


# Trends in the Mechanisms to Facilitate the Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results

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## Mechanisms to facilitate acceptance of results of CA – *survey findings*

- Recognising foreign CA as equivalent  
→ *CABs report benefits from MRAs, but exporters remain concerned*
- Voluntary agreements between domestic and foreign CABs  
→ *gaining momentum*
- Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)  
→ *no indication that it is replacing 3rd party certification*
- Promoting cross-border recognition of accreditation  
→ *multiple accreditation still significantly used*
- Government designation of foreign CA bodies  
→ *growth for CABs designated by foreign governments*

## Surveys respondents: CABs & Exporters

*CABs' survey: 428 responses*

*Primary activity in 43 countries:*

- 272 CABs from European region (21 countries)
- 62 from Americas (10 countries)
- 78 from Asia Pacific region (8 countries)
- 14 from MENA region (4 countries)

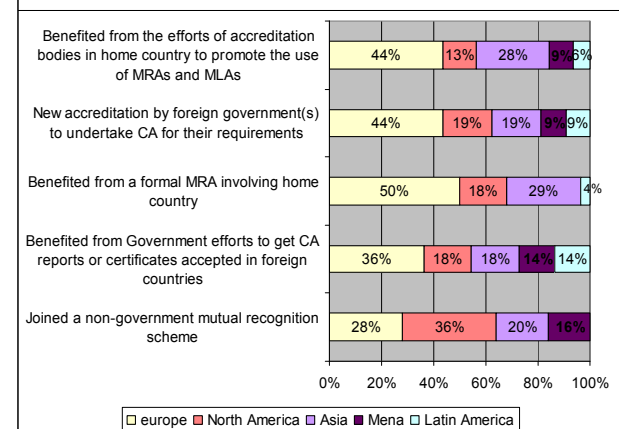
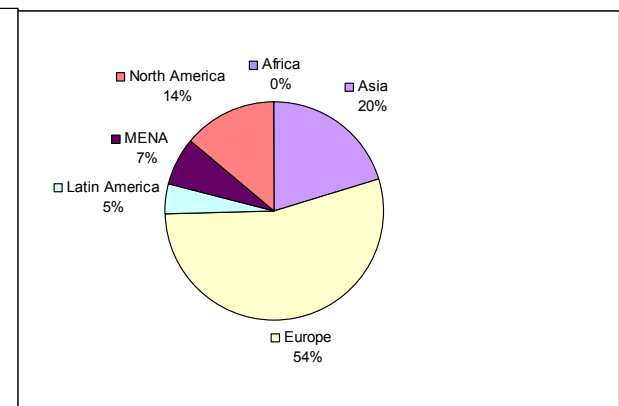
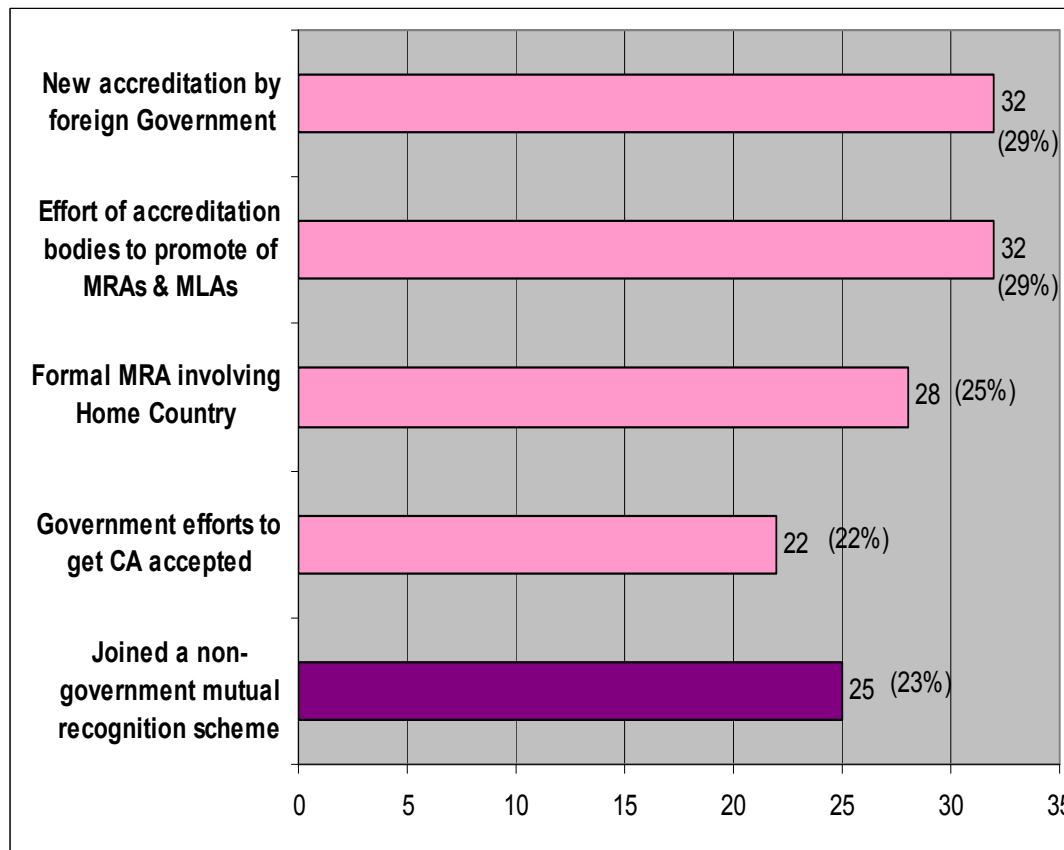
*Almost half of CABs report that CA related to trade is 'very important' or 'important' to their business.*

