

**AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION
IN THE AREA OF CERTIFICATION
AND ACCREDITATION**

BETWEEN

**THE STATE SECRETARIAT
FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (SECO)
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

AND

**THE CERTIFICATION AND
ACCREDITATION
ADMINISTRATION (CNCA) OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) of the Swiss Confederation and the Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) of the People's Republic of China, hereinafter individually referred to as a "Party" or collectively as "the Parties";

With a view to strengthening the bilateral economic relations between Switzerland and China;

Recognising that the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between authorities reduces barriers to trade and produces mutual benefits for Switzerland and China;

Recognising that no country should be prevented from taking measures necessary to fulfil a legitimate objective in line with the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;

Reaffirming the importance of international standards to enhance trade;

Desiring to facilitate access to respective markets and further the implementation of the Chapter Technical Barriers to Trade of the Free Trade Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "Free Trade Agreement"); and

Recognising the value of cooperation on certification and accreditation to facilitate bilateral trade;

Have reached the following Agreement to strengthen cooperation in the area of certification and accreditation:

ARTICLE 1

Cooperation

In addition to areas of cooperation identified in Chapter 6 of the Free Trade Agreement, the Parties shall, in particular, cooperate on the following:

- (a) compulsory certification schemes;
- (b) voluntary certification schemes, especially in new areas;
- (c) accreditation; and
- (d) other areas of mutual interest.

ARTICLE 2

Means of Cooperation

The Parties shall promote:

- (a) the communication and cooperation between competent authorities;
- (b) the communication and cooperation between certification and accreditation bodies of each country;
- (c) the organisation of seminars, if necessary, to inform industry representatives of

the two countries on technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and related standards; and

- (d) joint research projects, if appropriate.

ARTICLE 3

Cooperation between Relevant Bodies

The accreditation bodies, certification bodies, relevant testing laboratories and inspection bodies of China and Switzerland may carry out cooperation activities under this Agreement, including cooperation of authorised bodies on inspections, testing, national type approval and compulsory certification.

ARTICLE 4

Confidentiality of Information

The Parties shall treat as confidential the information submitted by the other Party which that Party has designated as confidential.

ARTICLE 5

Final Provisions

The Sub-Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade established in Article 6.7 of the Free Trade Agreement shall coordinate and review the cooperation activities under this Agreement.

This Agreement is concluded pursuant to and in conjunction with the Free Trade Agreement and is one of the side agreements referred to in Article 6.9 of the Free Trade Agreement.

This Agreement enters into force on the same date as the Free Trade Agreement. A Party may terminate this Agreement at any time upon six months' written notice to the other Party.

Established cooperation activities may continue independently of a Party's withdrawal from this Agreement.

Signed in Beijing on 5th July 2013 in two originals each in the English, Chinese and French language, each text being equally authentic. In case of divergence between the language versions, the English text shall prevail.

For SECO

For CNCA
