technical regulation*: Document which lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory.



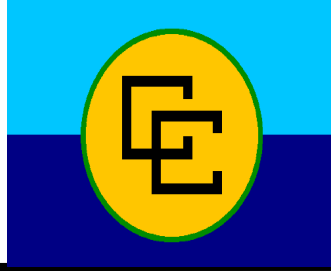
- *Standard*: Document approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory.



- *Conformity assessment procedures:*
- Any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled
- sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity; registration, accreditation and approval



- **Code of Good Practice for Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.**
- Standards prepared do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.
- International standards are used as a basis for standards development.
- Member States play an active role in the preparation of international standards with a view to harmonizing standards.



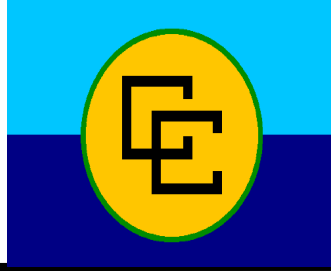
- Duplication or overlap with the work of other standardizing bodies is avoided.
- Standards should specify product requirements in terms of performance, rather than design or descriptive characteristics.
- At least once every six months, standardizing bodies must publish their work programmes relating to development of standard



Labelling of Prepackaged Foods	Specification for Packaged Water
Labelling of Aerosol Insecticides	Specification for Packaged natural coconut water
Specification for Spices and Sauces	Specification for Fruit and Vegetable Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars
Specification for Poultry Feeds and Feed ingredients	Code of Practice - for the Preparation of Frozen Fruit Pulp and Purées
Specification for Cassava Bread	Code of Practice for the Manufacture of Wooden Craft Items
Code of Practice for Food Hygiene	Standard Specification for Grades of Fresh Agricultural Produce (10 parts)
Code of Practice for Packaged Water	Standard Specification for Gold Articles
Code of Practice for Packaged natural Coconut Water	Requirements for Good Management Practices for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises



Code of Practice for Inbound Tour Operators	Specification for Botanical Cosmetics
Code of Practice for Tour Guides	Specification for Vehicle Rentals
Specification for Vehicle Rentals	Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products
Specification for Tourist Accommodation	Specification for Garbage bags
Specification for Indigenous furniture - bamboo, rattan, wicker, tibusiri and nibbi	Specification for Wooden Furniture
Specification for Amcha Kuchela	Specification for brewery products (AMD)
Safety matches – specification	Specification for Rum (REV)
CARICOM Specification for Grading and Quality Requirements for Table Eggs	



Conclusions

- Harmonisation process for regional standards is continuously improved
- Regional mechanisms for cooperation for Metrology and Accreditation developed approved by CARICOM / COTED in Jun 2010



- Regional mechanisms for cooperation for Conformity Assessment needs to be developed.
- Involvement of public and private sector stakeholders is critical to improving QI
- Quality consciousness / awareness in the region is very low at all levels



Current and Future Needs

- Need to prepare private & public sector to:
 - understand and appreciate the benefits of conformity assessment and quality assurance
 - use / absorb the service / capacity being built
 - Appropriate legislation
 - Strong market surveillance for consumer protection e.g. labeling, testing quality
 - Awareness campaigns for industry, consumers



Thank You...