*Exporters' survey: 110 responses*

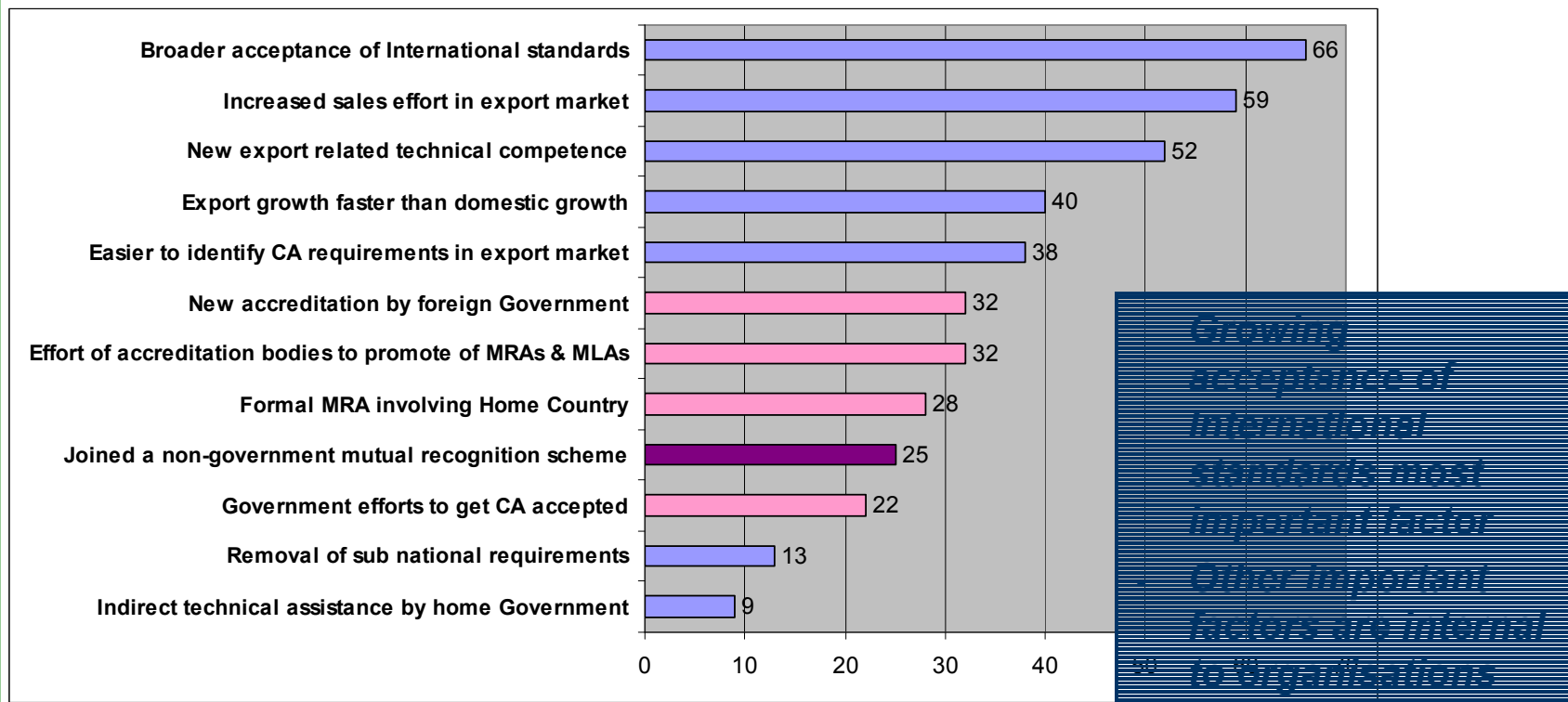
*The majority:*

- Employ less than 500
- Operate >10 years
- Sell mostly identical product models abroad and at home
- Produce machinery, scientific instruments & medical devices, electrical apparatus, IT & electronic products
- Export to United States, China, EU and individual members

# Factors associated with moderate and high growth in CABs' export-related activity: **Accreditation and recognition schemes**



## All factors associated with moderate and high growth in export-related activity



## Some observations about export markets and sectors

### Recognition and Accreditation

Benefited from formal MRA involving home country:

- *electrical & electronic products (North and South America)*
- *food products (Europe)*

New accreditation by foreign Gov to undertake CA:

- *electrical and electronic products (North America)*
- *measuring instruments (Europe)*

### SDoC

Relatively few CABs (13% of 428) report that they have lost third-party CA orders within past 5 years because SDoC has replaced third-party CA requirement.

