

Conformity Assessment Programs and the Benefits of a QPL

 **Qualifying Identity and Privilege Credential Products for
the TWIC and Other DHS/TSA Programs QPL**

April 2010

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Technology Services

NIST
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NIST Standards Services Division

- Assist US Federal Government Agencies and industry in developing conformity assessment policies and administrative infrastructure
- Design and assist in the implementation of conformity assessment programs
- Coordinate Standards for Government use

Conformity Assessment

“demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled”

Definition from ISO/IEC 17000



Helpful Terminology

The parties – who does what?

Conformity Assessment can be conducted by:

first party – seller or manufacturer

second party – purchaser or user

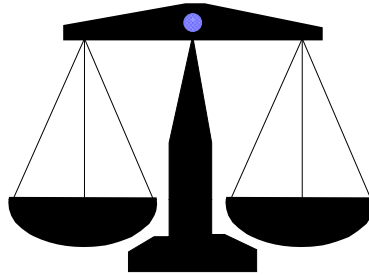
third party – an independent entity that has no interest in transactions between the 1st and 2nd parties

government – has a unique role in regulation, but is the *second party* in procurement



Types of Conformity Assessment

- Supplier's Declaration
- Testing
- Certification
- Accreditation



International Standards for Conformity Assessment

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ Supplier's Declaration | ISO/IEC 17050
parts 1 and 2 |
| ■ Testing | ISO/IEC 17025 |
| ■ Certification | ISO/IEC Guide 65 |
| ■ Accreditation | ISO/IEC 17011 |

Typical Use – Testing (1st, 2nd or 3rd Party CA)



- Used when the critical characteristics can be evaluated via measurement under specified conditions.
- May be an element of a **supplier's declaration** or **certification** system.
- ISO/IEC 17025

Typical Use – Suppliers Declaration (1st Party CA)

Generally used:

- when the risk associated with noncompliance is low
- there are adequate consequences for placing noncompliant products on the market
- there are adequate mechanisms to remove noncompliant products from the market
- ISO/IEC 17050 parts 1 and 2



Typical Use – Certification (3rd Party CA)

- Used when the risks associated with non-conformity are moderate to high.
- Includes evaluation, compliance decision, attestation of conformity and some form of *surveillance* or follow up.
- Always conducted by a third party.
- ISO/IEC Guide 65



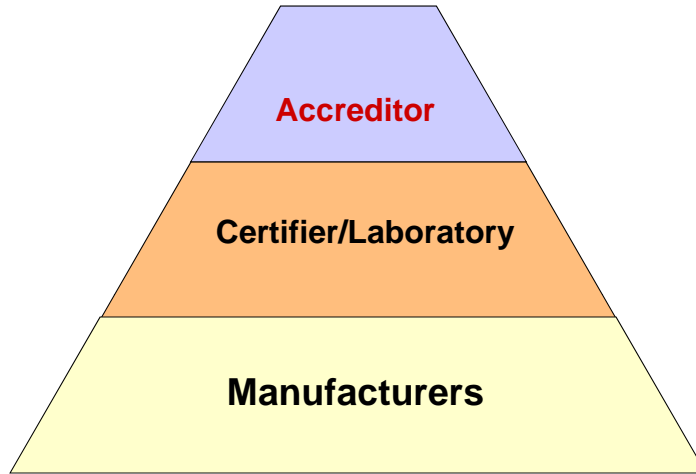
Typical Use - Accreditation

- Assesses conformity assessment body:
 - Technical Competence
 - Management System compliance
- Used to attain needed confidence in laboratory testing operation and results.
- Used to attain needed confidence in certification system.
- ISO/IEC 17011



Conformity Assessment Hierarchy

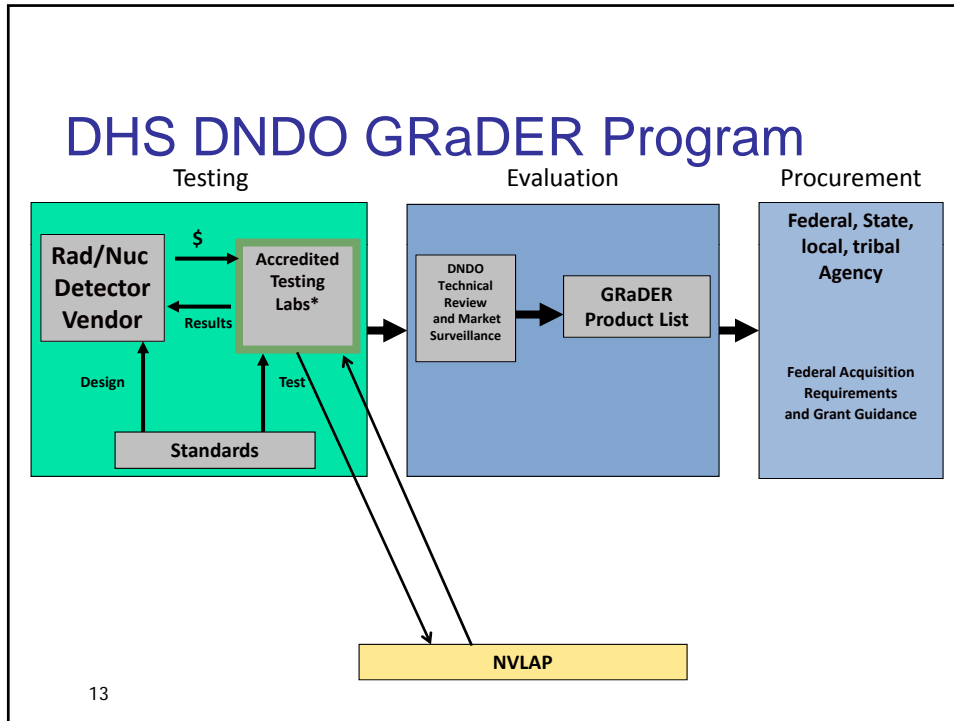
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?
Who watches the watchers?



Example

DNDO GRaDER

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the DHS website. The page title is 'DNDO Agency Guidance on the GRaDER Program'. The main content area includes a heading 'DNDO Agency Guidance on the GRaDER Program' followed by a paragraph of text. The text describes the program's purpose and requirements. A sidebar on the right contains various links and resources, including 'Agency Guidance Review', 'Contact Us', and 'National Threat Advisory'. The page footer includes a date: 'This page was last reviewed/modified on November 2, 2009'.



- ## Ingredients for a TWIC QPL Program
- Scope
 - Requirements
 - Test methods
 - Classifications and/or pass/fail criteria
 - Test Reports.....
 - Conformity Assessment Process
 - Accreditation requirements
 - Facilities
 - Labs