

2. A Party shall notify the other Party of the identity of a Competent Authority once it has successfully completed the audit. The other Party may contest the technical competence or compliance of that Competent Authority in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article.
3. The entities identified in Appendix 1 and 2 shall be deemed to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article for the implementation respectively of Annex A and B at the time of entry into force of this Agreement.
4. The Parties shall ensure that their Competent Authorities are capable and remain capable of properly assessing conformity of products or organisations, as applicable and as covered in the Annexes to this Agreement. In this regard, the Parties shall ensure that their Competent Authorities are subject to regular audit or assessment.
5. The Parties shall consult as necessary to ensure the maintenance of confidence in conformity assessment procedures. This consultation may include participation from one Party in the regular audits related to conformity assessment activities or other assessments of Competent Authorities of the other Party.
6. In the event of a Party's contestation of the technical competence or compliance of a Competent Authority, the contesting Party shall notify in writing the other Party of its contestation of the technical competence or compliance of the relevant Competent Authority and of its intent to suspend the acceptance of the findings of the relevant Competent Authority. Such contestation shall be exercised in an objective and reasoned manner.
7. Any contestation notified in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article shall be discussed by the Joint Committee established pursuant to Article 9, which may decide to suspend acceptance of the findings of that Competent Authority or that verification of its technical competence is required. Such verification shall normally be carried out in a timely manner by the Party having jurisdiction over the Competent Authority in question, but may be carried out jointly by the Parties if they so decide.
8. If the Joint Committee has not been able to resolve a contestation notified in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article, within 30 days of its notice, the contesting Party may suspend acceptance of the findings of the Competent Authority in question but shall accept the findings made by that Competent Authority before the date of the notice. Such suspension may remain in effect until the Joint Committee has resolved the matter.