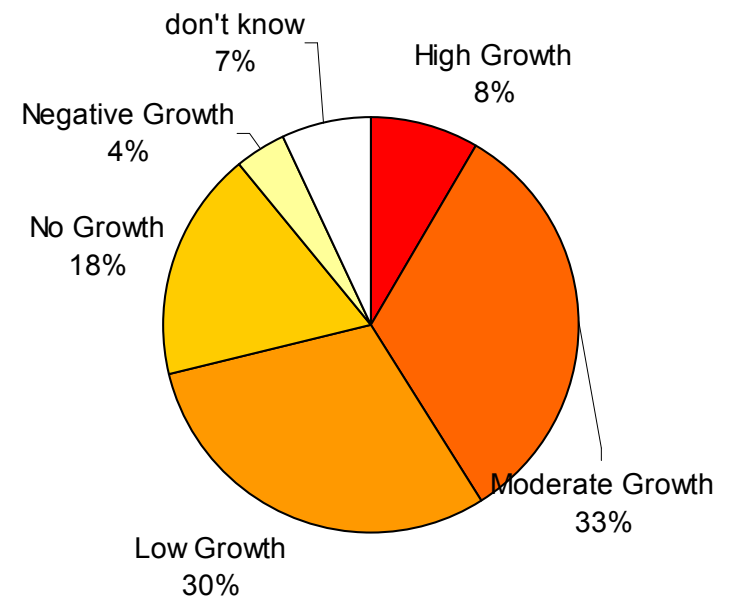
Sectors/export markets affected:

- *electrical, electronic and telecommunications products and machinery.*
- *EU and other countries in Europe (leading by far), followed by the United States and China.*

## Issues arising over accreditation

- About 23% of those CABs accredited for product testing and product certification report **multiple accreditation**.
- Of CABs that reported they had to refuse potential export-related CA orders, many mention as reason **lack of accreditation in destination markets**. *(other reasons: too difficult/expensive to identify foreign market requirements; lack of specialised equipment or personnel)*

### Government designation and export-related CA



OECD Trade Directorate

## Exporters' survey:

Question: “In your effort to export, offer a general judgement of the **seriousness of problems caused by the need to apply CA procedures** for exports different from or additional to your practice in your home market”:

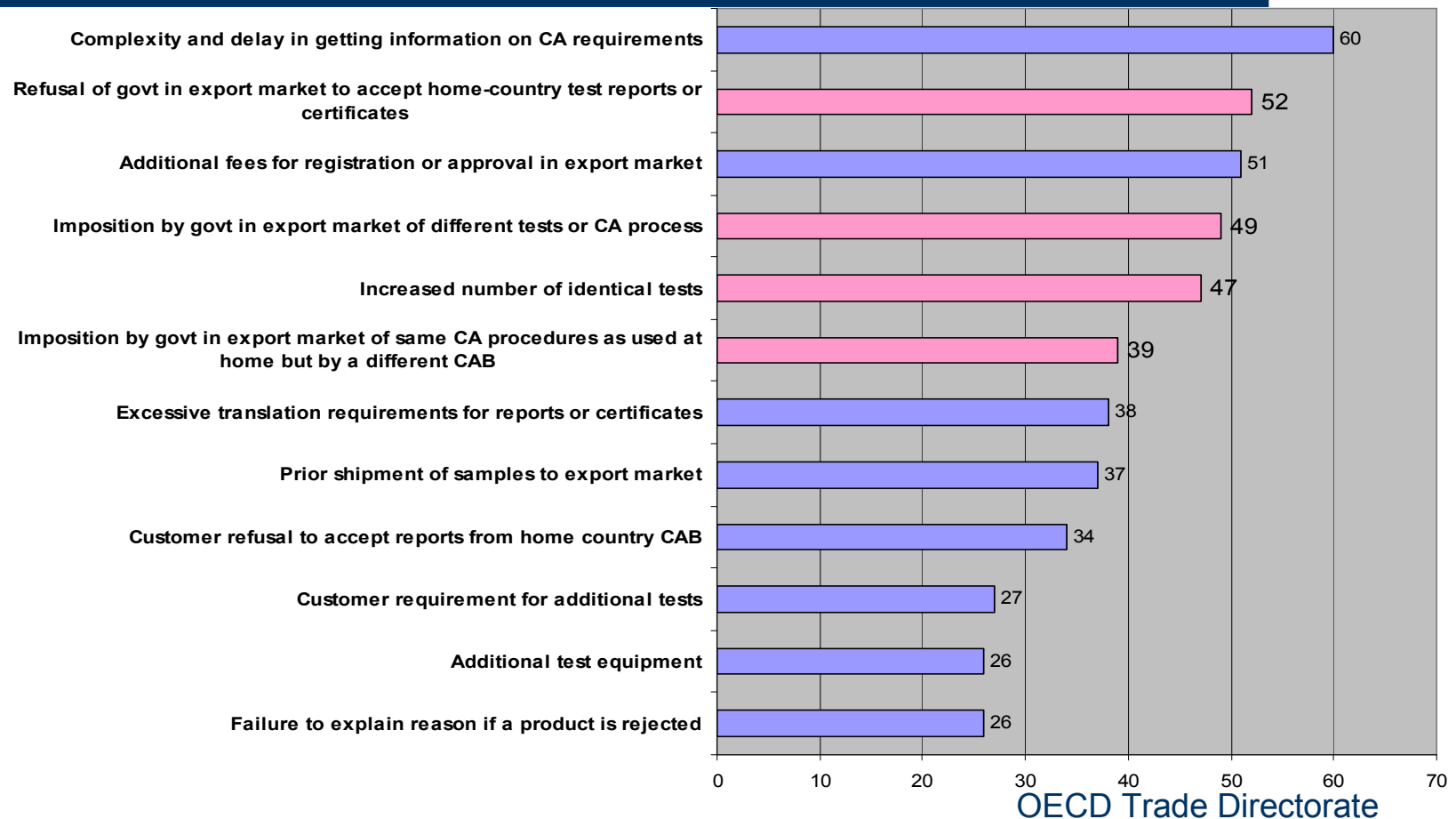
‘critical’ or ‘major’ problem for 50% (‘not a problem’ for 27%)

- Increase our costs of exporting: major/prohibitive problem (42%); moderate problem (34%)
- Delay time-to-market for new products: major/prohibitive problem (57%); moderate problem (21%)

Leading sectors mentioned: **electrical and electronic products; machinery**



# Duplication and non-recognition are of concern to exporters



# Thank you.

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